FIOJe	ct 10: Greening of Chemicals Manageme	nt in North America	Operating Year(s): 2015–2016
Planr	ned Budget for Two Years: C\$525,000		
Year	1: C\$165,000		
Year	2: C\$360,000		
Strate	egic Priority/Subtheme		
•	Green Growth / Sustainable Production an	nd Consumption	
This p alignr	project aligns with the Green Growth strategi nent of trade statistics and enhancing sustai	ic priority and Sustainable Production and Consumption subthe inable use of chemicals in products.	me, by working on enhancing the
How	will this project address the cross-cutting	g themes?	
The p in <i>all</i>	roject is an opportunity for the CEC to contri countries, in areas where there are trilateral	ibute to enhancing information sharing, transparency, and capa gaps in knowledge.	acity building of government officials
The ti under	ade component of the project will also assis the Minamata Convention.	st with assessing the progress of implementing trade-related rec	quirements for the three countries
Proje	ct Summary (including a clear statement	of project goal)	
<b>Proje</b> produ	ct Goal: This project aims to address two in cts:	nportant aspects of chemicals management in North America p	ertaining to trade and chemicals in
1)	Enhancing the alignment of North America of the implementation of the Minamata Co	an trade statistics on elemental mercury and mercury-containing onvention on Mercury (C\$75,000)	g products, to assess the progress
2)	Furthering the understanding of the migrat their releases to the environment (C\$450,0	tion of chemicals from manufactured items and subsequent hur 000)	nan exposure to them and/or to
The t	rade component of the project would enable	le the CEC to characterize the issue and will consist of these fiv	ve steps:
1)	Describe the procedures for generating tra	ade statistics for mercury and mercury-containing products in ea	ach country.
2) 3)	Ask customs and other agencies in each o trade data.	of the three countries for suggestions on how to improve the ac	curacy and consistency of mercury
4)	Assess the state of the trade statistics with	nin North America	
	Recommend solutions or further study nee	eds.	
5)	,		

The **chemicals in products component** of the project would enable the CEC to contribute to enhancing information, transparency, capacity building and communication on ecological and health exposure to chemicals of trilateral interest. This work will build on the current CEC project, "Enhancing Trilateral Understanding of Flame Retardants of Common Interest and their Use in Manufactured Items." While the 2013-14 project focused on supply chain information and testing of concentrations of flame retardants in manufactured items, this project will further our understanding of the migration of chemicals of concern out of products commonly used by consumers. The project objective will be to gain an understanding of ability of chemicals possessing significant hazard to human health and/or the environment to migrate from commonly manufactured items by testing their potential for emissions, polymer degradation, dermal migration and/or leaching. The project may also address migration of chemicals from aged manufactured items to environmental media. The specific chemicals and manufactured items of trilateral interest to be tested will be determined in Year 1, based on the highest priorities of the three countries. Government laboratory experts would be consulted to help develop the approaches for testing, which would likely be conducted by a third-party consultant. In year 2, the project could include a workshop/training for Mexican laboratories to enhance their ability to quantify the chemical content and potential for human exposure and environmental release from manufactured items chosen for focus in this study. This project would allow Canada, Mexico and the US to enhance information-sharing and collaborative work to increase our understanding of how the environment and human populations may be exposed.

## Short-term Outcomes (at halfway point)

Through the completion of Task 1 (see below), the three countries will have a better understanding of how mercury trade statistics are generated in each country.

The scoping phase of Task 2 will provide a greater understanding of the technical issues surrounding exposure to and release of chemicals, due to their migration from products, and increase the region's analytical capacities in this area.

## Long-term Outcomes (by the end of the project)

The completion of Task 2 specific information will be generated relating to the migration of chemicals from products. Government officials have an increased understanding of the ability of chemicals, with identified human health and/or ecological hazards, to migrate from manufactured items and of exposure pathways (specific chemicals and manufactured items of focus will be determined, based on highest priorities of the three countries).

### Longer-term, Environmental Outcome (post-project)

Appropriate action is taken on recommendations for improving harmonized methods in Canada, Mexico, and the United States for reporting mercury trade flows that are in line with the Minamata Convention obligations.

The three countries have integrated the information generated on chemical migration from products into their domestic processes, and relevant information is shared with interested countries and with appropriate international fora (e.g., Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)).

## Performance Measures (quantified SMART measures)

TASK 1:

- By 2017, the three countries have a clear picture of how trade statistics related to Elemental Mercury and Mercury-added Products are generated in the three countries.
- By 2017, the three countries know where discrepancies lie in the generation of trade statistics within the three countries.
- At project end, representatives involved with management of industrial chemicals from Health Canada (HC), Environment Canada (EC),

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climatico (INECC), and Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Semarnat), find the recommendations of the report useful.

TASK 2:

- By 2017, new scientific information is generated on how certain chemicals of common concern migrate from manufactured items chosen for study.
- By 2017, the three countries are aware which chemicals (of the selected list that are of common concern) migrate from the manufactured items chosen for study.
- At project end, representatives working at HC, EC, USEPA INECC and Semarnat in areas dealing with management of industrial chemicals find that the report will be useful to the regulators and enforcement officials in their risk assessment and risk management efforts.

Task #1) Enhancing the alignment of North American Trade Statistics on Elemental Mercury and Mercury-added Products, to support the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Subtask	Project outputs	How does the subtask/output move the project towards the environmental outcome	Timing	Budget (C\$) (activities)
1.1 Scoping phase and contract for consultant to facilitate the project	<ol> <li>Trinational trade data are collected by the consultant and an analysis of the data (consistency, completeness, comparability, etc.) is presented in a report</li> <li>Procedures for generating trade statistics for mercury and mercury products in each country are identified and outlined in a report by the consultant</li> <li>Discrepancies and data gaps among the three countries (trade data and procedures) are identified</li> <li>Customs agencies and statistics agencies (to be confirmed) in each of the three countries are interviewed by consultant to assist in providing context on the issue and any suggested solutions</li> <li>Analysis report prepared by consultant characterizing the trade statistics issues</li> </ol>	Results can be used to increase alignment of North American trade statistics on elemental mercury and mercury-added products.	Sept. 2015– June 2016	Year 1: \$65,000

	(through examples and case studies) and recommended solutions or further study needs			
1.2 Document summary	1. Publication and translation of document			Year 2: \$10,000
findings	on trade statistics for mercury			
Task #2) Furthering the unders releases to the environment	tanding of the migration of chemicals from	manufactured items and subs	sequent human ex	kposure and/or
Subtask	Project outputs	How does the subtask/output move the project towards the environmental outcome	Timing	Budget (C\$) (activities)
2.1 Scoping and developing approach for testing migration of chemicals from manufactured items, including any required test method development and/or conducting pilot tests	An internal report providing framework for testing as well as preparatory work leading into the testing phase Refined test methods	Government officials will have a greater understanding of specific technical issues.	Sept 2015-June 2016	Year 1: \$85,000
	Results of pilot testing (if applicable)			
2.2 Completing testing of manufactured items and developing project reports	Results from tests of the migration of chemicals from products	Information will have been generated to assist officials in the assessment of human exposure and/or environmental release of chemicals from products.	July 2016-June 2017	Year 2: \$300,000
2.3 Project management and documentation (working group meetings, teleconferences, document publication/translation)	Year 2: Publication and translation of document on migration of chemicals from manufactured items			Year 1:\$15,000 Year 2: \$25,000
2.4 Capacity building for government laboratories in Mexico	2.4.1 Develop a training workshop for government technical operators involved in analytical measurements of chemicals of concern. Training may be undertaken by an external laboratory with expertise in methods of interest to this project (to be determined).	Capacity building training will enhance the ability of national operators in Mexico to quantify the chemical contents of manufactured items and their potential for human exposure and environmental release. This	By June 2017	Year 2: \$25,000

		information will aid government officials in making decisions about such products.		
--	--	---	--	--

#### 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 for activities to be funded through the NAPECA grant program.

• How 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?

This project aligns with the Green Growth strategic priority and Sustainable Production and Consumption subtheme, by working on enhancing the alignment of trade statistics and enhancing sustainable use of chemicals in products.

The project is an opportunity for the CEC to contribute to enhancing information, transparency, and capacity building of government officials in *all countries*, in areas where there are trilateral gaps in knowledge.

The trade component of the project will also assist with assessing the progress of implementing trade-related requirements for the three countries under the Minamata Convention.

• Are the proposed objectives North American in scope? In other words, how are the proposed results relevant to protecting the environment in North America? (For example, what would Council members announce to the press at the successful completion of this project?)

**Trade Component** - The Minamata Convention will require parties to restrict exports and imports of elemental mercury as well as not allow, or take measures with respect to, certain mercury-containing products. To track progress on trade in Canada, Mexico, and the US once the treaty enters into force, it is necessary to have a reliable baseline of imports and exports for mercury and mercury products. This project will identify recommendations to reduce discrepancies in mercury trade data in North American countries. One difficulty is that the Harmonized Schedule, which all three countries use, lacks tariff codes for many of the mercury products that the Minamata Convention will address. Of note – in the case of Canada and the US, there is a Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Import Data between Statistics Canada and United States Census Bureau, signed in 1987.

**Chemicals in Products Component** - This effort would also complement related initiatives being undertaken by countries involved in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme, which is structured

on the United Nations Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The OECD EHS Programme is currently working on developing harmonised tools for assessing the exposure of chemicals to humans and the environment. The proposed CEC project results could be shared to contribute to the larger OECD work. This project may also support the work of the other United Nations Environment Programme Multilateral Environmental Agreements on chemicals.

• What specific, clear and tangible results will be achieved and how will progress toward each result be measured over time? Identify performance measures to be used to indicate success at reaching all outcomes and/or performance.

**Trade Component** - This project will identify how to improve the accuracy of mercury trade statistics generated within the three countries, thus allowing better tracking of trade of mercury and mercury products once the Minamata Convention enters into force.

**Chemicals in Products Component** - This project will also contribute to closing an information gap which exists both in a North American context and internationally, with respect to understanding the migration of harmful chemicals from manufactured items. A specific set of chemicals and manufactured items of trilateral interest will be selected during the scoping stage of the project.

See performance measures outlined above.

- Explain why the CEC is the most effective vehicle for the Parties to use in undertaking the project, considering these points:
  - The value-added of doing it under the CEC cooperative program
  - Any other public, private or social organizations that work on such activities
  - Opportunities to cooperate and/or leverage resources with such organizations

The CEC provides a venue to work on improvements to generating reliable mercury trade statistics, on a NAFTA-country level.

The CEC is also an effective venue to examine the migration of chemicals from manufactured items this can contribute to improved chemicals management in all three countries. The OECD Environment Health and Safety Programme is currently working on developing harmonised tools for assessing the exposure of chemicals to humans and the environment. The proposed CEC project results could be shared to contribute to the larger international OECD work.

• Does the project propose a clear timeline for implementation of the activities, including a target end-date for CEC involvement? Where applicable, describe how the work will continue after CEC involvement ends.

Yes. The first component of this project (mercury trade statistics) will conclude in June 2016. The second component of this project will conclude in June 2017. Given that the project will contribute to larger international efforts, the work will continue to have impact after CEC involvement ends.

- Where applicable, identify with reasonable specificity:
  - Linkages with other relevant CEC projects, past or present, in order to create synergies, capitalize on experience, or avoid duplication

The SMOC Working Group could consult the Enforcement Working Group, as appropriate, to capitalize on their experience on enforcement amongst border officials. This project also builds on the expertise developed under previous SMOC work with respect to testing manufactured items for the presence of flame retardants. The previous project only tested for presence of the chemicals. The proposed project will seek to address the more complicated issue of migration of the chemicals out of the manufactured items.

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

The target audience is regulators and enforcement officials within the risk assessment and risk management communities of the three Parties. The Parties are receptive and capable of using this information to assist them in addressing the issues of chemicals management. The international community of OECD countries in the OECD Environment Health and Safety Programme are also capable of using the information to be generated.

#### • The beneficiaries of capacity building activities that the project may include

This project will assist in capacity building within all three Parties.

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

The following stakeholders may be engaged, as appropriate, in the implementation of this project and/or in disseminating the project results:

- Border officials and trade statistics officials
- OECD Secretariat of the OECD Environment Health and Safety Programme
- Private contract laboratories
- Universities and research centers