

<b>Project 16: Close-out of Past Environmental Monitoring/Assessment, Chemicals Inventory and Mercury Activities in Mexico</b>	<b>Operating Year(s): 2013–2014</b>
<b>Planned Budget for two years: \$110,000</b> <b>Year 1: \$90,000</b> <b>Year 2: \$20,000</b>	
<b>Strategic Priority/Objective:</b> Healthy Communities and Ecosystems	
<p><b>Project Summary</b></p> <p>The Sound Management of Chemicals Program was established between the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States to improve the sound management of chemicals in North America. This initiative gives priority to the management of substances of mutual interest that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, but also allows for cooperation on a broader scale for the sound management of chemicals in the three countries. Part of the work of SMOC has focused on supporting Mexico to create capacity and have a common level of information on specific issues including mercury, inventories of chemicals, and environmental monitoring to be able to implement sound management strategies for chemicals of mutual interest in North America.</p> <p>There are activities under SMOC that have delivered useful results for Mexico through the cooperation of the three countries. However, to fully accomplish the intended goals, certain activities should be undertaken to complement previous work to identify specific policy options for Mexico.</p> <p>Mexico, with CEC support under the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP), has been working to establish an environmental monitoring program, Proname, involving many activities to strengthen Mexico's capacity and to produce reliable and comparable results consistent with those of the US and Canada. In 2012, a qualitative analysis of the EM&amp;A NARAP was performed. This assessment did not consider a quantitative analysis of the results achieved. Such an analysis will give information to decision makers in Mexico regarding how it is performing in monitoring and how to improve its efforts to reduce risk.</p> <p>Mexico, with CEC support under the Chemicals Inventory Team has developed its first chemicals inventory with information on chemicals imported or produced within the country (5852 chemicals). For these chemicals, chemical identity, toxicological properties and quantity of imports and production were obtained. This inventory does not have single legal authority; however, in 2008, the CEC had financed a study of legal policy options to institutionalize a Mexican chemicals inventory. Semarnat has considered a legal reform to improve the risk management of chemicals and the key activity is to develop a Mexican Chemical Register taking into account the CEC products. A Chemicals Register and other legal reforms in the risk management of chemicals in Mexico will strengthen the chemical risk reduction efforts in North America.</p> <p>Significant CEC support for work in Mexico on various mercury issues has been completed through the Mercury Task Force since 1998. Studies, publications, workshops, staff exchanges and training courses have been developed in areas such as supply and trade reduction, mercury in products and processes, which includes use in Mexican hospitals, mechanisms for tracking imports and exports of mercury for use and disposal, waste management, mercury emissions to air and releases to water and land, environmental monitoring activities and human biomonitoring. In the same way as with other issues, some work is needed to identify policy options for implementation of future mercury-related activities in Mexico.</p> <p>Closing out activities in previous SMOC work is relevant for North America since it will yield products and achievements that can be used</p>	

by the Council for communication to the public as well as for highlighting relevant efforts of the three countries in building capacity and developing tools to manage risks of chemicals of mutual interest.

#### Governance structure (proposed)

The SMOC Working Group will govern this project in coordination with the other proposed SMOC project, with representation from the three countries (Canada, Mexico, United States). SMOC staff representative(s) from each country will be involved, and experts, as considered appropriate.

#### Short-term Outcomes (at halfway point)

**Task 1** - Close-out report of EM&A NARAP, including a quantitative analysis of monitoring activities in Mexico.

**Task 2** – Policy and economic analysis of options for Mexico’s legal framework for chemicals management (based on previous CEC task exploring policy options).

**Task 3** – Analysis report of previous mercury activities in Mexico.

#### Long-term Outcomes (by the end of the project)

**Task 1** – Final document for decision-makers in Mexico outlining policy options to continue EM&A work at the domestic level. The achievements of the EM&A NARAP are summarized and available to the public to inform on the work conducted by SMOC working group.

**Task 2** – Final document for decision-makers in Mexico on policy options for the legal chemicals management framework. The public has been consulted and is aware of the potential changes to Mexico’s legislation and its impacts.

**Task 3** – Final document for decision-makers in Mexico on possible regulations, policies and/or other activities for mercury management.

#### Longer-term, environmental outcome (post project)

The project will describe the achievements of past SMOC work (mercury, inventories of chemicals and environmental monitoring) in order to improve communication to the public and highlight relevant efforts of the three countries to support the sound management of chemicals.

It is expected that the project will contribute to building a domestic policy of chemicals and increasing the national capacity in the management of the risks associated with chemicals production, use and commerce. As a consequence, the risk reduction efforts of North America will be strengthened.

#### Tasks necessary to reach the environmental outcome:

- 1) Communicate the achievements in North America from the work of EM&A NARAP (1999–2012).
- 2) Support additional analysis of and outreach on potential reforms to the legal framework of chemicals in Mexico.
- 3) Develop policy options based on mercury activities carried out in Mexico.

<b>Task 1) Communicate the achievements in North America from the work of EM&amp;A NARAP (1999–2012)</b>				
<b>Subtask</b>	<b>Project outputs</b>	<b>How does the subtask/output move the project towards the environmental outcome</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Budget (activities)</b>
<p><b>1.1 Close out of EM&amp;A NARAP activities.</b></p> <p>Closure report using documents generated during the previous work of the EM&amp;A NARAP, including a quantitative analysis of the data gathered from 1999-2012. The quantitative analysis must describe the relevant results and information gaps, as well as an assessment of the quality of data based on the use of different methodologies.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Close-out report of EM&amp;A NARAP monitoring activities.</p>	<p>This project will be used to formally bring to closure the activities of EM&amp;A under the NARAP and will include a quantitative analysis of the data generated in Proname as well as missing activities.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1: \$25,000</p>
<p><b>1.2 Communication tools of achievements of EM&amp;A NARAP in Mexico</b></p>	<p>1.2.1 Translation of closure report of EM&amp;A NARAP in Mexico.</p> <p>1.2.2 Face to face Meeting</p>	<p>The communication tools can be used to disseminate knowledge within the different stakeholders and the society.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Year 2: \$15,000 face-to-face Meeting of the SMOC WG \$5,000 translation</p>

<b>Task 2) Support additional analysis of and outreach on potential reforms to the legal framework of chemicals in Mexico</b>				
<b>Subtask</b>	<b>Project outputs</b>	<b>How does the subtask/output move the project towards the environmental outcome</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Budget (activities)</b>
<p><b>2.1 Analysis of impacts of potential legal reforms to Mexico’s chemicals management framework.</b></p> <p>Analyze policy options and economic impacts of the potential legal reforms to Mexico’s chemical management framework (continuing previous CEC work exploring policy options), including a consideration of impacts to manufactures, importers, distributors and final users, as well as to government ministries with jurisdiction over issues related to chemicals risk management.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Analysis of policy and economic impacts of the chemicals legal reform options</p>	<p>The results of this task will contribute to establish a strategy for the control of chemicals risks in Mexico and strengthen chemicals risk reduction efforts in North America.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1: \$20,000</p>
<p><b>2.2 Public consultation and final document on policy options for the legal chemicals management framework reform</b></p> <p>Conduct public consultation workshops in Mexico with sectors in order to improve</p>	<p>2.2.1 Final document for decision-makers in Mexico on policy options for the legal chemicals management framework</p>	<p>The results of this task will contribute to establish a strategy for the control of chemicals risks in Mexico and strengthen chemicals risk reduction efforts in North America.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1: \$15,000</p>

<p>and complement the options being considered.</p> <p>Develop a final document for decision-makers in Mexico on policy options for the legal chemicals management framework.</p>				
<p><b>Task 3) Development of regulation and/or policy options for decision-makers in Mexico on mercury management activities</b></p>				
<p><b>Subtask</b></p>	<p><b>Project outputs</b></p>	<p><b>How does the subtask/output move the project towards the environmental outcome</b></p>	<p><b>Timing</b></p>	<p><b>Budget (activities)</b></p>
<p><b>3.1 Review existing documents on mercury and identification of regulation and/or policy options for decision-makers in Mexico</b></p> <p>Review documents of projects, studies, workshops, staff exchange and capacity building reports made in Mexico since 1998 supported by the CEC.</p> <p>Develop options for regulations and/or policies to implement in Mexico as a result of the analysis of previous activities.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Document for decision-makers in Mexico on possible options for regulations and/or policies to implement for mercury-management in México, based on past SMOC and other work.</p>	<p>The development of potential options for regulations or policies will allow for the identification of new and future mercury-related actions in Mexico.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1: \$20,000</p>

<p><b>3.2 Overhead and Operations</b></p> <p>Translation of the “Document for decision-makers in Mexico on possible options for regulations and/or policies for the management of mercury in Mexico” and final edits.</p> <p>Final edits and translation of mercury waste report from OP 2011–2012</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>Year 1: \$10,000</p>
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**Explain how this project meets the selection criteria adopted by Council in the Strategic Plan (See below)**

*The goal of all projects funded by the CEC will be to support the efforts of the Parties to conserve, protect and/or enhance the North American environment. The following criteria will guide the Secretariat, Working Groups, Committees, and other appropriate officials of the Parties in considering cooperative activities for Council approval under operational plans. These selection criteria do not apply for activities to be funded through the NAPECA grant program.*

- ***How does the project contribute to achieving Council’s strategic objectives as described within the current Strategic Plan, or as related to other priorities subsequently confirmed by Council?***

This project contributes to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation’s Strategic Plan (2010–2015) Priority #1, “Healthy Communities and Ecosystems.” The project addresses one of the three core areas of work under this strategic objective: implementing risk reduction strategies to reduce the exposure of North Americans and their environments to chemicals of mutual interest. The project includes tasks such as developing tools and techniques to aid in risk management, and providing information to inform the development of risk reduction strategies.

- ***Are the proposed objectives North American in scope? In other words, how are the proposed results relevant to protecting the environment in North America? (For example, what would Council members announce to the press at the successful completion of this project?)***

Closing-out past Environmental Monitoring/Assessment, the Chemicals Inventory, and Mercury activities in Mexico with specific policy options is important to conclude past SMOC work. Regarding the Mexican Chemicals Inventory, the conclusion of this work is the first step to improve the Mexican regulatory framework for managing chemicals in Mexico and reducing the associated risk. In addition, establishing compatible chemical inventories and enhancing transparency of chemical information in all three countries is essential for providing a comprehensive understanding of chemical sources in North America. Compatible inventories will allow for coordinated and effective risk assessment and management of chemicals based on a consistent approach to identifying and tracking chemicals.

The EM&A NARAP close-out report will describe achievements and contain results for use by decision-makers in future monitoring plans and risk reduction activities in communities under study.

Specific policy options and future activities to reduce mercury releases in Mexico will yield further reduction of mercury levels in North America. .

- ***What are the specific, clear and tangible results that will be achieved and how will progress toward each result be measured over time? Identify performance measures to be used to indicate success at reaching all outcomes and/or performance.***

The tangible results from this project will include the following:

- 1) Final document for decision-makers in Mexico outlining policy options to continue EM&A work at the domestic level.
- 2) Final document for decision-makers in Mexico on policy options for the legal chemicals management framework.
- 3) Final document for decision-makers in Mexico on possible regulations, policies and/or other activities for mercury management.

Performance measures:

- Number of monitoring campaigns assessment / Total of monitoring campaigns in the period 1999–2012.
- A communication report of achievement of EM&A NARAP sufficiently clear to transfer the knowledge to decision makers.
- Percentage of advance in the regulatory framework adjusted to implement a national registry of chemicals.
- Number of potential regulations and/or policies to implement in Mexico.

- ***Explain why the CEC is the most effective vehicle for the Parties to undertake the project, considering:***
  - ***The value-added of doing it under the CEC cooperative program***
  - ***The products will be useful for communication to the public and transparency as well as for finishing relevant efforts of the three countries for capacity building and to reduce risks of chemicals of mutual interest 2***

North American cooperation on the management of chemicals continues to be a key initiative of the Parties. The CEC provides a unique forum for the Parties to identify and work together on mutually beneficial activities related to their role as regulators in reducing the risk posed by chemicals. In addition, work on chemicals through the CEC has been a model of regional cooperation promoted in international *fora*, such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). It provides a mechanism for disseminating and collecting information of importance to the Parties on domestic and international initiatives related to the management of chemicals, and is a forum for the Parties to undertake initiatives in support of broader international objectives and commitments. For example, the CEC is a venue for North American regional implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. For the Parties, these roles are unique to the CEC in North America and cannot be provided by any other public, private or social organization.

- ***Does the project propose a clear timeline for implementation of the activities, including a target end date for CEC's involvement? Where applicable, describe how the work will continue after CEC involvement ends.***

The project terms of reference will propose specific dates for the proposed activities with tangible results. The results of this project will support future domestic work by Mexico to enhance the management of chemicals.

- ***Where applicable, identify with reasonable specificity:***
  - ***Linkages with other relevant CEC projects, past or present, in order to create synergies, capitalize on experience, or avoid duplication***

This project supports the following CEC initiatives:

- Enhancing Trilateral Understanding of Chemicals in Products in North America
- Enhancing Environmental Law Enforcement in North America
- Mapping North American Environmental Issues
- Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America

The project also supports the general direction the CEC is taking towards ensuring stakeholder engagement in the many facets of its works.

- ***The target audience, as well as its receptivity and capacity to use the information that may be produced as a result of the project***

The main target audience of the information gathered and generated through this project will be decision-makers and regulators mainly in México.

- ***The beneficiaries of capacity building activities that the project may include***

Not applicable

- ***The relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to communities, academia, NGOs and industry, and their involvement and contribution to a successful outcome***

- Federal agencies and their laboratory specialists with responsibility for health, environment, natural resources, agriculture, and customs/exercise.
- Private sector participants including the 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 from being able to share information on chemicals monitored in North America.

**Potential nongovernment stakeholders:**

- Industry associations
- Universities and research centers
- Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs)