

North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Tri-National Chemicals Management

Four Point Concept

December, 2007



Sound Management Of Chemicals

- 1995 - Established by Ministerial Mandate
 - Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities:
 - chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury, lindane, dioxins/furans,
 - environmental monitoring and assessment
- 2006 - Ministers approved mandate to look ahead at groups of chemicals and sectors



Sound Management Of Chemicals

- Looking ahead
 - Advance international objectives
 - (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)
 - Stockholm POP's, UNEP Mercury
 - Security and Prosperity Partnership
 - Support regional work
 - GLBTS (US/Canada)
 - NEG/ECP (US States/Canadian Provinces)
 - Border 2012 (US/Mexico)



Cooperative Strategy Concepts

- Sustainable Approach to Monitoring
- Foundation for Chemicals Management
- Reduce the Risk from Chemicals
- Improve Sectors' Environmental Performance



Sustainable Approach to Monitoring

- Promote long-term sustainability of environmental and human bio-monitoring
 - Trends analysis takes time
 - Integrate industry, academic monitoring networks into a regional effort.
- Includes both Environmental and Human Health
 - Consideration of regional, continental, global sources.



Sustainable Approach to Monitoring

Performance Objectives

- undertaken with common compatible approaches;
- sustainable from a national infrastructure perspective;
- of high importance/priority at the decision makers level, meeting both national and international needs;
- produce high quality information;
- link and contribute to the CEC's North American Atlas and State of the Environment initiatives; and,
- identify long term financial needs and commitments.



Foundation for Chemicals Management

- Reduce risk of human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals
 - sharing information on chemical management
 - making the chemicals management tools compatible between the three parties
 - helping Mexico build national capacity



Foundation for Chemicals Management

Performance Objectives

- report on the production, use, import/export of chemicals;
- include information on pollution data;
- link to work under the Trade and Environment priorities of the CEC;
- share information for risk assessment and risk management;
- promote a legal framework
 - notification schemes for new chemicals;
 - cleaner production incentives;
 - pollution prevention initiatives;
 - classification and labeling requirements/practices; and
 - regulation of existing chemicals;
- strengthen the Parties' capacity to enforce regulations; and
- improvements in information sharing to help reduce illegal traffic of chemical substances.



Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure

- Implement trilateral actions to reduce the risk of exposure to chemicals of concern such as transboundary and bioaccumulative chemicals
- Develop a North American program to prioritize and assess chemicals, groups of chemicals or sectors of mutual concern
- Continue with the work that has been established through the NARAPs
- Emerging chemicals' issues
 - Brominated Flame Retardants
 - Nanotechnology
 - Polyfluorinated alkyl compounds



Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure

Performance Objectives

- Promote discussion of emerging substances and groups of chemicals.
- Develop and initiate risk reduction strategies where mutual concern is acknowledged for existing or emerging substances, groups of substances or sectors
- Complete the development and implementation of previous Council approved North American Regional Action Plans
- Ensure the anticipated success of previous and future SMOC initiatives through monitoring and oversight by the Monitoring and Assessment Standing Committee.



Improve Sectors' Environmental Performance

- Promote and undertake case studies including improvements in ;
 - greening design and supply chains, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, recyclability, setting standards, purchasing policies, and the appropriate disposal of waste; while taking consideration of trade and competitiveness
- consider environmental incentives, such as subsidies, that encourage sound chemicals management;
- enhance regional approaches can contribute to trade linkages; and
- collaborate to avoid duplication with global and North American partners such as
 - the North American Pollution Prevention Partnership (NAP3) work on electronics,
 - The International Consumer Electronics Association
 - The international Council of Chemical Associations
 - The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers



Improve Sectors' Environmental Performance

Performance Objectives

- Working with key sectors to improve environmental performance
- Facilitate transportation of chemicals across borders while ensuring the health and safety of humans and the environment
- Encourage industry to meet global environmental standards and promote:
- Examples
 - greening the design of electronics
 - greening the automotive sector
 - green cleaning products
 - reducing Mercury exposure in hospital sector



Environmental Monitoring & Assessment Initiative (EM&A)

- Provide scientific advice for sound environmental decision-making from a NA perspective by:
 - increasing comparability, reliability, relevance, availability of data and information on persistent toxic substances in NA environment
 - establishing baselines, trends, effects related to proposed control actions
- Within the frameworks the 4 concept area
 - Accomplished through ongoing commitment of experts and resources from the Parties
 - seed funding from the CEC to catalyze international funding agency support

