

Annual Report 2025



COMMISSION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATION





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A Word from the CEC Executive Director

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was founded in 1994 under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and now exists under the USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC and the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA). The CEC is a dynamic, participatory and collaborative platform for trilateral environmental cooperation and innovation to implement our regional environmental objectives.

Through many CEC activities and grant programs, our webinars, workshops, research and publications, conferences, and our multiple programs and initiatives, we share best environmental practices for innovative, transformational action. Our North American natural resource maps and pollution inventories are used by thousands of people and institutions, informing the public on past, present and future trends in our North American environment. CEC initiatives allow us to share environmental information across sectors and public agencies and among concerned people to foster broad-based participation and engagement throughout the three countries. The CEC also brings together public officials, civil society, communities, Indigenous leaders, youth, academia, and the private sector to more effectively and in a more informed manner engage in tackling our shared environmental challenges, strengthening North American environmental governance and helping all North Americans adapt to a changing environment.

Collecting and disseminating regional environmental information and fostering peer-to-peer exchange and engagement in a transparent and useful manner is at the core of our work. Through CEC initiatives we are expanding access to reliable, comparable environmental data. We share our region's best available environmental tools so that we all are better informed for environmental decision-making. We are also engaging Indigenous leaders and incorporating Indigenous knowledge, protocols and worldviews into our ways of thinking and working cooperatively among people and communities to better steward our environmental resources. Through the work of the CEC we are building community resilience and strengthening environmental protection while fostering greater transparency and accountability in the effective enforcement of environmental laws.

This 2025 Annual Report informs the public of the CEC's many initiatives as well as our grant programs. It highlights ongoing initiatives, including promoting fast climate-change mitigation through the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants (including highly potent methane), fostering marine protected areas and removal of ghost gear, improving solid waste management (including plastics and bio-waste), advancing nature-based solutions to address coastal flooding, promoting supply chain chemicals management, reducing food loss and waste, fostering the substitution of polluting chemicals, protecting migratory species, promoting renewable energy use, and tackling air pollution in vulnerable communities.

Through trilateral cooperative action, the CEC is helping our three countries develop harmonious and collaborative approaches to tackling North America's most pressing environmental challenges and reinforcing the premise that strong environmental protection and economic integration are mutually supportive.

On 7 January 2026, United States President Donald Trump issued a Memorandum directing all executive departments and agencies to take immediate steps to effectuate withdrawal from, cease participation in, or withdraw support to a number of international organizations, including the CEC. Although the specifics and timeline of the implementation of this directive have not been officially communicated, and considering reviews are underway of the USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC, including Chapter 24 on the Environment and the parallel trilateral Environmental Cooperation Agreement (which created and gives force to the CEC), Canada and Mexico remain committed to the CEC's mission and are working together and with the Secretariat to ensure continuity of programs and operations.

Jorge Daniel Taillant

Executive Director

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

CEC Mission Statement

In the context of environmental, economic and social linkages among Canada, Mexico and the United States, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) facilitates effective cooperation and public participation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment in support of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

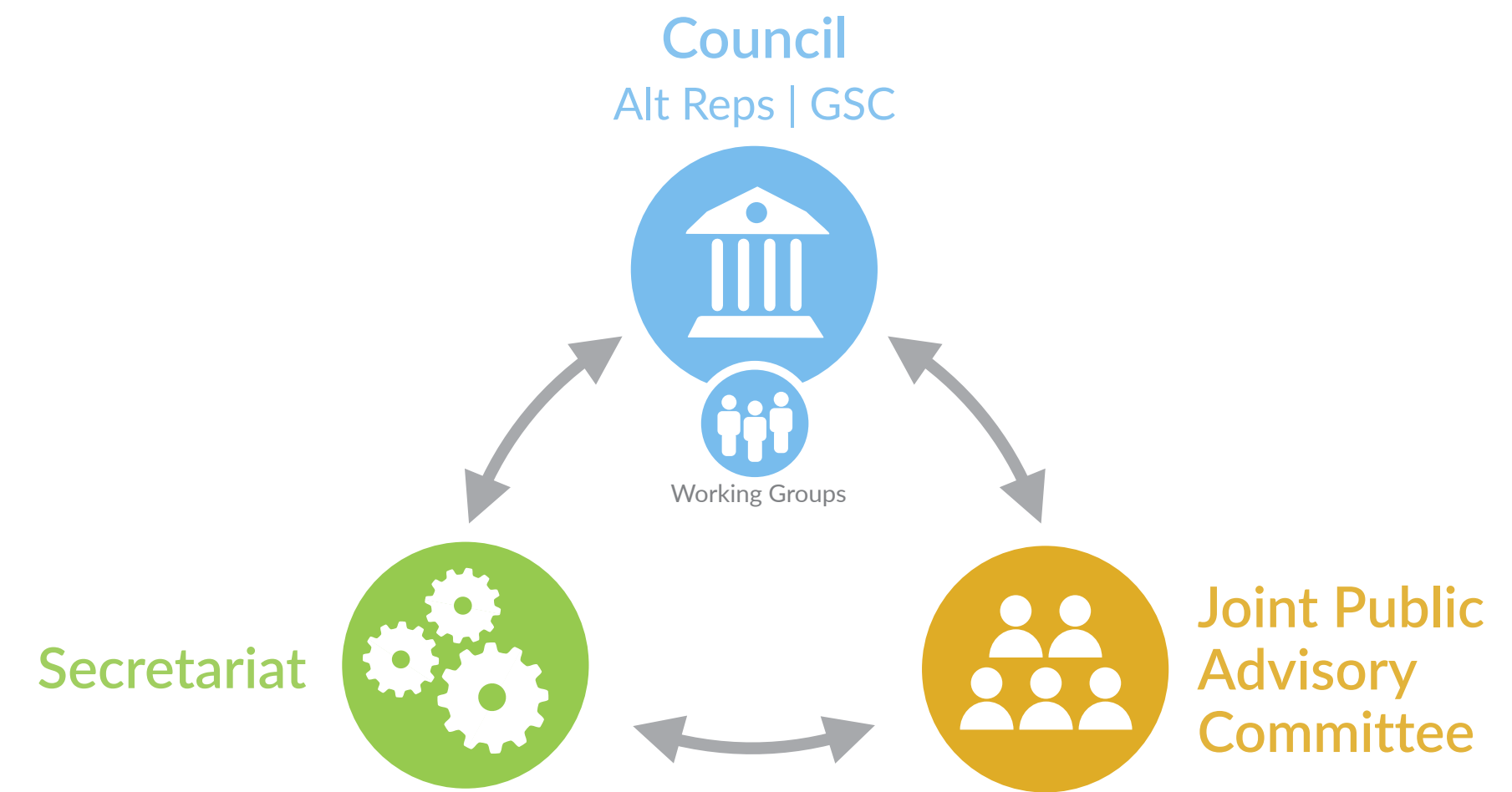


Figure 1. The Three Constituent Bodies of the CEC

The CEC's mission is fulfilled through its three constituent bodies, with the support of various key actors. Learn more about the CEC's constituent bodies [here](#).¹

The Council, which is the governing body of the Commission, comprises cabinet-level or equivalent representatives responsible for environmental affairs of each Party—Canada, Mexico or the United States.

The Secretariat, which provides technical, administrative and operational support to the Council (and to committees and groups established by the Council).

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), composed of nine citizens, three from each country, advises the Council on a wide array of environmental issues within the scope of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA). JPAC engages the public in open forums and public consultations, bringing together experts and interested individuals to identify options to address North America's most pressing environmental challenges.

1. For more information, please refer to Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, available at: <http://www.cec.org/about/agreement-on-environmental-cooperation/>.



Figure 2. CEC 32 graphic for all communication purposes

Annual CEC Council Session and JPAC Public Forum

24 and 25 July 2025

In 2025, Secretary Alicia Bárcena, of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*, Semarnat), hosted her Council counterparts in Mexico City, Mexico. Throughout #CEC32, the CEC brought together the top environmental officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States, Indigenous and community leaders, subject matter experts, business leaders, youth and other members of the public. Together, they discussed priorities and collaborative solutions addressing how circular economy and nature-based solutions can converge into a comprehensive sustainability approach that seeks to ensure the use of resources and also promotes the restoration and protection of the natural environment. Learn more about #CEC32 Council Session [here](#).

As part of the 32nd Council Session, the CEC shared the following announcements.² However, considering the current transition period, next steps for these projects and activities are under review:

- Approaches to conservation and recycling in the region will be promoted through the trilateral project “WaterWISE: Integrated Water/Wastewater Solutions for Effectiveness,”³ aimed at developing strategies for decentralized wastewater treatment, in order to treat water based on quality standards.
- The five-year review of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement will be initiated, with the goal of improving the effectiveness of the CEC.
- The Submission of Enforcement Matters (SEM) process will continue to promote transparency, efficiency and accountability among the Parties and uphold the principles of objectivity, neutrality and impartiality.
- A 2026–2030 Strategic Plan will be developed to modernize and enhance the effectiveness of our regional cooperation initiatives, ensuring a greater, measurable positive impact for our communities.
- Strengthening environmental information systems, as well as joint monitoring systems and the generation of open, reliable and comparable data on the state of the environment in North America, will continue.
- The participation of Indigenous Peoples, civil society, academia, youth, the private sector and communities of North America will be facilitated in CEC activities.
- Greater awareness of shared environmental challenges will be promoted and collaborative solutions will be identified.
- Fostering collaborative work to support institutional and community capacity-building across North America will continue.

2. For more information, visit: <https://www.cec.org/wp-content/uploads/CEC-2025-Ministerial-Statement-1.pdf>.
3. The name has been changed to “Water WISE: Water-Wastewater Integrated Solutions for Effectiveness” as of November 2025.



Official opening



JPAC meeting

The CEC’s Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) also hosted a Public Forum on 24 July⁴ titled “Building Sustainable Economies: Circular Models and Nature-based Solutions for a Resilient North America”, which provided public participants the opportunity to engage in an open dialogue and share their experiences. They discussed how these approaches are being applied across the region, and how their integration can accelerate the transition to more-sustainable and equitable economic systems, helping the CEC to identify critical and emerging environmental priorities at the local and regional levels. Learn more about this Public Forum [here](#).

The 2025 Council Session and JPAC Public Forum were open to the public and both were live-streamed in English, French and Spanish.

4. The agenda for the JPAC forum is available at: <https://www.cec.org/events/cec32/>.

2025 Work Program

The Strategic Plan 2021–2025 defined a path forward for our three countries to work together on pressing regional and global environmental issues, outlining six priority areas for cooperation and two cross-cutting approaches to support more effective implementation of the CEC’s work. Learn more about the CEC’s Governance instruments that have guided our planning, monitoring and reporting to achieve impact [here](#).

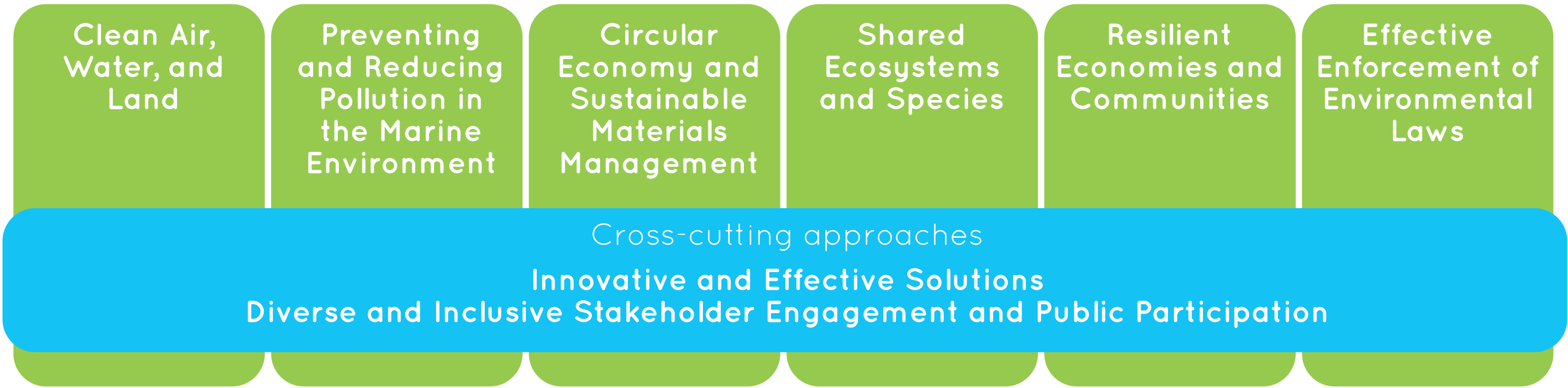


Figure 3. CEC’s 2021–2025 Strategic Pillars and Cross-cutting Approaches

Throughout 2025, efforts focused on the implementation of the following projects and initiatives that advanced the ambitious agenda of the five-year Strategic Plan 2021–2025.

Cooperative Projects — Progress and Results

(All figures in Canadian dollars)



In 2025, the CEC advanced a broad portfolio of 21 trilateral projects and initiatives addressing key environmental and sustainability priorities across North America. These projects covered the topics of climate adaptation and resilience, nature-based solutions for coastal flooding, marine and biodiversity conservation, renewable energy transitions, circular economy and waste management, food waste reduction, environmental justice, Indigenous knowledge and food systems, hazardous waste and chemicals management, sustainable consumption, and environmental education. Together, the initiatives supported collaboration among governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, academia, industry, and civil society organizations in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Across the portfolio, projects generated practical tools, guidance documents, case studies, workshops, monitoring systems, pilot initiatives, and regional knowledge-sharing platforms that are helping strengthen evidence-based decision-making, community capacity, and transboundary cooperation. Many initiatives placed a strong emphasis on community-led approaches, Indigenous participation, climate resilience, and nature-based or circular solutions, while others focused on strengthening technical systems, building collaborative actions, supporting environmental justice, and fostering regional networks and partnerships that will continue to generate impacts beyond the life of the projects.



Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to Address Flooding in Coastal Cities

Budget and duration: C\$560,000

42 months (November 2021–April 2025 and extended to November 2025)

In 2025, the CEC published a series of four guidance documents on the co-benefits of NBS, retrofitting existing infrastructure, monitoring the efficacy of NBS and monitoring methodology, with accompanying briefing notes. The CEC also held two webinars to share practical experience on NBS implementation with practitioners and hosted a booth at Coastal Zone Canada (June 2025) to introduce the four guidance documents to users. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- The project products (guidance documents and briefing notes) are helping support greater uptake of NBS by coastal communities planning to replace aging infrastructure and/or to install new infrastructure to address coastal flood risks, by informing decision-makers about options that may be better adapted to current and future environmental conditions.
- Practitioners can now use these products to take decision-makers through a process where they will learn what to consider for retrofitting existing infrastructure with NBS, be informed on the co-benefits of NBS, and receive guidance on monitoring the effectiveness of NBS, while seeing examples of NBS implementation in North American communities. This is expected to help remove known decision-making barriers to NBS implementation.

Transforming Recycling and Solid Waste Management in North America

Budget and duration: C\$1,530,000

Phase I (Years 1 and 2 – Objective 1); **C\$745,000**

Phase II (Years 3 and 4 – Objective 2); **C\$785,000**
52 months (November 2021–October 2025 and extended to March 2026)

In 2025, the CEC continued work on a separate set of milestone studies for Mexico on paper, plastics, and bioplastics waste to address specific issues raised by Mexico. These studies were finalized in late 2025 and will be published in March 2026, in addition to the three milestone studies for Canada and the US that were published in December 2024. The CEC also implemented a joint pilot testing based on the outcomes of the studies for US-Canada, through collaboration between industry and research institutions. This joint pilot project is focused on poly-coated paper composting. The report was finalized in November 2025, and its publication is expected in March 2026. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- The milestone studies for the US and Canada on paper, plastics, and bioplastics waste, published in December 2024, as well as the studies for Mexico (same waste streams) to be published in 2026, are contributing to a better understanding and knowledge transfer regarding the recycling sector in the region.
- The ongoing US-Canada joint composting pilot focused on poly-coated paper will serve to provide evidence in this field, filling a gap in knowledge which in turn could support future policy design and decision-making. The report will disseminate the findings.





Enhancing Co-benefits of Marine Protected Areas

Budget and duration: C\$590,000

48 months (January 2022–April 2025 and extended to November 2025)

In 2025, the CEC held a workshop series to support transboundary collaboration on shark conservation in the Northeast Pacific (December 2024–February 2025). It also supported shark-tagging and other evidence-gathering on migratory sharks, and prepared technical briefs on the conservation of blue carbon for publication. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- The project expanded collaboration in North America for greater connectivity and inclusiveness in coastal and marine conservation, to the benefit of coastal communities and ecosystems. Collaboration on Pacific whale migratory corridors was expanded and new collaboration on migratory sharks was created. New data on the ranges of several Pacific shark species gathered through this project will provide evidence for decision-makers to support efficient conservation.
- Indigenous and local leaders in coastal conservation from under-represented communities reached broader audiences and Indigenous communities shared their unique experiences with their peers across seascapes and Pacific ecoregions by participating in the International Workshop on Indigenous Communities and Government Partnerships for Protected Area Management and the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress.

Advancing Supply Chain Transparency for Chemicals in Products

Budget and duration: C\$270,000

39 months (July 2022–May 2025 and extended to October 2025)

In 2025, the CEC planned and conducted a final workshop to develop recommendations to improve supply chain transparency (SCT) in North America; finalized three case studies on leading sectors implementing SCT best practices: 1) cosmetics and personal care products; 2) electronics; and 3) snapshot of the Health Open Declaration Standard in the building materials and construction sector; drafted the recommendations report based on research information, consultations and workshops; and compiled a database on SCT tools and instruments currently used in North America, from interim report information, consultations and workshops. All project outputs have been finalized. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- The project met its main objective of fostering collaboration among North American countries to improve supply chain transparency (SCT).
- Three case studies were developed to demonstrate in more detail the different best practices for SCT employed in the three sectors mentioned before.
- Surveys and interactive workshops conducted with 120 key actors representing government, private sector, nonprofit organizations, academia and international interests yielded recommendations for enhancing SCT that can be grouped into two main categories: enhancing drivers of SCT and reducing barriers to SCT.
- A briefing document was developed which highlights project activities and findings, as well as country-specific and general recommendations to foster and facilitate the implementation of transparency practices. This document includes a complementary [online interactive table](#) listing current SCT regulations, tools and initiatives.
- Once published, these resources are expected to provide relevant agencies and key actors with a common understanding of the array of tools (emerging technologies), methods, and examples to guide future SCT implementation activities.





Communities for Environmental Justice Network (CEJN)

Budget and duration: C\$190,000
23 months (April 2023–February 2025)

In 2025, the CEC held a virtual capacity-building workshop to promote learning and build connection among members of the CEJN; develop a transition plan to maintain, strengthen, and make the Network self-sustainable and offer information exchange opportunities; and develop and disseminate a CEJN toolkit, knowledge exchange tools (such as the CEJN Story map), and culturally relevant information. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- It supported the creation of a trilateral network to facilitate the exchange of community-based expertise, lessons learned, and practical guidance between network participants.
- Trilateral workshops and webinars:
 - o Were co-created with participating communities and organizations, including on the topics of impactful storytelling, innovative community engagement methods, and strengthening community self-reliance;
 - o Helped strengthen the capacity of North American Indigenous, local, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and/or underserved communities to adapt and thrive in facing climate change; and
 - o Helped create informal alliances for community members and organizations to work together and scale up their local efforts.
- Finally, knowledge exchange tools such as the publication *Community Environmental Justice Strategies and Tools for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*, available [here](#), were developed to increase greater community access to resources, and culturally relevant information.

Stimulating Behavioral Changes to Reduce Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in North America, and Expanded Promotion and Uptake of Related CEC FLW Resources

Budget and duration: C\$250,000

22 months (May 2024–October 2025 and extended to March 2026)

In 2025, the CEC continued the development of a Guide for Practitioners and training materials on when and how to apply different behavior change theories in practice to improve the uptake and effectiveness of programs and other types of public-facing interventions to reduce FLW. The CEC also continued outreach, promotion, and awareness-raising of CEC products related to FLW reduction.

Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Notable results:

- It is expected that the materials, a guide for practitioners and training materials, would support local governments' preparation of public campaigns going beyond awareness-raising.
- As part of the outreach, promotion and awareness-raising of CEC products related to FLW, the CEC participated in the Food Waste Prevention Week; published three ads in the Canadian Association of Principals' Magazine, along with an editorial in the winter issue; and joined forces with the World Scout Bureau, participating in the JOTA-JOTI 2025 October event (Jamboree On The Air – Jamboree On The Internet).





Scoping Project on a North American Center for Informed Substitution

Budget and duration: C\$50,000

17 months (July 2024–July 2025 and extended to December 2025)

In 2025, the CEC conducted a scoping study for the establishment of a trilateral center for informed substitution of chemicals of concern to facilitate knowledge-sharing and the fostering of best practices, alternatives assessments, and informed substitution across North America. The study report proposed a three-tiered model for a North American Center on Informed Substitution (NACoIS), offering scalable options for investment and staffing that would support North American coordination and capacity for substituting hazardous chemicals with safer alternatives. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- A workshop was held on 29–30 September 2025 with experts and interested parties from the three countries to discuss potential scalable collaboration models and to obtain input on the design of a possible pilot for a North American Center for Informed Substitution.
- Developed an internal report presenting the proposed three-tiered model for a North American Center on Informed Substitution (NACoIS), as well as a draft scope of work for a pilot of the NACoIS.

Fast Mitigation Strategies for Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Budget and duration: C\$400,000
18 months (January 2025–July 2026)

To align North American efforts with international advancements and commitments to better quantify and reduce methane emissions from the waste sector, we initiated engagement and information-exchanges with key experts and partners to strengthen the understanding of the current state of play in remote methane measurement technologies and refine the project's framework. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- Engaged with key partners, including Carbon Mapper, World Meteorological Organization, and Climate and Clean Air Coalition.
- Developed Terms and Reference and issued Request for Proposals for project activities.
- Project implementation is expected in 2026.





Strengthening Evidence-Based Collaborative Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Budget and duration: C\$180,000

14 months (January 2025–March 2026)

In 2025, the CEC conducted meetings of the Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership (TMCSP) and other relevant groups to collaboratively identify priority areas for North American conservation practitioners and reported to TMCSP and other relevant groups agreed-on, evidence-based priority areas for monarch butterfly conservation actions. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- The project is facilitating agreement on evidence-based conservation priorities to ground future action in evidence-based science and is strengthening the foundation for more-unified and strategic monarch conservation efforts across North America.
- The project reactivated the TMCSP after a period of inactivity since the last monarch project (2019). It has also fostered collaboration across diverse actors through wide-ranging engagement in the process and participation in wide-reaching events such as the Monarch Summit.

Strengthening Capacity to Ensure Efficient Operation of the Notice and Consent Electronic Data Exchange (NCEDE) System and Other Wastes Controlled by the Three Countries

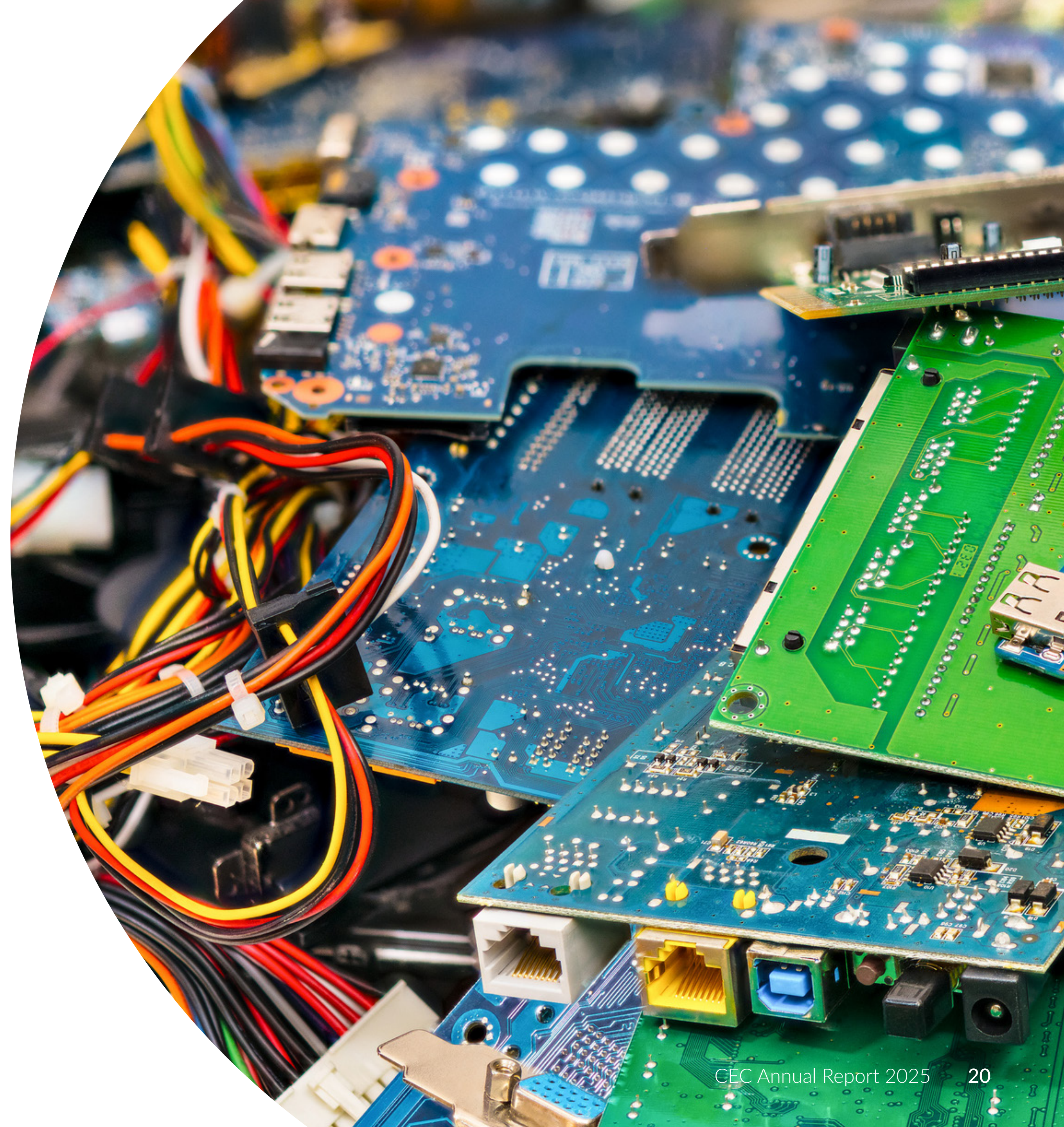
Budget and duration: C\$200,000

24 months (February 2025–August 2026 and extended to February 2027)

In 2025, the CEC facilitated regular trilateral information exchanges to support updates and capacity building activities relative to the NCEDE system. The new system updates offer a better alignment with recent changes to the regulations related to the import/export/transport of hazardous wastes in North America, as well as changes to the international waste code listings for electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) under the Basel Convention that became effective in January 2025. Project activities focused on providing IT support and capacity building to complete any additional modifications or development needed along with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) support for Semarnat's IT system. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- The NCEDE System update and capacity building activities in Mexico started in July 2025. These activities with O&M support staff have helped Semarnat become familiar with the new system.
- As of October 2025, of the 18-priority updates for the NCEDE system in Mexico, 11 have been completed, 6 are pending, and one is in progress.





Using the World Cup and Large-Scale Events to Raise Awareness about the Importance of Reducing Food Waste

Budget and duration: C\$425,000

27 months (April 2025–April 2027 and extended to July 2027)

The CEC worked on initial implementation activities and the process for hiring a consultant to support the implementation of the project. Most activities will take place in 2026 and 2027. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- The materials currently being developed seek to strengthen and enlarge a community of practice and networks to reduce the impacts of wasted food through the convening power of these large events, regardless of the thematic.

Scoping: Uptake of Best Practices for Environmentally Sound Management of Spent Lead Acid Batteries (SLABs)

Budget and duration: C\$50,000

12 months (December 2025–December 2026)

The project began its implementation in December 2025. This project will assess how the 2015 and 2016 CEC guidelines for sound management of batteries have been adopted across Canada, Mexico and the United States, and gather data on current SLAB management practices and actions taken to reduce lead emissions. Click [here](#) for more information.

Notable results:

- Results are expected in 2026. The findings will provide insights into the long-term impact of past CEC initiatives and generate recommendations to improve the dissemination and uptake of ESM practices in the sector.





Air Quality Improvement for Environmental Justice

Budget and duration: C\$1,000,000

48 months (October 2022–September 2025 and extended to October 2026)

In 2025, the CEC finalized monitoring plans and started the deployment and testing of monitoring sensors, deployed additional low-cost particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) sensors donated by Canada (via Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]) to complement the BC measurements and shared experiences on technology use and mitigation strategies. A workshop on community-led air quality data management and analysis was hosted in October 2025. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- The project's partner community organizations completed the installation of black carbon and PM_{2.5} sensors. The equipment consisted of 12 black carbon monitors, one hand-held particle counter, three weather stations, two particle profilers and 22 PM_{2.5} sensors.
- The number and type of monitoring devices were selected according to community needs and the scope of their activities. Additional training on the operation of the particulate matter sensors also took place.

Addressing Ghost Gear in North America

Budget and duration: C\$1,000,000

38 months (December 2022–February 2026)

In 2025, the CEC supported coordination of Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) advocacy initiatives; engaged red spiny lobster–fishers from fishing cooperatives in Baja California Sur, Mexico, and lobster fishers in Nova Scotia, Canada, in piloting two types of gear-tracking devices to reduce ghost gear; completed several gear removals in Baja California Sur, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo, retrieving fishing lines, gillnets and traps from coral reefs and other habitat; and held a closing webinar to showcase project results. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- Fishers have been trained in best practices to reduce gear loss and now have access to Spanish-language material on preventing ghost gear.
- Fishers from 14 fishing cooperatives (which include over 1,200 fishers) in Baja California Sur have now adopted the gear-tracking buoys in their routine.
- Coastal community members have been trained in the safe retrieval of existing ghost gear, and several pieces of ghost gear have been removed, ending years of negative impacts.
- Fishers have also been trained in responsibly disposing of end-of-life (EOL) gear and collection of EOL gear is now done in a more efficient, lower-emission manner.





Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy

Budget and duration: C\$500,000

44 months (April 2023–March 2025 and extended to December 2026)

In 2025, the CEC continued engagement efforts with participating communities and reflected results in a consultation report, prepared the case studies report, developed visual materials for project outreach and promotion, conducted online meetings with participating project communities to exchange information and experiences on the implementation of their energy projects, showcased community experiences in implementing renewable energy with international partners (e.g., Market Place of Ideas – Climate and Clean Air Coalition Annual Meeting) and conducted a campaign to disseminate and promote the findings of the CEC IRENA initiative and case studies. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- Case studies highlighting successful community-led transitions to renewable energy in nine locations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States were completed. These documents are expected to be published in early 2026.
- These case studies represent a collection of experiences that serve as a reference for other communities facing similar energy challenges and looking to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. It also serves as a tool for funders, governments, and energy practitioners who aim to work effectively with communities.
- As part of this work, one of the communities gained visibility and was able to access grants to address technical and equipment issues affecting the operation of their renewable energy system.
- This year, the project was selected for showcase at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Annual meeting’s “Marketplace of Ideas”.
- The National Center for High Technology of Costa Rica (CeNAT) invited the CEC to present the results of the project on an online forum (9 October 2025) on sustainable energy transition strategies across Latin America, and the Caribbean.
- This project strengthened strategic collaboration with key international partners, including the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- By collecting on-the-ground information and engaging both existing and new communities, the CEC facilitated meaningful knowledge exchange on renewable energy implementation among rural communities, notably Casa Pueblo (Puerto Rico) and Fundación Tosepan (Mexico).

Resilience of Indigenous Peoples Traditional Food Systems

Budget and duration: C\$300,000

34 months (January 2024–January 2026 and extended to December 2026)

In 2025, the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG) held working meetings in Montreal on 27 March, in Mexico City on 23 July and in Montreal on 4 December, which centered on further defining the scope of the project. The CEC will be organizing cross-community engagement and exchange visits throughout the first semester of 2026. In parallel, the TEKEG has commissioned a report that will document the state of Indigenous peoples' traditional food systems in North America and will include a literature review regarding the use of Indigenous knowledge pertaining to Indigenous peoples' food systems throughout North America. The report will also provide information on ancestral Indigenous food practices, as well as contemporary ones. A final report describing the outcomes and findings obtained from the community exchange visits, as well as the literature review, will be developed by the CEC. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- The exchange visits are expected to bring together one Indigenous community, nation or tribe per country, to foster dialogue about traditional food sovereignty and to support transboundary networks.
- The final report is expected to inform how the CEC and other key actors can better support and respect Indigenous peoples' traditional food systems across North America.





Advancing Responsible Purchasing of Wood Products

Budget and duration: C\$300,000

33 months (January 2024–January 2026 and extended to October 2026)

In 2025, the CEC conducted a review of available literature and existing programs, made an analysis of the state of consumer knowledge within the three countries and held an online workshop (23 July 2025) with a diverse group of experts from government, academia, the private sector, and non-profit or certification organizations from the three countries to deepen the analysis. The CEC also began the process to hire a consultant to work in the creation, execution, optimization, and reporting of a public awareness strategy—tailored to each country and made available in all three languages—to communicate the importance of responsible purchasing of wood products, sustainable forest management (SFM), and illegal logging across North America. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- The online workshop with experts provided an opportunity to validate the information generated throughout the project and finalize the report.
- Participants at the workshop acknowledged that the project is generating new knowledge, underscoring its effectiveness in increasing understanding of consumer knowledge gaps related to SFM and illegal logging across North America.

Reaching Horizon 2030: An Environmental Outlook for North American Cooperation

Budget and duration: C\$500,000

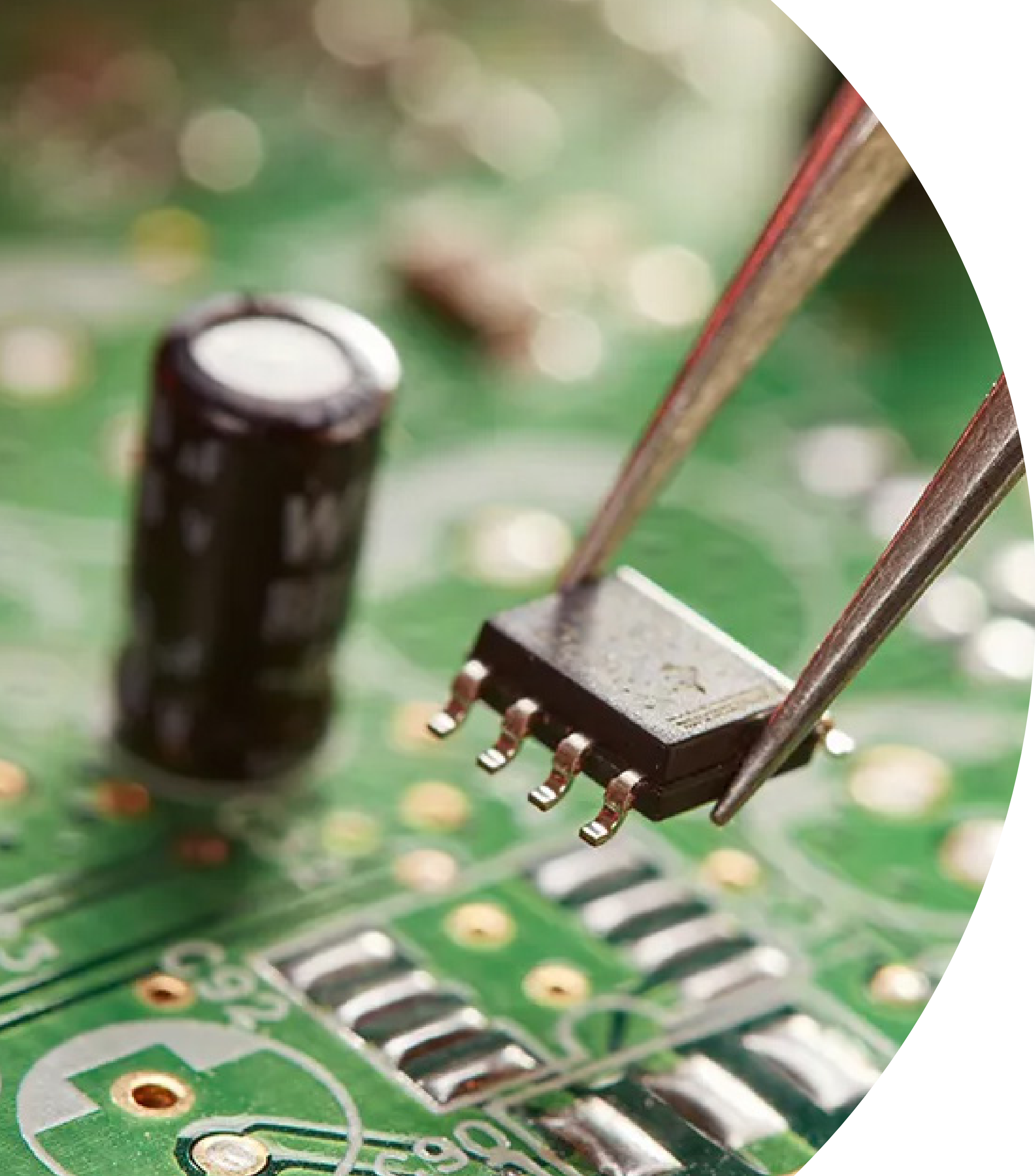
28 months (April 2024–February 2026 and extended to August 2026)

In 2025, the CEC held periodic expert meetings to provide input for the H-2030 report, created a Roster of Experts from the three countries for each workstream (including Traditional Knowledge Holders), and held focus groups and individual meetings. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- Horizon 2030 benefitted from the strategic guidance of 58 appointed government leads, the deep domain-specific knowledge of 53 experts aligned with the priority topic areas, and public consultation processes that have garnered input from more than 500 individuals across North America.
- A first draft of the final report was shared with the Parties for internal purposes.





Opportunities for Circularity in the North American Electronics Sector: Phase 1

Budget and duration: C\$750,000, 24 months (June 2024–June 2026)

In 2025, the CEC conducted a broad consultative process with key stakeholders working on circularity and in the North America electronics sector, with particular focus on mobile phones. This process was conducted to understand current and upcoming circularity practices for mobile phones. Through iterative research and inputs from the consultative process, the CEC is developing a research study to assess the national and regional potential for circularity across the full life cycle in the mobile phone subsector, and identify opportunities that could foster circularity in North America. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- The CEC facilitated conversations among the industry, NGOs, academia and government representatives working on circularity and/or the electronics sector to identify gaps, bright spots and lessons learned that can be useful for one or all three North American countries.
- The consultation identified barriers, bright spots and opportunity pathways to advance circularity for mobile phones in each country, as well as opportunities for regional cooperation.
- A research study on the potential of circularity focused on the entire lifecycle of mobile phones will be developed and finalized in 2026.

Community-led Environmental Education Initiative for Biocultural Heritage Protection

Budget and duration: C\$1,160,000

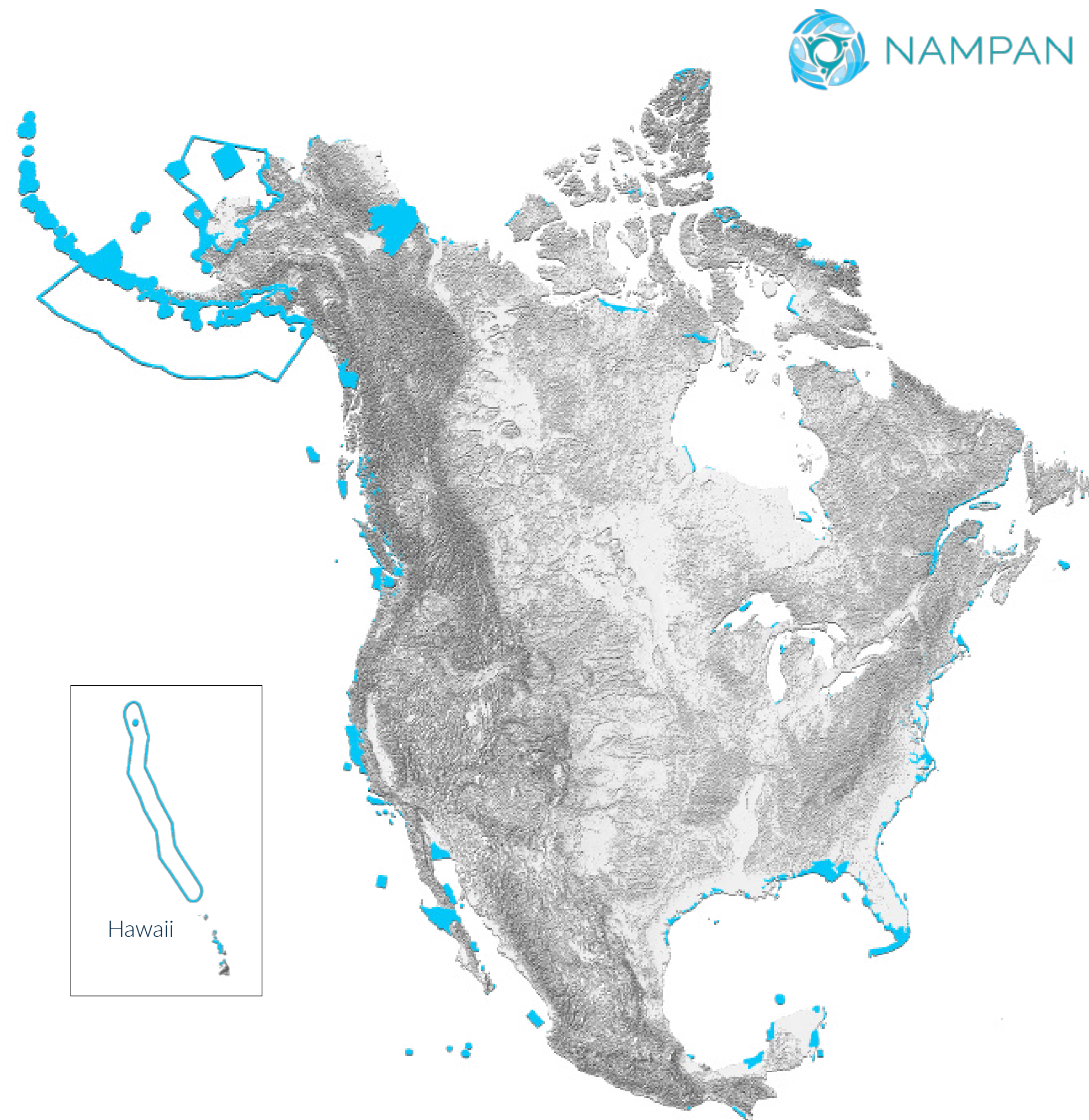
36 months (January 2025–July 2027 and extended to January 2028)

In 2025, the CEC undertook preparatory work for the initial implementation of the initiative, including the process for the selection of the main consultant that will support the work and implementation. The CEC conducted an environmental scan of programs, resources, initiatives and key actors that use environmental education and knowledge dialogue approaches to address climate action, environmental protection and protection and restoration of bio-cultural heritage. Click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Notable results:

- The preparatory work and processes undertaken during 2025 paved the way for the full implementation of the initiative during 2026 and 2027.





The North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN)

The North American Marine Protected Areas Network ([NAMPAN](#)) is a network of resource agencies, marine protected area (MPA) managers, practitioners and other relevant experts in Canada, Mexico and the United States. It aims to strengthen the conservation of biodiversity in critical marine habitats throughout the region and to facilitate transboundary cooperation and information exchange among MPA experts and managers by building capacity, facilitating connections and strengthening communication.

Notable results:

- Held an online deep-dive event on 10 December 2025 for 30 government participants on the social, cultural, and economic benefits of MPAs and produced a graphic summary to communicate key points.
- Engaged with other MPA networks through existing channels to share best practices and lessons learned.
- Represented NAMPAN in different events to strengthen collaboration and partnerships, through coordinated engagement at the UN Ocean Conference (June 2025) and in MPA network led webinars.

Figure 4. North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN)

Grant Programs

The background features a series of overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in shades of green and blue. The green shapes are layered on top of the blue ones, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors transition from a light, pale green and blue on the left to a more vibrant, saturated green and blue on the right.

North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action

The North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) is a CEC biannual grant program that engages and supports local and Indigenous communities in addressing pressing environmental challenges. More information is available [here](#).

The 8th cycle of NAPECA was announced at the 2025 Council Session. It was focused on circular economy projects. The Call for Proposals was issued on 23 October 2025.

Notable results:

- 3 NAPECA grant projects were showcased at the 2025 Council Session.
- A video highlighting the results of grant projects (one per country) was produced and presented at the 2025 Council Session. The [video](#) (divided into three short videos) was also disseminated through CEC social media throughout fall 2025 to highlight how the support of the CEC has been instrumental in driving change at the local level and in addressing important environmental issues facing communities in the three countries.



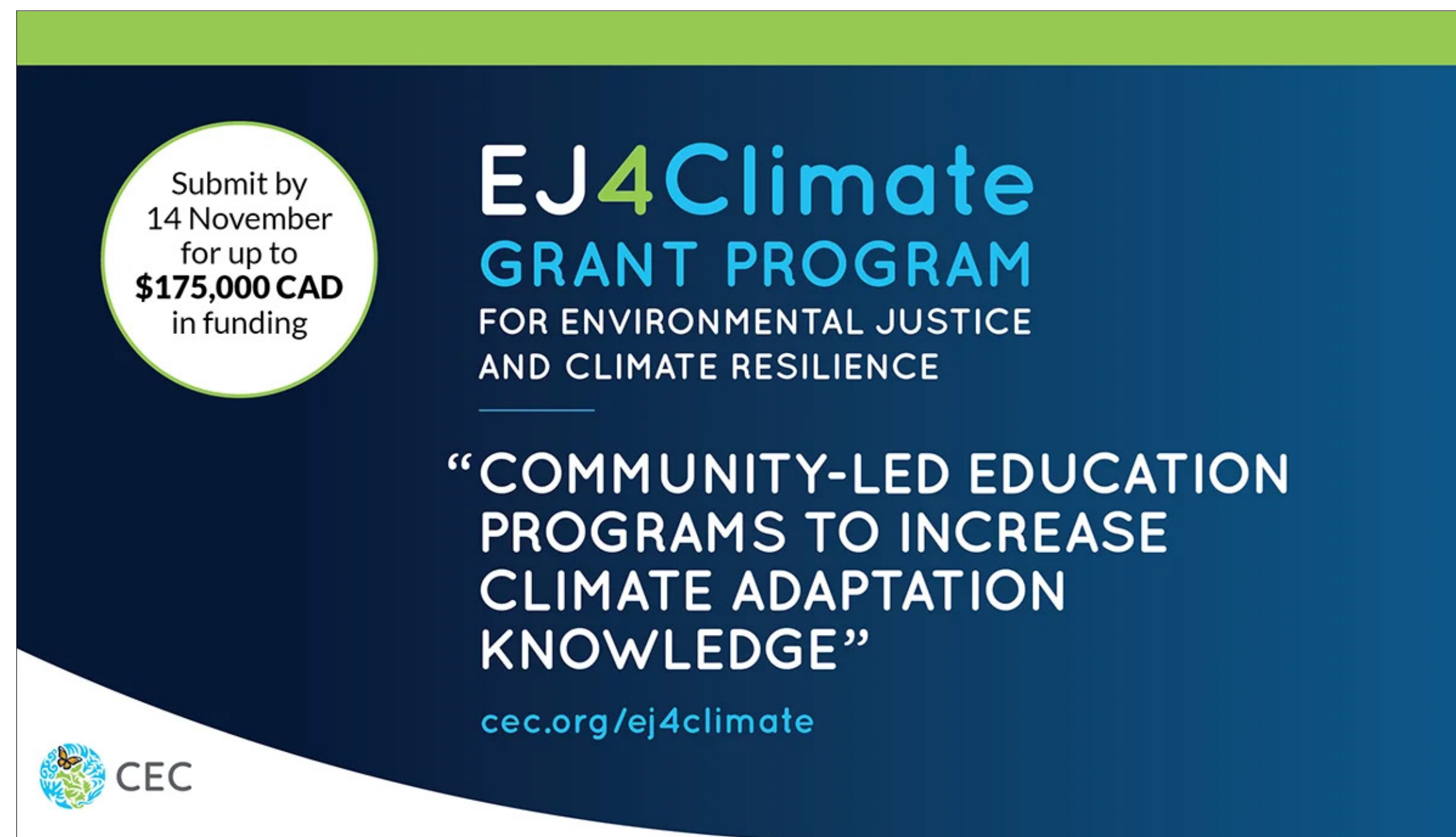


Figure 5. EJ4Climate grant program

EJ4Climate Grant Program: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience

From September 2021 through 2025, the CEC implemented EJ4Climate, an annual grant program to support underserved and/or vulnerable, as well as Indigenous, communities across North America, to increase preparedness and resilience for climate-related impacts. The EJ4Climate Grant Program provided funding directly to community-based organizations and sought to promote environmental justice by facilitating the involvement and empowerment of communities searching for solutions to environmental challenges and the development of partnerships to address their environmental and human health vulnerabilities, including those due to climate impacts. The fourth EJ4Climate funding cycle marked the conclusion of the grant program in 2025. Overall, 54 projects were selected for funding over the four years of the program. More information is available [here](#).

Notable results:

- 12 EJ4Climate grantees for the fourth cycle, which focused on community-led education projects, were confirmed in September 2025.

Improving Access to Information for Decision-Making

The background features a series of overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in shades of green and blue. The green shapes are primarily in the upper and middle sections, while the blue shapes are more prominent in the lower and right sections. The overall effect is a modern, flowing, and abstract design.

North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (NAPRTR)

The North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (NAPRTR) initiative compiles, harmonizes and presents data on the sources, amounts and management of pollutants reported by approximately 40,000 industrial facilities to the Canadian, Mexican, and United States' pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs). These data are made accessible via the [Taking Stock Online](#) website.

Notable results:

- During the January-September 2025 period, the Taking Stock Online database has been consulted over 65,000 times.
- Among the activities implemented this year:
 - o Integrated in Taking Stock Online (North American integrated PRTR database) a new data set with greenhouse gases (GHG) information from 2010–2023.
 - o Conducted data comparability assessment of national PRTR systems to support efforts to improve PRTR regional data quality and comparability.
 - o Finalized Phase 1 of the Pollution Prevention (P2) Challenge: Analysis of Data for the North American Automotive Manufacturing Sector and Supply Chain.
 - o In cooperation with the OECD, conducted analyses of cross-border transfers of PRTR substances.
- The above activities were presented and discussed at the Public Meeting of the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Initiative held in Mexico City in February 2025, which brought together representatives of the national PRTR programs and other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and the public interested in sharing information and ideas about pollution, sustainable industry and access to environmental information across North America.
- Preliminary results of the cross-border transfers data analyses were presented at the September 2025 meeting of the OECD's Working Party on PRTR.
- The CEC also organized and conducted information exchange meetings on data collection, QA/QC and validation procedures amongst the national PRTR programs (TRI, NPRI and RETC).

North American Environmental Atlas

The North American Environmental Atlas is an online mapping resource providing combined and harmonized geospatial environmental data from Canada, Mexico and the United States, allowing for a continental and regional perspective on transboundary environmental issues. The Atlas supports a wide range of governmental and academic research and analysis of environmental challenges in North America, as attested by citations in over a [thousand published scientific articles and reports](#). The Atlas is available [here](#).

The North American Land Change Monitoring System (NALCMS) is an ongoing collaborative initiative between the CEC and the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States and their respective mapping agencies to monitor land cover and its changes over time at the North American level. The NALCMS products, available in the North American Environmental Atlas, depict information about land cover and land cover change in a seamless and consistent way across North America by assembling and harmonizing national geospatial datasets. Specific information about NALCMS is also available [here](#).

Notable results (Atlas and NALCMS):

- From January to December 2025 the North American Environmental Atlas (“Atlas”) website has been visited 109,941 times.
- 75 external scientific research publications have referenced the Atlas products in 2025, of which 39 publications mentioned the NALCMS land cover products specifically.
- A new update of the North American Protected Areas dataset was created and published in April 2025.
- All existing North American Environmental Atlas datasets have been made fully compatible with open-source GIS software (e.g., legends & symbology) for greater accessibility and increased use of the CEC’s geospatial products.
- The CEC organized and facilitated in July 2025 the annual meeting of the North American Land Change Monitoring System (NALCMS) initiative in Mexico City, Mexico.
- The CEC presented in January 2025 the North American Environmental Atlas to researchers and graduate students of the Center for Research in Environmental Geography (*Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental, CIGA*) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM*).



Figure 6. The North American Environmental Atlas

Submissions on Enforcement Matters

The CEC Submissions on Enforcement Matters process supports public participation and transparency in the effective enforcement of environmental law in North America.

If you have reason to believe that an environmental law is not being effectively enforced by Canada, Mexico or the United States, the SEM process may address your concerns.



cec.org

To learn more about the SEM process, scan here.



Submissions on Enforcement Matters Process

The Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) process is governed by the Canada United States Mexico Agreement (CUSMA/USMCA/T-MEC) Articles 24.27 and 24.28; it supports public participation and transparency in the effective enforcement of environmental law in North America. The SEM process allows any person in North America (resident, citizen, business company or entity) to file a submission asserting that Canada, Mexico, and/or the United States is failing to effectively enforce its environmental law(s). Learn more about SEM [here](#).

From 1994 to the end of 2025, the Secretariat received a total of 117 submissions: 34 concerning Canada, 66 concerning Mexico, 15 concerning the United States, and 2 concerning both Canada and the United States. Among these submissions, 21 concerning Canada, 51 concerning Mexico, and 8 concerning the United States met the initial admissibility requirements to move forward in the process. Since 2020, the Secretariat has received 19 submissions: 2 concerning Canada, 15 concerning Mexico, and 2 concerning the United States. Finally, by the end of 2025, the Secretariat had published 30 factual records.

Figure 7. Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) process

In 2025, the CEC received two new submissions and continued to process ten others. In one instance, *Nazas River Lower Basin*, the Secretariat determined that the submission met the criteria in CUSMA/USMCA/T-MEC Article 24.27(2) and requested a response from the government per Article 24.27(3). The Secretariat informed the Council that another submission, *Sonora Railway Project*, warranted developing a factual record. The Secretariat published factual records for the *Hydraulic Fracturing in Nuevo León*, *Vaquita Porpoise*, and *North Atlantic right whale* submissions.

One of the two new submissions concerns Mexico’s alleged failure to enforce its environmental laws to protect and manage the Nazas River Lower Basin’s water resources and riparian ecosystems in connection with existing dams. The other submission relates to the US’s alleged failure to assess the environmental impacts of a permanent closure of all commercial cargo operations at the Cordova–Americas International Bridge at the US–Mexico border.

The CEC also continued processing other active submissions and engaging with other organizations in Canada in the development of outreach activities.

Progress update and notable results:

- 3 factual records published: *Hydraulic Fracturing in Nuevo León*, filed under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, *Vaquita Porpoise*, and *North Atlantic right whale*.
- 2 new submissions filed at the CEC concerning Mexico.
- 3 determinations, including one recommendation to develop a factual record.
- 2 draft factual records submitted to Council.
- 3 final factual records submitted to Council and released to the public.
- 100% of target deadlines met by the Secretariat.
- 6 events where SEM was presented to the North American public (including CEC and non-CEC events). These presentations to approximately 350 participants aimed to raise awareness on the mechanism among different audiences, explain its functioning, provide status updates on active submissions, exchange challenges and best practices with other regional actors and discuss the role of SEM.

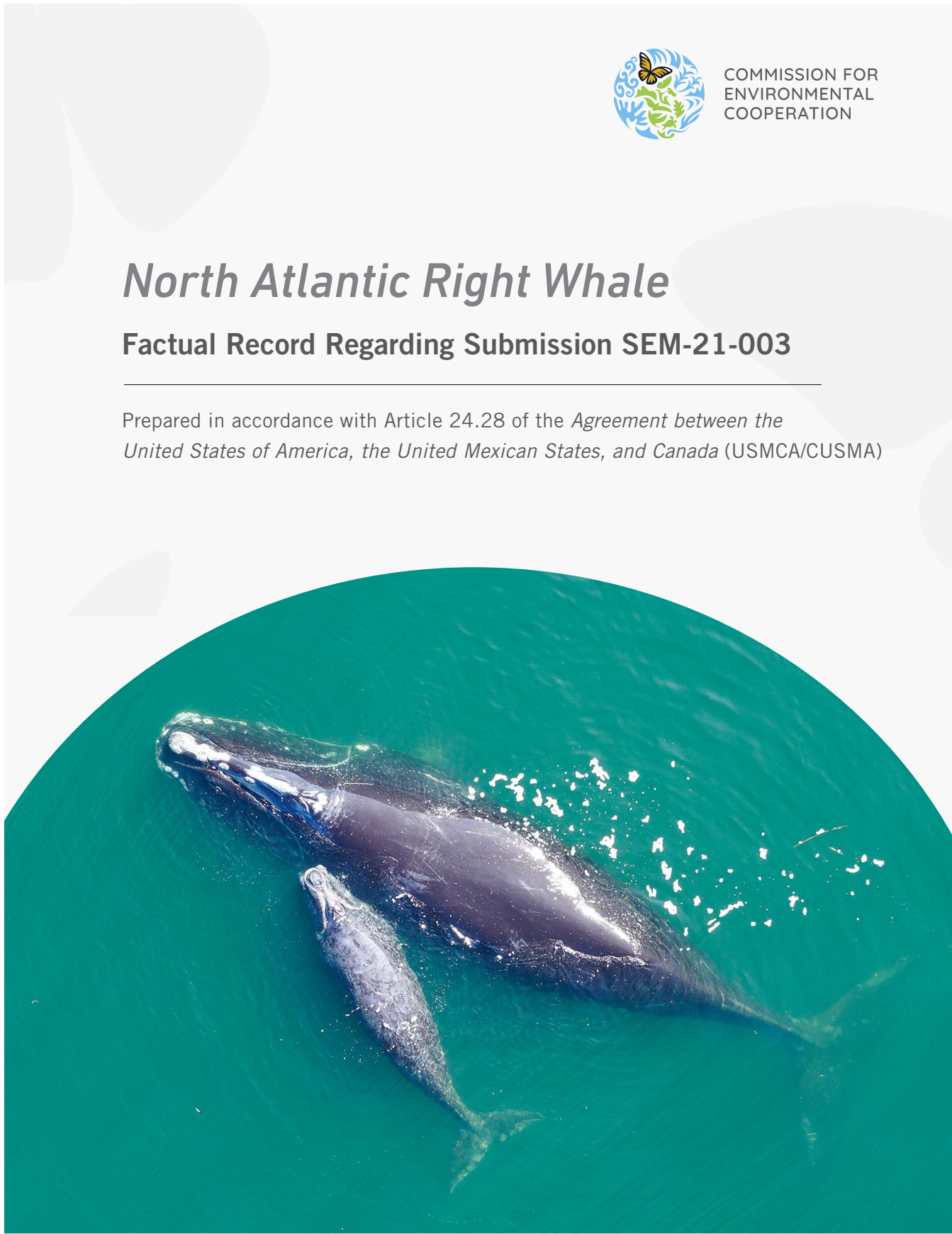


Figure 8. Factual record for submission SEM-21-003

Public Participation and Engagement

The background features a series of overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in shades of green and blue. The green shapes are layered on top of the blue ones, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors transition from a light, pale green and blue on the left to a more vibrant, saturated green and blue on the right, suggesting a progression or growth.

Outcomes of Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activities

In 2025, JPAC focused its efforts on increasing collaboration with the other CEC constituent bodies and the CEC’s Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG). JPAC also developed spaces to support CEC projects and initiatives through public consultations and advanced the JPAC-led initiative, Advancing Responsible Purchasing of Wood Products. Please find more information about JPAC [here](#).



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

During 2025, JPAC accomplished the following activities:

- Provided JPAC Advice from the H-2030 initiative Public Forum December 2024 JPAC Forum in Mexico City, and the public consultation on H-2030.
- Participated, together with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG), in the Roundtable [Sustainable Trade in North America: Indigenous Perspectives](#): Held in Montreal on 24–25 March 2025 and organized by the CEC and McGill University.
- Held a joint working meeting of JPAC and TEKEG members to discuss the key outcomes from the “Sustainable Trade in North America: Indigenous Perspectives” roundtable and explored pathways for stronger collaboration between the two groups.
- Hosted the follow-up Private Roundtable – Strengthening Indigenous Trade in North America: Pathways to Inclusion, Revitalization, and Recognition, on 23 July 2025 in Mexico City. JPAC is currently finalizing the publication of the proceedings of both meetings.

- Increased dialogue and knowledge-sharing with the private sector by reaching out and having initial discussions with a number of key actors, including chambers of commerce and industry organizations.
- Held JPAC Public Forum 2025-01 on circular economy and nature-based solutions, [Building Sustainable Economies: Circular Models and Nature-based Solutions for a Resilient North America](#), on 24 July 2025 in Mexico City.
- Continued to lead the implementation of the initiative, Advancing Responsible Purchasing of Wood Products.
- Held additional JPAC–TEKEG Joint Working Meetings throughout the year, featuring presentations and updates on ongoing projects and initiatives by CEC Secretariat staff from all units. The meetings also included the participation of youth delegates from the 2024 CEC Youth Engagement Week, as well as the participation of invited Indigenous experts.
- Held JPAC Public Forum 2025-02, which took place in Montreal on 2 December 2025.
- Implemented the 2025 JPAC Annual Plan of Activities.



Facilitated dialogue



JPAC event



Youth participation in the JPAC forum

Notable results:

- The JPAC Chair has participated in six Alt Rep meetings to provide updates on JPAC activities and inform the Council's agenda throughout the year.
- The JPAC Public Forum and online consultation on H-2030 provided stakeholders with opportunities to review, comment, and influence priorities, directly contributing to Council decision-making and shaping the H-2030 Initiative. As a result, the JPAC submitted the Advice 2025-01 to Council, containing seven recommendations.
- The Public Forum on H-2030 featured the expert panel: “The Private Sector’s Role in Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.” Likewise, during the Public Forum on Circular Economy and Nature-based Solutions, discussions focused on enabling factors—including the contribution of the private sector—in scaling up these approaches across North America.
- The panel of the JPAC Public Forum on H-2030 “Youth Voices on H-2030,” featured the three youth who participated in the CEC Youth Engagement Week. They shared the perspectives, priorities and recommendations for regional action in response to the triple planetary crisis.
- Following the active participation of youth representatives in the JPAC Public Forum H-2030, JPAC held discussions with them during its private working meeting on 25 March 2025. During this meeting, the youth representatives presented their recommendations on H-2030 and explored with JPAC members opportunities to enhance intergenerational knowledge-sharing and strengthen youth engagement in environmental action.
- The Perspectives and Recommendations prepared by the youth representatives on H-2030 were included as an annex to JPAC Advice to the Council 2025-01, as part of JPAC’s efforts to strengthen public participation by giving greater visibility to youth voices.



JPAC forum participant

- A two-day roundtable held in Montreal on 24–25 March 2025, co-hosted by JPAC and the TEKEG, explored how Indigenous values, relational approaches, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), cultural heritage, and nature-based solutions can advance sustainable trade and promote the revitalization of Indigenous trade. A follow-up roundtable held in Mexico City on 23 July 2025 reinforced pathways for Indigenous economic inclusion and informed potential policy actions.
- The JPAC Public Forum 2025-01 on CE and NbS successfully convened top environmental officials from the three countries, along with Indigenous and community leaders, subject matter experts, business leaders, youth, and members of the public, to collaboratively identify priorities and co-develop solutions that integrate CE principles with NBS to promote resource efficiency while ensuring the restoration and protection of the natural environment. Participation in the event was very high, with a total of 465 participants (216 in-person and 249 online). Participation was distributed across sectors as follows: government (36.9%), NGOs (24.5%), academia (21%), consultants (19.1%), individuals (11.8%), the private sector (8.6%), students (6.2%), international organizations (6.2%), and media (4.9%). Youth represented 25.8% (112), and Indigenous Peoples 12.9% (60).
- JPAC submitted to Council the Advice 2025-02 on CE and NbS: Following the JPAC Public Forum 2025-01 held on 24 July 2025; containing five recommendations.
- The JPAC Public Forum 2025-02 on Regenerating North America’s Future, held in Montreal on 2 December 2025, centered on the impact of persistent environmental pollutants—including pesticides, forever chemicals (PFAS) and microplastics—that accumulate in soils, water, air and ecosystems, and on exploring concrete strategies to reduce environmental contamination, restore ecosystems and enhance human health across North America. A total of 200 participants attended the event (108 online and 92 in person). Participants represented government (23.5%), NGOs (32.5%), academia (46%), consulting (3.5%), individuals (36.5%), the private sector (15%), students (7%), international organizations (4.5%), and media (1.5%). Youth represented 34.5% (69), and Indigenous Peoples 20% (40). This event provided JPAC with an opportunity to pilot a new discussion format—including PechaKucha-style opening presentations, a fireside chat with experts, and both online and in-person roundtables—aimed at enhancing public participation and strengthening public understanding of current environmental priorities.

- Through the implementation of its Annual Plan of Activities, JPAC reinforced its role in fostering robust public participation, promoting trilateral dialogue, and providing advice to enhance environmental cooperation in North America. This is illustrated by the active participation of diverse actors in its activities:
 - o 9 youth representatives participating in JPAC activities in 2025 (3 in a private working meeting on 25 March and 6 as part of the 2025 public forums);
 - o 40 Indigenous peoples participating in JPAC events (20 in the Indigenous Trade Roundtable held in March, 17 in the follow-up roundtable in July, and 3 presenters during the 2025 public forums); and
 - o 15 private sector representatives (9 in the Indigenous Trade Roundtable and 3 in each of the public forums).



CEC panel

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG) provides advice to the CEC on integrating traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous perspectives into the CEC's work and policy recommendations. Please find more information about the TEKEG [here](#).

In 2025, the CEC continued working with the TEKEG to inform, support and enhance CEC engagement activities and identify and incorporate Indigenous knowledge (IK), including traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), as well as Indigenous perspectives and stewardship practices, into its activities and recommendations. In 2025, this was done through the completion of the TEKEG-led initiative Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management, on the Resilience of Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Food Systems in North America.

In addition to this effort, the TEKEG continued participating and providing advice throughout the implementation of the Community-led Environmental Education Initiative for Biocultural Heritage Protection initiative.





Indigenous-led ceremony at CEC event

Notable results:

- Drawing on the outcomes of collaborative work and ongoing dialogues with Indigenous peoples and communities since the creation of the TEKEG, its members recommended the adoption of the **North American Guiding Principles for the Incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the work of the CEC**. The Guiding Principles were officially adopted by the CEC's Alternate Representatives at the end of January 2025.
- [Roundtable Sustainable Trade in North America: Indigenous Perspectives](#), co-hosted by the McGill Bieler School of Environment (BSE) and the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC).
- TEKEG Memorandum on [Strengthening Environmental Justice through Community Empowerment](#).
- Roundtable: Strengthening Indigenous Trade in North America: Pathways to Inclusion, Revitalization, and Recognition, co-hosted by the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG).
- Participation in the JPAC Public Forum on the [Nexus Between Circular Economy and Nature-based Solutions in North America](#).
- Participation in the [JPAC Public Forum: Regenerating North America's Future](#) which took place 4 December 2025, in Montreal, Canada.

Communications, Outreach and Engagement

In 2025, the CEC increased visibility of CEC efforts, promoted inclusive outreach and fostered collaborative engagement. In addition, efforts focused on strengthening youth engagement and establishing and maintaining mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships. Key activities supported included:

- Increased visibility of the North American Land Change Monitoring System in the context of the [Open Data Day](#).
- Developed sub-branded dedicated webpages for key cross-cutting themes such as the [Youth Engagement](#), Private Sector (to be finalized in 2026), and Indigenous affairs, including the launch of the [Fresh Water Portal](#) with video production for storytelling.
- Developed a new topic page for the [Sustainable Livings and Economies Unit](#), with a novel approach to make information more accessible and highlighting the CEC's past efforts.
- Enhanced the North American Environmental Atlas outreach and usage by launching an audience strategy.
- Highlighted the CEC's unique role, through the CEC's [Accomplishments Video](#).
- Establishing a branded identity for Council Sessions and JPAC forums and implementation of a media strategy for #CEC32.
- Launched three Calls for Proposals to update the CEC Style Guide, which dated back to 2015.
- Developed a CEC glossary in English, Spanish and French to keep high quality and consistent language across all public-facing materials.
- Increased meaningful youth engagement by developing and implementing the [2024-2026 Youth Engagement Strategy](#) (YES).
- Facilitated collaborative spaces for knowledge-sharing with new audiences, including universities and the private sector.

The CEC maintained and developed partnerships and collaborations with organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) North America, the University of Toronto Trash Team, Circular Innovation Council and [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), launched the 9th edition of the [International Monarch Monitoring Blitz](#) with nine partner organizations and enhanced visibility, public awareness and understanding of CEC's work by disseminating 13 events, participating in the E-summit to share knowledge and enhance our network on circular economy, and participating and disseminating CEC's work in the North American Canadian Circular Economy Summit.

The CEC also supported the implementation and delivery of behavior change campaigns to inform decision-making, including Food Waste Prevention Week, People for Pollinators Social Media Campaign, and Last Stop, the Ocean World Environment Day Campaign, in collaboration with UNEP.

The CEC reinvigorated its engagement efforts on cross-cutting approaches (private sector, Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Community Resilience) during the intergenerational and intersectoral webinars of the [2025 Youth Engagement Week](#).

Notable results:

Increased visibility and sustained public engagement

- Issued 15 [Media releases](#) and 20 [Newsletters](#) to its distribution list of over 10,000 subscribers. These communications achieved an average open rate of 37.54%.
- Accounted for 1245 media hits, with a media reach of 1.4 billion total potential views (via industry-leading media-monitoring company), which is equivalent to 35.6 million likely traditional media views (using standard 2.5% of total potential reach) and an estimated ad value equivalent of US\$13,184,625 (an estimate of how much it would cost to purchase an equivalent amount of paid advertising space or airtime).
- Made accessible 18 new [publications](#).
- Accounted for more than 900,000 website unique page views, with more than 40,000 returning users and more than 400,000 new users.

Sustained public engagement

- Increased its social media followers to more than 65,000, with more than 2500 total social media publications across [11 platforms](#) and approximately 100 new [YouTube videos](#).
- Sent invitations to more than 9,000 people, to engage in CEC activities (events, public consultations, call for proposals for grants and youth programs, consultant and internship opportunities, etc.).
- Increased public engagement, with more than 5,000 active engagements in polls, surveys and scans of QR codes used in publications, events and outreach materials.
- Increased visibility and attendance during [#CEC32](#), with almost 1,000 attendees for both in-person and online formats, and:
 - o 500 media hits,
 - o 350+ social media posts and stories,
 - o 100,000+ impressions,
 - o +/- 7000 engagements, and a
 - o New [Accomplishments video](#).

Youth engagement

- Increased youth engagement to more than 2500 people included in CEC's youth network.
- Increased by 125% the number of people self-identified as youth and by 88% the number of people who self-identified as Indigenous — increasing within CEC's network of engaged key actors.
- Strengthened the CEC's internship program engaging with nine interns to support CEC's work across the organization.

Improved access to information

- Created 21 new webpages, including 19 new [Event Pages](#), new [Indigenous Affairs topic page](#) and new [Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management in North America Portal](#).
- Restructured the [Sustainable Living and Economies](#) topic and subtopic pages, the [NALCMS page](#), [Our Impact page](#), [Food Matters Action Kit home page](#) with newly added trilingual resources, and the [Partnerships and Collaboration](#) webpage.

Partnerships

- Sustained and created partnerships with key organizations to support the dissemination of the CEC's work and leverage efforts, with key partnerships such as UNEP-RONA for [World Environment Day](#) and the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) and the Circular Innovation Council to strengthen CEC's work on circular economy.



Administration

The CEC promoted sound financial management, recruitment and training to foster a diverse workplace, building team member skills, updating corporate policies, strengthening its information technology (IT) systems and resilience, streamlining Meeting Services and launching an Office Sustainability Policy.

Notable results:

Financial Management

- Implemented a Protocol for Payments to New Vendors and Changes of Payment Instructions, to lower the risk of the CEC falling victim to cyber bank fraud and address any activity from phishing emails and other fraudulent cyber actions.
- Provided quarterly financial reports to the Council and worked to limit variances.
- Continued improving efficiency of its payroll system and maintained internal operating costs stable.

Human Resource Management

- The CEC achieved high-level recruitment and supported employee development:
 - o Recruited new high-caliber and seasoned professionals, including a SEM and Legal Affairs Officer and a Community Resilience Officer.
 - o Supported youth engagement and promoted young professional capacities by hosting two fellows and seven interns to advance the mandate of the Executive Director, support the TEKEG, as well as the Green Growth, Communications, and the SEM and Legal Affairs units.

- o Supported employee development and held staff training on “Resolving conflicts with constructive conversations.”
- o Continued offering language training to improve communications with key actors and better integrate our CEC team into local life.
- o Undertook a benchmark review of the CEC salary structure (it was last carried out in 2021).
- o Developed the Guidelines for the CEC Internship Program.
- o Continued enhancing the onboarding plan and developing handout material, to ensure managers and new employees have a better understanding of the Secretariat’s values, their accountabilities and CEC operations.

Information System Infrastructure

- Updated IT equipment.
- Hired a consultant to develop a preliminary analysis towards a CEC Business Continuity Plan.

Meeting Services

- Developed tools to plan meetings with more anticipation and closer budget monitoring, to contain costs.

Office Sustainability

- The Evergreen Committee worked on the development of an Office Sustainability Policy to promote sustainability in all aspects of CEC operations in Montreal and minimize as much as possible the social and environmental impact and footprint of its activities. The Committee also began working on a Sustainability Implementation Plan to guide its work in 2026.



Strategic Planning, Measuring Performance and Reporting on Progress

As stated in the Strategic Plan 2021–2025, the implementation of a performance measurement framework is a means by which the CEC can demonstrate progress in meeting the organization’s environmental goals and objectives. The framework promotes CEC’s commitment to transparency, excellence, collaboration, inclusiveness and integrity through enhancing the CEC’s performance, accountability and reporting ability. It also represents a monitoring mechanism by which it becomes possible to integrate responsive feedback to re-direct and sharpen actions as needed. Throughout 2025, the CEC prepared for the development of the CEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which included the evaluation of the current Strategic Plan 2021–2025. The CEC also strengthened its monitoring and reporting activities, including through the reports listed below. Please find more information about the CEC’s planning and performance framework [here](#).

Notable results:

- The CEC produced the Preliminary Assessment of the Cooperative Work Program under the Strategic Plan 2021–2025.
- The CEC concluded the long-term impact assessment of the migratory birds projects carried out from 2015–2019.
- The CEC produced high-level quarterly project implementation reports.
- The CEC defined new strategic KPIs for new cooperative work.
- The CEC re-designed the [Our Impact](#) webpage.
- The CEC drafted and published the [2024 Annual Report](#).
- The CEC produced the OP2025 Results Assessment.
- The CEC developed the CEC [Operational Plan 2025](#).
- The CEC provided technical support to define new projects and initiatives.
- The CEC developed technical documents to support Parties’ discussions for the next Strategic Plan 2026–2030.

2025 Expenses*

(All figures in Canadian dollars)

Article 8 of the ECA calls for the Secretariat to include in its annual report expenses of the Commission. The expenses described below include all expenditures incurred as of 28 February 2026, either under the approved 2025 budget or from multi-year commitments approved under previous budgets. These multi-year commitments include the CEC grant programs (NAPECA and EJ4Climate), Council initiatives and cooperatives projects.

DELIVERABLES	
Cooperative Projects	2,899,412
North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) and EJ4Climate	3,031,717
Submissions on Enforcement Matters	440,217
Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America (PRTR)	219,192
CEC Interactive Platforms	181,710
TOTAL DELIVERABLES	6,772,248
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE	
Council Support	273,526
JPAC Support	538,393
TEK Expert Group Support	151,003
Communications and Outreach	351,819
Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Development	264,321
Information System Infrastructure Maintenance	160,666
Performance Measurement and Reporting	28,264
Strategic and Operational Planning	104,029
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE	1,872,021
ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT	
Salaries, Benefits and Professional Development	4,524,967
Operating Expenses	750,004
External Administrative Support	313,525
Relocation/Orientation, Recruitment	68,909
Executive Director's Office and Mandate	164,948
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT	5,822,353
TOTAL EXPENSES	14,466,622
Plus Loss on exchange	-119,939
EXPENSES	14,586,561

*Based on fiscal year audited financial statements.
(All figures in Canadain dollars.)



COMMISSION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATION