



Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America

The CEC: an example of
continental partnership for
sustainable development

Pollution Prevention Roundtable
Halifax, 14 June 2006



Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

- Created in 1994
- Canada, Mexico, United States created CEC to better protect our shared environment
- The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) – parallel agreement to NAFTA
- World's first to link environmental cooperation and trade relations



CEC Mission

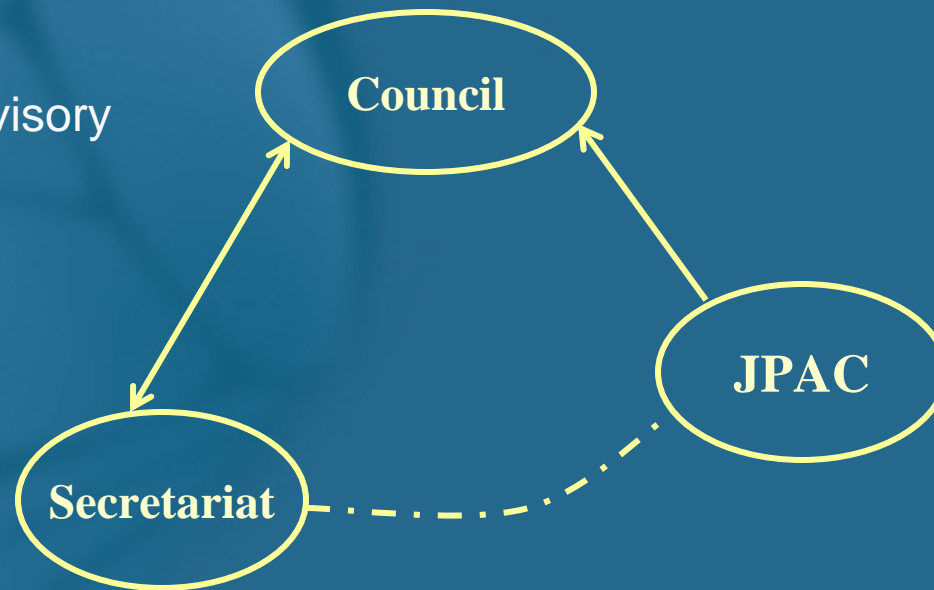
Cooperation, public participation to foster conservation, protection, and enhancement of the environment...

... In the context of increasing economic and trade links



CEC Structure

- Council
- Secretariat
- Joint Public Advisory Committee



CEC: Three Countries – One Environment

- Tri-national cooperative program
- Citizen Submissions
- Independent Reports



CEC Accomplishments - Sound management of chemicals

North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs)

- Chlordane – elimination of the production and use in North America
- DDT – Under this NARAP, Mexico stopped using DDT in 2000, North America is DDT free
- PCBs – a framework for environmentally sound management and control of PCBs that will lead to their virtual elimination from the North American environment
- Next target – Lindane (HCH)



Other CEC accomplishments

- Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registries (PRTR)
- North American Conservation Action Plans
- Environmentally Sound Managements (ESM) and Tracking of Hazardous Waste in North America
- Fund for Pollution Prevention Projects in Mexican Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (FIPREV)
- Children's Health and the Environment
- Assessment of trade and environment linkages



Trade and Environment- Overall Lessons Learned

- Dire predictions
 - widespread race-to-the-bottom
 - pollution havens
 - collision of environmental laws with trade disciplines

...have not occurred as feared

... though NAFTA environmental impacts are found locally, regionally and by sector
- Robust environmental laws do not dampen economic benefits of trade.
- Freer trade and sustainable development are not incompatible - but it does not just happen...





Tomatoes

Economic

Environment

- 83% Increase in Mexican Tomatoes export to US
- 8-15% NAFTA related
- Intensive use of agrochemical in Sinaloa and BC, but area under cultivation is down 15% and yields up 50%
- 20% tomato production reduction in FL, 22% FL area reduction due to competition to Mexico

Positive

- Technological innovation (started prior to NAFTA) of net scale effect
- 3% reduction in agrochemical use is believed associated with
- haven in Mexico

Positive

Maize

Economic

- 100% Increase of US Maize exports
- 25% NAFTA related
- 40% decrease in irrigated area, still
- TRQ not applied
- US\$1 B loans for peso crisis including purchase of corn
- External factors important, since NAFTA not significant difference in import increase.

Environment

Mexico

- Smaller farm, more corn
 - 3% increase rainfed area – expansion into marginalized areas
 - Decreased production in agrochemical intensive areas of Mexico
 - No maize genetic erosion
- US: 1% of production exported to Mexico-more intensive

Negative on Mexican forest, and U.S. water



Future directions for the CEC

2004: Ten-year Review and Assessment of the NAAEC

The *Puebla Declaration* defined three new priorities for the cooperative program:

Information for Decision-Making

Capacity-Building

Trade and the Environment



Information for decision-making

Goal:

To identify, integrate, communicate, and support the ***development of authoritative and effective information on issues of common concern*** regarding environmental management, trends and progress in North America in order to facilitate local, national and regional action.

Initiatives:

- Managing CEC Environmental Information
- North American Atlas
- Enhancing Air Quality Management
- State of the Environment Reporting
- North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
- North American Monitoring and Assessment (SMOC NARAP)



Trade and the environment

Goal:

Promote policies and actions that provide mutual benefits for the environment, trade and the economy.

Initiatives:

- Ongoing Environmental Assessment of NAFTA
- Promotion of a North American Market for Renewable Energy
- Trade and Enforcement of Environmental Laws
- Harnessing Market Forces for Sustainability
- Guidelines for Risk Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Pathways
- Encouraging Green Purchasing



Capacity-building

Goal:

To assist governments, the private sector and civil society in the 3 countries in *gradually strengthening their institutional capacity for sound environmental management* across North America, with a special emphasis on Mexico.

Initiatives:

- Develop local capacity to protect species and spaces of common concern
- Institutional Cooperation and Strengthening for Wildlife Enforcement
- Invasive Alien Species
- Partnerships for Integrated Environmental Management (Greening supply chains)



CEC & P2 in Mexico

- 10 P2 pilot demonstration projects (1997-1999)
- Pollution Prevention Fund (Since 1998)
- Mexican P2 Roundtable (Since 2000)
- Greening Supply Chains (Since 2005)



CEC & P2 in Mexico

- Demonstration projects in:
 - *Chemical*
 - *Tanneries*
 - *Paints*
 - *Foundries*
 - *Glass*
 - *Food*
- Fiprev: More than 100 projects funded in SMEs
 - *3 million US\$ in loans*
 - *2 million US\$ in annual savings*
 - *4,000 ton of chemical residues avoided every year*
 - *173,500 m³ of water saved every year*



CEC & P2 in Mexico

- P2 Roundtable
- *6 National events*
- *2 regional P2 roundtables*
- *Links to US and Canada counterparts*
- Participation of 28 companies (4 supply chains)
 - *1.3 million US in savings / year*
 - *1.5 million kWh / year*
 - *960 ton CO₂ / year*
 - *415 ton cardboard and paper / year*
 - *15,000 m³ of water saved / year*



❖ The CEC has been successful in assisting NAFTA partners address regional environmental issues

❖ The CEC provides a valuable model for future or expanded free trade initiatives

❖ The North American partners deserve recognition for having created this institution

CEC is a bold experiment, a work in progress

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of North America



Any Questions?



- For more information on the CEC : www.cec.org

