

CEC Performance Report



Operational Plan 2015 – 2016

Executive Summary – 30 June 2017



CEC Strategic Plan 2015–2020



1. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

2. Green Growth



3. Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems

Introduction

The implementation of a performance measurement framework across all activities of the organization is a means by which the CEC can demonstrate progress in meeting the organization's environmental goals and objectives, and showing how these achievements have helped the three Parties in pursuing their national priorities. The framework also serves to enhance the CEC's performance, accountability, and reporting ability. It also represents a monitoring mechanism by which it becomes possible to re-direct action to meet the set goals and objectives.

Under the OP2015-2016, the CEC Secretariat was able to fully implement a framework based on performance measures and targets that were set for each project and initiative as well as for the entire organization.

Project-specific Performance

The OP2015-2016 included sixteen trilateral projects designed to contribute to the three strategic priorities of the Strategic Plan 2015–2020: climate change mitigation and adaptation; green growth; and sustainable communities and ecosystems. The measurable results of the sixteen projects, and how they align with the strategic priorities, are described on the following pages.



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

In fulfilling the strategic objective of taking actions to plan for and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation to protect human health and the environment the following results were achieved:

- Eight general scenarios for carbon emission mitigation or storage, including alternative forest stand management practices and long-lived products manufactured from harvested wood, were analyzed through the application of carbon budget models for six selected strategic landscapes in the three countries.
- Syndromic surveillance systems were established or enhanced in three communities to strengthen their capacity to monitor health outcomes related to extreme heat events. Forty-five partners and community representatives have shared knowledge and lessons learned about the systems.
- Foundational information was compiled on food waste reduction and organic waste diversion and processing, including barriers, opportunities and strategies in all three countries.
- Data on carbon storage and sequestration from seagrass sites on the coasts of British Columbia in Canada, the US states of Washington and Oregon, and Quintana Roo in Mexico were collected, analyzed, documented and mapped.



GREEN GROWTH

In fulfilling the strategic objective of identifying steps to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, the CEC conducted two projects focused on maritime transportation that achieved the following results:

- A strategy document was developed for implementation of Marpol Annex VI and an emission control area for Mexico, based on three consultation workshops held in Mexico with key agencies and stakeholders.
- Information regarding needs and ways to monitor compliance with and enforcement of fuel sulfur limits and standards in the maritime shipping sector was developed and shared through workshops and meetings with 119 relevant stakeholders in the three countries.

In fulfilling the objective of providing management systems options for clean energy technologies and energy efficiency, the CEC accomplished the following:

- Training on ISO 50001 and SEP implementation was given to 9 certified practitioners in energy management systems and to 19 facilities from 9 pilot companies to allow greater uptake of energy management systems in North America.



Another objective was to develop information and tools in support of sustainable consumption and production. The following results contributed to addressing this objective:

- Research was completed on the comprehensive trade analysis of the 56 CITES' Appendix II taxa of common regional interest, and five action plans were launched for the sustainable trade in selected species of tarantulas, parrots, turtles and tortoises, timber, and sharks.
- A report identifying data gaps and discrepancies in mercury trade statistics, and providing recommendations to improve the comparability of data and methodologies used to report them, was developed to enhance the alignment of mercury trade statistics in North America.
- Three reports were developed on the migration of selected chemicals from manufactured products to humans or to the environment. One Mexican university professor and chemist was also trained on methods for analysis of perfluoroalkyl substances in environmental media, in order to train Mexican government laboratory technicians.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Under this strategic priority, efforts to fulfill the objective to improve and restore the integrity of ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes, as well as to conserve priority species led to the following results:

- Three hubs (two in Canada and one in Mexico) were added to the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) network to enhance the capacity of communities to share local environmental observations and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). A total of 285 observers in 33 communities in Canada and 18 in Mexico were trained on how to use the LEO system.
- Community-based adaptive management plans integrating TEK were developed and implemented at two pilot sites at the Georgina Island First Nation, Canada, and in the state of Tabasco, Mexico.
- Priority actions to increase the resilience of marine protected areas (MPAs) were identified for two selected Pacific transboundary seascapes. A study exploring whale-watching ecotourism in the context of climate change in the same two Pacific seascapes, as well as a MPA Rapid Vulnerability Assessment Tool were developed.
- Five communities that are host sites for significant populations of two declining shorebird species (Semipalmated Sandpipers and Red Knots) joined a conservation network for coordinated trilateral action and implemented site-specific action plans.
- A report identified shorebird breeding sites likely to persist or develop in a changing climate.
- The Mayors' Monarch Pledge that engages mayors and local government to protect the monarch butterfly was broadened from a United States-based initiative to a trilateral collaborative effort, with the addition of one major city in Canada (Montreal) and one in Mexico (Saltillo).
- Key messages, as well as outreach and education material, including an outreach video presenting 10 actions to help save the monarch, were made available to local, regional and national groups to support monarch conservation.
- An assessment report on monarch inventory and monitoring protocols was developed and shared with the Trilateral High-level Working Group for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly Migratory Phenomenon.

Overall Organizational Performance

In order to improve and track performance across the institution, the CEC set seven organizational performance objectives for 2015-2016:

1. Continued trilateral engagement of stakeholders, including government officials, in CEC activities aimed at enhancing, conserving or protecting the North American environment
2. Projects and NAPECA grants achieved their planned objectives to contribute to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment
3. CEC information is used by government officials, stakeholders, and other third parties
4. Increased public access to CEC information on issues of environmental concern
5. Increased public awareness of, and engagement in, CEC activities (including outreach activities led by JPAC and the NAPECA grant program)
6. Increased public understanding of the SEM process
7. Key organizational deadlines are met to ensure timely implementation of CEC's work

A set of performance measures were developed for each objective and data were gathered from all units of the organization to assess how the objectives were met. Following are key measurable results (from 1 July 2015- 30 June 2017):

- Approximately 140 officials and technical experts (in addition to steering committee members) from the three countries were engaged in the implementation of CEC projects and initiatives.
- 14 of the 16 projects of the 2015-2016 Operational Plan were completed as designed within the Plan's two-year timeline. Two projects (*Greening of Chemicals Management in North America* and *North American Initiative on Organic Waste Diversion and Processing*) had part of their work significantly delayed due to unforeseen factors and will complete the corresponding deliverables during fall 2017.
- Project deliverables included 39 publications, the majority of them (92.3%) completed by 30 June 2017.
- 86.1% of the total two-year project budget has been spent, representing an increase of almost 15% from the previous Operational Plan. Only four projects have spent or committed less than 70% of their planned budget.
- 100% of NAPECA grants completed over the last two years show evidence of having

achieved concrete results, and 22 news articles featured active grants in local media.

- Over the last two years, there have been 342,983 website visits, and 13,342 members of the public have participated in CEC-sponsored meetings and other meetings where CEC work was presented.
- There have been 1,173 news articles covering CEC work.
- There are 17,246 social media followers, representing a 150% increase from June 2015.
- The SEM process was presented at 33 events (13 in Canada, 8 in the United States, 10 in Mexico, one in El Salvador and one in Costa Rica). Through these, 216 new stakeholder groups were reached in 23 new geographic locations in North America.
- Five SEM files exceeded the target SEM deadlines; some of the delays were due to Parties' delayed Article 15(2) vote.

Conclusion

The assessment of the last two years indicates that, overall, the CEC has succeeded admirably in achieving the goals and objectives it had set for its work and that targets were generally exceeded. Moreover, the results under each project have clearly contributed to meeting the strategic objectives set by the Council in the Strategic Plan.

The implementation of the performance measurement framework has nevertheless served to establish solid baselines for continuing projects under the OP2017-2018, and extract lessons learned for the future. We estimate there is a need for the Secretariat to benchmark its current system against best practices in other institutions (e.g., data collection methods, tools, harmonization of data, etc.) to further refine the system to measure performances for the next cycle.

In addition to measuring the performance over a two-year timeframe, the CEC will begin an evaluation of the impact of past projects (from the OP2013-2014), both at the national level and regionally.



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