



# **Commission for Environmental Cooperation**

**Three Countries. One Environment.**

## **23 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

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# The CEC, basics

Almost **23 years**, Canada, Mexico and the United States of America working together for the environment.

The **North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation** (NAAEC, 1994) has been the environmental arm of the **North American Free Trade Agreement** (NAFTA): commitment to accompany trade liberalization and economic growth with cooperation for protecting the environment

NAAEC: the **Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)** composed of a Council, a Secretariat and a Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

**Council**, governing body, cabinet-level environmental representatives of the Parties to the NAAEC

**Secretariat**, based in Montreal, responsible of technical, administrative and operational support to the Council, committees and groups

**JPAC**, five citizen volunteers from each country who provide advice within the scope of NAAEC (appointed by the Council)



# Achievements, 1

## ***Playing a Key Role in North America***

A unique, innovative and important institution that creates linkages between countries and sectors and develops modern and creative tools for the environment

## ***The CEC facilitates trilateral dialogue and cooperation***

CEC, a neutral forum for emerging / complex issues and possible strategies; success can be attributed to being a convener and facilitator of consensus among experts and policy makers

## ***The CEC programs***

Built around ministry-to-ministry work supported by a small secretariat, they generated an innovative collection of environmental information across Mexico, the United States and Canada. Through these data streams we have been able to track transboundary pollution, migratory species and important habitat to create a simple picture of the rich and fragile North American region



# Achievements, 2

## ***The CEC ensures a level-playing field***

- ✓ Enhancing **domestic capacity in Mexico** to achieve environmental objectives of the NAAEC (pollution prevention, toxic chemicals, and pollutant release inventories)
- ✓ Sound Management of Chemicals (**SMOC**) initiative – North American Regional Action Plans
  - SMOC key outcome: contributing to halt the DDT use in Mexico; shared lessons with other countries in Latin America
- ✓ **FIPREV** – mechanism for financing pollution prevention projects providing loans to small and medium-size businesses:
  - 6 years, 83 loans, US\$21.9 million,
  - 3,675 tons of chemicals per year prevented from entering the environment
- ✓ **RETC** – establishment of a Pollution Release and Transfer Registry in Mexico





# Achievements, 3

***The CEC is a leader in promoting “win-win” environment, economy and trade links and provided support and assistance towards a greener economy***

- ✓ Pioneered in examining environment and trade linkages and promoting “win-win” opportunities
- ✓ Contributed to promoting **environmentally-friendly products and supply chains** in industrial sectors in North America (building, transportation, automotive)
- ✓ Assisted small businesses like **shade-grown coffee** farmers to participate in market-based approaches to biodiversity conservation
- ✓ Partnered with the private sector (nine large scale North American companies) in accelerating adoption of international **energy performance** standards
- ✓ Helped establish the **North American Grasslands Alliance** to protect grasslands and sustain ranching communities





# Environmental Law and Enforcement

## ***Strengthening and enforcement***

- ✓ Improvement of environmental law and standards has been a key objective of the region's partnership
- ✓ The CEC developed a **training program** to support more than 600 environmental, wildlife and customs officials in identifying illegal shipments of environmentally regulated materials and wildlife
- ✓ The submission on enforcement matters (**SEM**) process – a unique mechanism to ensure government accountability regarding enforcement of environmental laws
  - Non-judicial, non-adversarial
  - Does not lead to sanctioning of a Party
  - Provides transparency in environmental matters
- ✓ Secretariat's 2013 **independent report** on spent lead-acid battery trade and recycling resulted in legislative changes in Mexico and in bolstering the US EPA's determination to revisit related import/export regulations



# What we are known for...

**Monarch butterfly** – tri-national actions to conserve the habitat for this emblematic species and migratory phenomenon

Collaboration for the **conservation of species and ecosystems** of common concern

North American Conservation Action  
Plans for 8 marine and terrestrial species

North American Marine Protected Area  
Network (NAMPAN) - a decade of  
marine work



Blue carbon ecosystems: mangroves, seagrass and saltmarshes

Analyses of **continental-wide persistent pollution** and mitigation actions:

Supported efforts to reduce the risks to public health and environmental contamination from chlordane, PCB, mercury and lindane

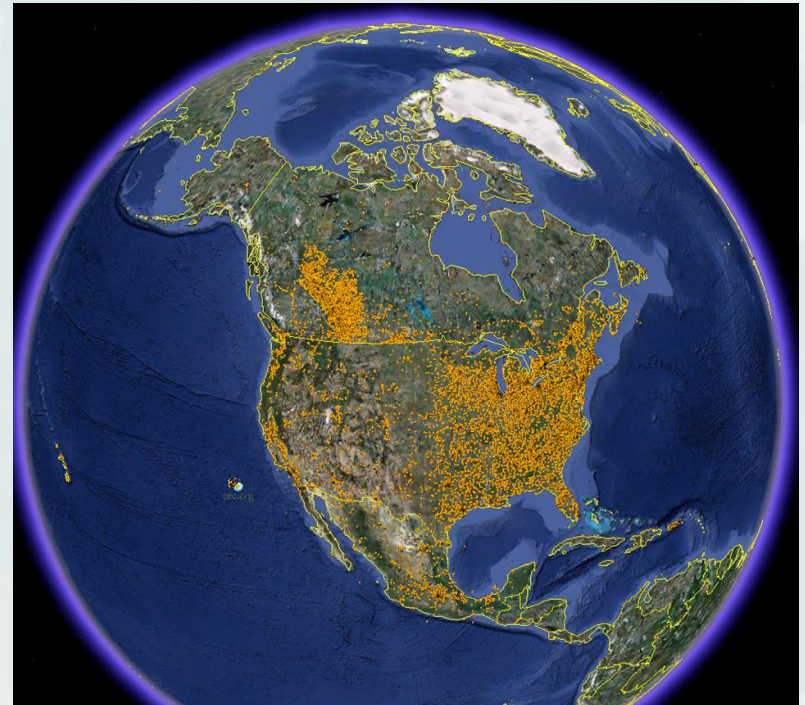


# What we are known for.....

***Innovative approaches and tools  
such as:***

**Taking Stock** report and database provide annual updates and tracks some 500 different industrial pollutants from 35,000 facilities in North America. This initiative has become a model of best practice to other countries

**North American Environmental Atlas**, interactive mapping tool to research, analyze and manage environmental issues







# What we are known for.....

**NAPECA**, the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action

The CEC supports community-based, environmental projects in North America through a community grant program that engages with local and underserved communities. This program promotes a sense of shared responsibility for the environment and has served as an important mechanism to engage the public in CEC's work

# NAPECA



North American Partnership for  
**Environmental Community Action**

Alianza de América del Norte  
para la **acción comunitaria ambiental**

Partenariat nord-américain pour  
**l'action communautaire en environnement**



# Committed to make a difference

NAAEC signing and the creation of the CEC marked a **turning point** in how North America works as a region to protect our shared environment

More than 22 years of cooperation on shared regional priorities and the very existence of a unique international institution that allows North America's three most senior environmental officials to meet and discuss trilateral environmental issues has become an **important asset** to the three countries





# Reflections...

CEC has a track record of effective results that have contributed to the protection of the environment in North America

Environmental problems cut across borders

North America's ecosystems are irrevocably connected



Achieving long-term results requires coordinated approaches and a proven ability to adapt to changing governments and national priorities



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