**Approaches for Identifying and Tracking Chemicals in Commerce in North America**

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**Operating Year(s): 2011–2012**

**Strategic Priority/Objective:** Healthy Communities and Ecosystems/Enhanced regional approach to sound management of chemicals

**Project Summary.** The aims of this project are to improve efforts to reduce the risk of exposure to human health and the environment by identifying and tracking chemicals in commerce and to establish compatibility between inventories of the three Parties. It will also explore ways to utilize the compatibility the Parties have been building to aid in achieving our chemicals management goals. Beyond the technical tools developed to achieve better understanding of chemicals, this project will promote transparency and highlight the efforts made in North America towards the sound management of chemicals. The North American Chemicals Conference (Task 3) is a key tool to will help disseminate key information as well as provide stakeholders with opportunities to provide feedback and learn about activities aimed at the sound management of chemicals in North America.

**Environmental Outcome:** To complete the Mexican National Chemicals Inventory (*Inventario Nacional de Sustancias Químicas de México*) to achieve compatibility with other national inventories in North America that will allow the Parties to increase transparency and provide information to the North American public while supporting efforts to track and address chemicals of mutual concern.

**Tasks necessary to reach the Environmental Outcome:**
1) Complete work on the Mexican National Chemicals Inventory.
2) Compare chemicals information across national inventories for more informed risk management decisions and increased transparency.
3) Develop the North American Chemicals Conference

**Task 1: Complete work on the Mexican National Chemicals Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtasks</th>
<th>Project outputs</th>
<th>How does the subtask/output move the project towards the Environmental Outcome?</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Budget (C$) (activities)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Collection of data on chemicals production from existing sources of information in Mexico</td>
<td>A database containing production volume data for the substances listed in the preliminary chemical inventory</td>
<td>This project will allow Mexico to complete the Mexican chemical inventory database with information on chemicals production and will be used for the development of compatible inventories in North America by the inclusion of the same chemical identity as in TSCA and DSL.</td>
<td>May-December 2011</td>
<td>TOTAL $51,000</td>
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<td>1.2 Revision of the chemical identity of the chemicals listed in the Mexican National Chemicals Inventory</td>
<td>A list of substances of the chemicals inventory with their chemical name and chemical identity validated</td>
<td>This project will allow Mexico to complete the its national chemical inventory with a review and validation of the identity of the chemicals listed in the inventory's preliminary list. The validated list will allow compatibility and comparison with the other chemical inventories of North America and a better tracking of chemicals of mutual concern in the region.</td>
<td>May-December 2011</td>
<td>TOTAL $25,000</td>
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### Task 2: Compare chemicals information across national inventories for more informed risk management decisions and increased transparency

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<th>Budget (C$) (activities)</th>
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<td>2.1 Comparing chemicals information across national inventories</td>
<td>For pilot comparison in 2011: Determine subset of chemicals on US and Canadian inventories to compare. Conduct comparison, and identify chemicals with differing sets of information on the two inventories. Use information from each inventory to fill in gaps in the others. Expand project to comparison of full US, Canadian, and Mexican inventories in 2012.</td>
<td>Comparing and sharing available information about chemicals across the three countries will allow for more informed risk management decisions and increased transparency. Communication between authorities in North America might be enhanced in order to have a better tracking of chemicals in commerce.</td>
<td>Spring-Fall 2011 Through December 2012</td>
<td>$40,000 in 2011 $55,000 in 2012 TOTAL $95,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total $10,000</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Task 3: Develop the North American Chemicals Conference</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL C$200,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
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| **3.1 Individual interviews with selected stakeholders on NACC content and format** | Development of webinar agenda and materials  
Webinar session with stakeholders  
Report summarizing stakeholder recommendations from webinar | Recommendations from individual stakeholder interviews will feed into background materials for broader stakeholder webinar and will assist in focusing the discussion. Stakeholder consultation will ensure a robust NACC agenda and the dialogue necessary to advance reductions in exposures to chemicals of concern. | Spring 2011  | See 3.3                 |
| 3.3 Develop agenda and coordinate with speakers | Conference agenda and commitments from speakers | Developing a good agenda is necessary for a successful conference. The conference will provide a rare opportunity for in-depth discussion with North American stakeholders on a variety of topics necessary for the advancement of sound chemicals management. Key topics might include: practices to improve transparency, chemical assessments, and sustainable products. | Spring-Summer 2011 | TOTAL $200,000 for subtasks 3.2-3.5 |
|  |  | Approximate breakdown (to be further refined): $125K for conference planning & logistics contract; $75K for invitational travel (speakers & travel assistance) |

| 3.4 Conduct outreach to potential conference participants | Brief and detailed conference announcements sent to potential participants Creation of CEC conference web page | Necessary to ensure participation of relevant stakeholders from North America on a variety of topics relevant to the advancement of sound chemicals management | Spring-Fall 2011 | See 3.3 |

| 3.5 Support conference logistics | Logistics associated with venue, registration, travel assistance, preparation of materials | Necessary to implement conference; this might allow stakeholders from North America to be better informed of the sound management of chemicals in the region. | Spring-Fall 2011 | See 3.3 |
Explain how this project meets the selection criteria adopted by Council in the Strategic Plan (See below)

The goal of all projects funded by the CEC will be to support the efforts of the Parties to conserve, protect and/or enhance the North American environment. The following criteria will guide the Secretariat, Working Groups, Committees, and other appropriate officials of the Parties in considering cooperative activities for Council approval under operational plans. These selection criteria do not apply to activities funded through the NAPECA grant program.

- Does the project contribute to achieving Council’s strategic objectives as described within the current Strategic Plan, or as related to other priorities subsequently confirmed by Council? How?
  - This project addresses Strategic Objective #3: Enhanced Regional Approach to Sound Management of Chemicals. Activities under this project will facilitate the establishment of compatible approaches for identifying and tracking chemicals in commerce in North America as a priority to establish compatible chemicals inventories, evaluate the comparability of chemical information to increase transparency across the region, and consult with stakeholders in order to support broader coordinated and effective risk management of substances of mutual concern.

- Are the proposed objectives North American in scope? In other words, how are the proposed results relevant to protecting the environment in North America?
  - Establishing compatible chemical inventories and enhancing transparency of chemical information in all three countries is essential for providing a comprehensive understanding of chemical sources in North America. Compatible inventories will allow for coordinated and effective risk assessment and management of chemicals based on a consistent approach to identifying and tracking chemicals. This in addition to the sub-task that facilitates consulting more broadly with stakeholders via the planned Conference is also further supported by Council Resolution 06-09 to develop a strategy for the sound management of chemicals in North America in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner and to actively involve industry, business, trade unions, environmental nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions and other members of civil society in chemicals management initiatives, activities aim to increase transparency by providing complete and accurate information to the North American public.

- Does the project identify specific clear and tangible results that will be achieved and how progress toward each result will be measured over time?
  - The project seeks to establish a compatible Mexican National Inventory of chemicals based on standardized identification methods. Secondary results include an inventory populated with existing source information and utilizing a compatible approach to identification.
  - The project will compare national inventories and related information on chemicals to ensure that information is equally available to the public in all countries. The activity will occur in stages as information becomes available in all three countries. Project tasks will help identify chemical information that is publically available in one country, but not available in another and aim to identify opportunities to more regularly make this information available and accessible to the region’s public.
  - In order to increase transparency, activities will be undertaken to engage and inform stakeholders and the North American public. Results include reporting on progress, achievements and future direction to Stakeholders in a North American conference, and participation of stakeholders in a variety of capacities throughout the Sound Management of Chemicals Program.

- Is the CEC the most effective vehicle for the Parties to undertake the project, considering:
  - The value-added of doing it under the CEC cooperative program
    - The CEC is able to link the initiatives currently underway in Canada and the USA with the outcomes of this project in Mexico and support the efforts related to comparability and compatibility.
The trilateral product is envisaged to demonstrate a cooperative agenda for others such as the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Group (Countries GRULAC) region to consider and benefit from, in order to expedite similar initiatives.

The North American case will provide reference for international organizations such as OECD and SAICM, as a demonstration of the regional cooperative agenda that supports the sound management of chemicals globally.

Similarity of reporting requirement for the North American industry will be enhanced and reports in all three countries will be provided in a comparable manner.

Decision-makers will be able to quantify and conduct activities to reduce risks associated with chemicals.

- Any other public, private or social organizations that work on such activities

**It is expected that the following groups will participate:**

- Federal agencies and their laboratory specialists with responsibility for health, environment, natural resources, agriculture, and customs/excise in all three countries.

- Private sector participants including the various chemical manufacturing, processing, transporting and importing associations and member companies.

- Environmental, Health and other nongovernmental organizations interested in chemical safety in the region.

- While many of these stakeholders have discrete activities that contribute to chemical safety efforts, none are singularly focused on the North American region and they also do not delve into the intricacies of chemical inventory and information availability on a national or regional basis as called for by these efforts. That said, many may be interested in the result of this work and contribute to or benefit from its success (see below).

- In the early stages of the Mexican Chemicals Inventory, the United Kingdom’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provided funds for initial work. Currently, the CEC is the organization that supports efforts on chemicals inventories for North America with internal support from governmental offices.

- Opportunities to cooperate and/or leverage resources with such organizations
  - The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will provide a platform for cooperation with a wide variety of stakeholders, as appropriate. The Strategy will aim for streamlining, enhancing and modernizing the SMOC approach to working with concerned parties and citizens toward the sound management of chemicals in North America.

- Specifically, this Strategy builds on the successes of established processes and introduces new initiatives to improve the collaboration within federal agencies, within the SMOC participants as well as with private sector participants.

- Does the project propose a clear timeline for implementation of the activities, including a target end date for CEC’s involvement? Where applicable, describe how the work will continue after CEC involvement ends?
  - The Chemical Inventory and Information work is anticipated to continue requiring CEC support to the end of 2012, after which Mexico’s national agencies will sustain the initiative as a domestic priority and adopt the agreed-upon protocols in partnership with similar directions in Canada and the US.
Stakeholder engagement is an overarching priority for the Sound Management of Chemicals Program and will be implemented strategically in conjunction with activities throughout the program and, specifically, by the conference discussed in task 3.

Where applicable, does the project identify with reasonable specificity:

- Linkages with other relevant CEC projects, past or present, in order to create synergies, capitalize on experience, or avoid duplication?

  This project supports the following CEC projects:
  - Mapping North American Environmental Issues
  - Monitoring and Assessing Pollutants across North America
  - Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America
  - Trade and the Enforcement of Environmental Law
  - State of the Environment Reporting from now and in the future

  The project also supports the general direction the CEC is taking towards ensuring stakeholder engagement in the many facets of its works.

- The target audience, as well as its receptivity and capacity to use the information that may be produced as a result of the project?

  SMOC will engage a wide variety of actors (see groups above) in the implementation of this project and information produced will be published and accessible to the North American public. For Mexico: the Ministries of Environment, Health, Labor, Transportation, etc. will be users of the results of the projects, as well as academia and public organizations that deal with risks on chemicals management.

- The beneficiaries of capacity building activities that the project may include?

  Mexico will establish a National Inventory, however, Canada and the United States among all three countries and the region writ large will benefit from the information generated and made available which also contributes to enhanced decision making and improved North American chemicals management.

- The relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to communities, academia, NGOs and industry, and their involvement and contribution to a successful outcome.

  Federal agencies and their laboratory specialists with responsibility for health, environment, natural resources, agriculture, and customs/excise. Experts might be called to participate in the process of developing the Mexican inventory database. Furthermore, the cross-border exchange of samples might require a better collaboration with customs of involved countries in order to enhance the efficiency of this time-base process.

  Private sector participants including the various chemical manufacturing, processing, transporting and importing associations and member companies. For example: Mexican petrochemical industry (PEMEX)

  Environmental, Health and other non-governmental organizations interested in chemical safety in the region.