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THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN NORTH AMERICA

25th Council Session - JPAC Forum

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, June, 2018

FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION



- Programmes focus and strategic vision leading to tangible results with regional impacts
- A modern and effective model for strong collaboration and engagement that enhances environmental governance in North America
- Partnering with key sectors to adapt to regional and national priorities (private sector, academia, NGOs...)

FROM NAAEC TO NEW NAFTA



THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes



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- ✓ The North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation (**NAAEC**) represented the Parties' commitment to accompany trade liberalization and economic growth with **cooperation for protecting the environment**
- ✓ It marked a **turning point** in that North America decided to **work as a region** to protect its **shared environment**
- ✓ **NAFTA is currently under revision** – the Parties seem to be in agreement regarding environmental cooperation

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT LINKS

The CEC played a key role as a **leading forum for promoting environment, economy and trade links**

First 15 years, characterised by efforts to understand **environmental effects of NAFTA, and of economy, trade and environment linkages** more broadly. Efforts complemented by activities and projects that explored specific aspects and proposed more sustainable approaches

Pioneered environment and trade linkages, championing “win-win” opportunities, such as **market-based mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity** (shade-grown coffee, sustainable ranching, ecotourism)

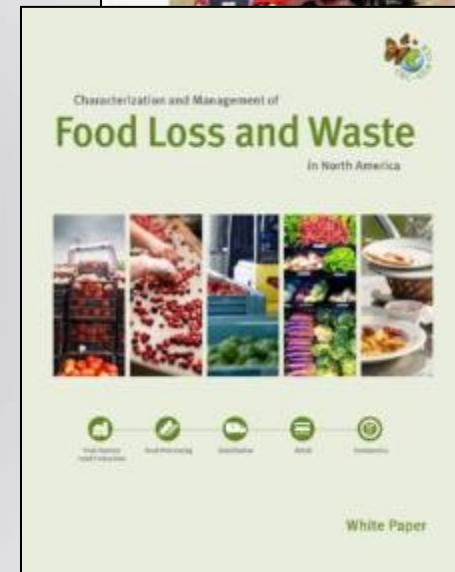
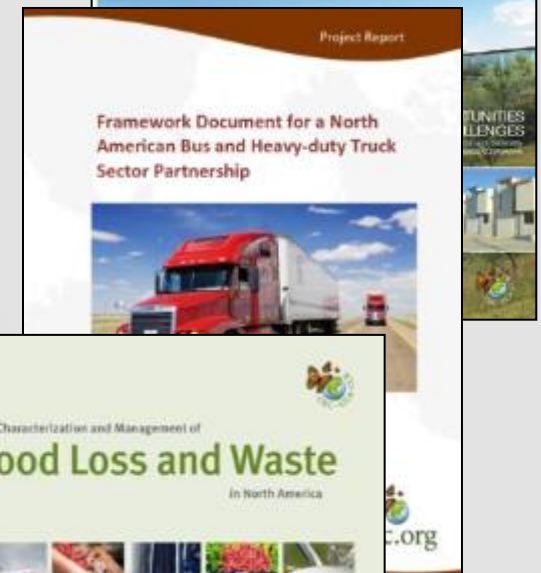
In 2011 a panel of experts assessed CEC’s NAFTA environmental effects and recommended a **broader, more strategic focus** to make it more policy relevant and more interesting both to general public and to policy makers



TOWARDS TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The CEC evolved towards a stronger contribution in ensuring mutual supportiveness between the economy, trade and the environment: **a greener economy**

- ✓ Looked at **key sectors and cross-sectoral issues** facing North America with the greatest potential for supporting green economy / growth in the region
- ✓ Contributed to promoting **environmentally-friendly products and approaches** in key industrial sectors: building construction, transportation, automotive, energy, food production and consumption
- ✓ In the context of an integrated North American economy, the CEC has proven that it is well positioned to examine mechanisms and policies that can promote **environmentally sustainable economic activities**



ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Because of a shared environment, the region requires shared responsibility and joint efforts from the parties involved

All parties working together deliver better results than each of them working in isolation

Cooperation and innovation for environmental protection, sustainable development, and prevention of and adaptation to climate change



AN EVOLVING CEC ...

A key role player in North America

From a unique, innovative institution linking countries and sectors, to a modern organisation that champions environmental cooperation and contributes innovating and improving achievements at the continental scale

The CEC / trilateral dialogue and cooperation

From a neutral forum for discussing emerging issues and strategies, to the strengthening of its role as consensus builder among policy makers, experts and sectors

The CEC / cooperative programmes

From ministry-to-ministry work assisted by a Secretariat, to a dynamic platform for sharing practices and environmental information; and to innovative cooperation initiatives based on common interests and seeking solutions to regional environmental problems to protect our shared ecosystems



SOME KEY TOPICS TO BE REVISED

Law and Policy, to continue helping the improvement of environmental law, policy and standards

SEM Process (submission on enforcement matters), a unique mechanism to foster **transparency, public participation, and information sharing** to ensure government accountability in enforcing environmental laws

CEC Reports / Assessments

State of the Environment, to participate in assessing CEC's contributions to the quality of environment in North America

Independent topical reports, to contribute to exploring emerging topics and providing first steps for future initiatives and projects

Taking Stock, to report and strengthen the database on industrial pollutants. PRTR has become a model of best practices to other countries

North American Environmental Atlas, an interactive mapping tool to research, analyse and manage environmental issues

The International Role of the CEC, to contribute to the achievement of SDGs and other commitments of the Parties

FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

- Assessing and improving nexus between trade and sustainable development
- Strengthening link between the Council's strategic vision and the cooperative work outcomes
- Ensuring CEC's work leads to tangible results
- Tracking and assessing long-term performance of the organisation and projects
- Improving CEC communications and messaging to engage the public more effectively
- Building stronger partnerships to improve collaboration with key sectors and add value to efforts for protecting the environment
- Building capacities to adapt to regional and national priorities





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Three countries. One environment.

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