

An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely the North American Sound. The land is green and hilly, with a complex network of roads and waterways. The water is a deep blue, and the coastline is irregular. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Commission for
Environmental
Cooperation

North American
Sound
Management of
Chemicals
Strategy

North American Free Trade Agreement

Canada, USA, Mexico

- Largest free trade area in world
- 440 million people
- GDP \$15 trillion
- Canada-Mexico-US trade more than doubled in NAFTA's first 10 years
- Environmental and labor side agreement



NAAEC (environmental side agreement)

- Key environmental concerns: pollution havens, chilling effect on stronger environmental protection, scale effects
- NAFTA noted important relationship between trade and the environment
- First trade agreement to link environmental cooperation and trade relations
- CEC established to track the relation between trade and the environment



Chemicals Management in North America

- Chemical industry is important in Canada, Mexico, United States
- Sound management of chemicals is critical to global competitiveness, health, and environment,
- Key opportunities exist for leadership in chemicals management

CEC provides a valuable forum for chemicals management in North America.



CEC Sound Management of Chemicals Agenda 1995–2007

- Aligning North American priorities for chemicals management
- Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities
 - PCBs, chlordane, DDT, mercury, lindane,
 - environmental monitoring and assessment
- Helping the three countries to advance international objectives



Developing a Renewed Approach (2008–2020)

- Re-aligned to promote
 - Capacity building,
 - Information for decision making
 - Linking domestic and international activities
 - Focus on sectors and compatible efforts
- Involving stakeholders as partners
- Leveraging our resources (GEF, IFI's)
- Helping Parties advance international objectives (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)



Path Forward

- Council endorsed renewed approach
- Initial activities :
 - Development of Mexican monitoring and assessment needs
 - Industrial chemical inventory, Mexico
 - Pilot projects in strategic sectors
 - Support for regulatory/non-regulatory initiatives
 - Stakeholder workshops for further issue identification

