

Information and training tools
shared to prevent the illegal
shipment of environmentally
regulated materials and species



2013–2014 Project

Enhancing Environmental Law Enforcement in North America

By strengthening cooperation to further environmental compliance and intelligence-led enforcement, this project improved the Parties' capacities to target illegal trade in environmentally regulated materials, including e-waste, hazardous waste, ozone-depleting substances, non-compliant motorcycles, and targeted species of wildlife in North America. An important element of this project was to increase understanding of regulatory gaps and to improve intelligence-led information-sharing.

Key Accomplishments

- Reduced the limiting factors to sharing enforcement-sensitive information and intelligence among countries, including legal, technological and security issues, notably through actions of the North American Working Group on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Cooperation (EWG); opened and reinforced channels for sustainable communication and collaboration among the three countries
- Addressed some EWG core activities: building the enforcement capacity of inspectors at border crossings, incorporating intelligence-led enforcement into the operations of the enforcement agencies, and promoting innovative and emerging technologies to support surveillance and monitoring by enforcement officers in the three countries
- The EWG has increased trilateral understanding of the regulatory gaps that exist among the three countries that may allow illegal smuggling of environmentally regulated materials to occur

Products

- The first edition of the CEC-EWG Digest, a compilation of enforcement-related information from the three countries, was produced and widely disseminated amongst the Parties' officials
- An online training course to curb illegal imports of ozone-depleting substances—a free and easy-to-use tool available to the public at <www.cec.org/ODS>, which complements the Hazardous Waste Online Trainer available at <www3.cec.org/hwm/>

Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

The North American Working Group on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Cooperation (EWG) is composed of senior-level North American environmental and wildlife law enforcement officials. More information is available at <www.cec.org/ewg>. Stakeholders and beneficiaries include—besides the environmental enforcement and management/regulatory agencies—a wide range of industries related to the environmentally regulated materials under the EWG's purview.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

