



Assisted Mexico in developing policies and practices to manage chemicals



2013–2014 Project

Close-out of Past Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Chemicals Inventory and Mercury Activities in Mexico

Building on the CEC's work on persistent, toxic, and bioaccumulative chemicals since 1999, this project supported Mexico's efforts to manage such chemicals, including mercury. Policies and practices were developed for chemical inventories and environmental monitoring, and the project helped Mexico consider sound management strategies consistent with international standards.

Key Accomplishments

- Assessed work accomplished by the three countries under the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (EM&A) North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP), during which Mexico strengthened its *Programa Nacional de Monitoreo y Evaluación Ambiental* (Proname) and expanded its capacity to conduct environmental and human health monitoring programs through the establishment of nine monitoring sites and of a network of 21 laboratories
- Prepared a report on institutional and policy options to inform decision makers in Mexico regarding the implementation of a chemicals registry
- Prepared a set of policy recommendations and instruments for the sound management of mercury in Mexico, including guidance for compliance with UNEP's Minamata Convention on Mercury

Products

- *Close-out Report: North American Regional Action Plan on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*
- Study of the impact of possible legal reforms in relation to the management of chemical substances in Mexico
- *Recommendations on Law and Policy Instruments for Mercury Management Decision-Making in Mexico*

Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Partners include the federal agencies in Canada, Mexico and the United States and their laboratory specialists with responsibility for health, environment, natural resources, agriculture, and customs. Stakeholders and beneficiaries include private sector participants (such as various chemical manufacturing, processing, transporting and importing associations and member companies); environmental, health and other nongovernmental organizations interested in chemical safety in the region; academics who conduct environmental and human health monitoring of chemicals used in North America; and industry associations.

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.

