

## SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP: NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL NETWORK MEETING

Facilitators: Geoffrey Garver  
 Christopher Currie  
 Rapporteur: Claudio Torres Nachon

### GOALS

- Improve environmental enforcement and compliance through improved networking.
- Learn to cooperate better within each country and then within the region.
- Gain knowledge of environmental issues.
- Identify key environmental players within countries and the region so that we are better able to share our resources, including technical skills and lessons learned.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Over twenty representatives of the North America region met to discuss several issues regarding environmental law enforcement and compliance

### 2 DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The participants identified the following Critical Environmental Challenges for North America:

Key Sectors: Energy and agriculture  
 Biodiversity Issues:

- loss of species and overall numbers.
- habitat destruction- forests and others.
- over-fishing: managed and illegal fisheries.
- invasive species.
- coral reefs destruction.

Water issues:

- quantity/allocation.
- wetland loss.
- intensive agriculture.
- deposition of pollutants, including of air pollutants.
- vessel pollution.

Air issues:

- long range impacts of poor air quality,
- ozone depletion.
- climate change.

Hazardous waste and toxic materials:

- pesticide control and management.
- illegal drugs laboratories.
- terrorism issues.

Management of GMOs and other Biotechnology

Border issues:

- transboundary movement of materials.
- border as a shield.

The participants then moved to identify the Critical Institutional Challenges of North America for Effective Enforcement and Compliance:

- Capacity issues: lack of resources and intraregional differences in capacity
- Language and cultural differences
- Reacting to shifting policies and political environments
- Creating links between agencies with different missions and mandates (e.g. pollution control vs. resource management; resource use vs. resource

protection)

- Federal-subnational dynamics
- Bureaucratic impediments
- High data management needs, especially with technically complex issues
- Making informal networks last (e.g. through institutionalization)
- Maintain political and public support for enforcement
- Ensure accountability is assured with new or alternatives approaches
- Ensuring public participation

Immediately the participants proceeded to point out Examples of North American Networks for Enforcement and Compliance in three subdivisions:

- General:
  - Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
  - “Four sisters” (Subregional)
  - The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
  - International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)
- Specialized:
  - Pesticide Technical Working Group
  - BECC
  - Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC)
  - ANRET
- US Networks:
  - National Association on Attorneys

General (NAAG)

- Environmental Crime Policy Commission
- Clean Water Network (an NGO)

### 3 CONCLUSION

The participants elaborated on a set of Proposed INECE Projects for North America:

- Support a sustained regional network linked to existing sub-regional networks filling any gaps and facilitating enforcement projects of joint interest (e.g. regional enforcement initiatives, e.g. agriculture sector with INECE facilitating tracking)
- Support creation of contacts lists/directories of enforcement/compliance networks for North America region, including technical experts (W/Summary of expertise)
- Facilitate training courses within the region (e.g. need expressed for Veracruz, Mexico), and facilitate and trace follow through.
- Keep North America region informed of relevant training and other activities in other regions.
- Enforcement indicators: North America region supports INECE's overall efforts in this regard.