

JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC) 2024 ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

CONTEXT

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) is one of three constituent bodies of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), along with the Council and the Secretariat. JPAC is composed of nine volunteer citizens, three from each country, appointed by their respective governments.

IN ACCORDANCE with Article 6(6) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA) among the federal governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, which states that the “Joint Public Advisory Committee shall, in consultation with the Council, develop an annual plan of activities,” this annual plan is developed, taking into account the six pillars in the [CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) and the CEC cooperative work program.

JPAC 2024 PRIORITIES

JPAC is committed to supporting the CEC’s mission of facilitating effective cooperation and public participation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment. As such, JPAC will continue to support the CEC’s efforts to reflect a diversity of public participation in its various activities and cooperative work program, especially through the organization of events and public consultations, among others. Particular emphasis will be given to the inclusion of marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the three countries, especially to youth and Indigenous peoples.

The CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021–2025, the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), and Chapter 24 of the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement establish broad areas of cooperation in the North American region. Based on these, and with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous perspectives as cross-cutting themes, JPAC will focus its efforts in **2024** on the following:

Continue to increase collaboration with the other CEC constituent bodies, the TEK Expert Group (TEKEG), and other key actors:

- Build on recent efforts to increase dialogue with the Council and the Alternate Representatives from Canada, Mexico and the United States, through informal meetings and communications.
- Seek opportunities to increase collaboration with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG) through videoconferences, meetings and joint events.
- Support the efforts of the TEKEG and the CEC to increase the integration of TEK and Indigenous perspectives in CEC programs and activities.

- Support the TEKEG, as appropriate, in the implementation of the project *Resilience of Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Food Systems*.
- Support the CEC and build upon recent successes to increase public participation and the dissemination of the work of JPAC and the CEC.
- Seek opportunities and ways to enhance collaboration with relevant key actors, such as academia, research centers, nongovernmental organizations, etc.
- Support the Parties' efforts in ensuring that CEC officials, JPAC members and other experts are granted comparable privileges and immunities across the three countries.
- Support the CEC's environmental justice efforts, by increasing the engagement and involvement of marginalized and disadvantaged groups of individuals in the three countries, in JPAC forums and activities.

Trade and Environment:

- In line with the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, promote dialogue and knowledge sharing between the Parties and private sector representatives, on environmental issues of common interest, and explore opportunities to network with other organizations, including trade associations, community-led cooperatives, financial institutions, and international standard setters.
- Identify issues of common interest and opportunities for collaboration to inform current and future CEC work, including sustainable trade models, market-based strategies to address climate change, greening trade corridors, sustainable production in different sectors (e.g., agriculture and agri-food), strengthening livelihood resilience to increase the competitiveness of small producers, lessons learned, and best practices of socially responsible companies in North America.
- Building on the two previous objectives, concrete efforts will be made to increase our knowledge of Indigenous-owned enterprises in the three countries, including identifying the barriers and opportunities to strengthen their economic prosperity through international trade and sustainability, ensuring Indigenous Peoples have equal access to economic development.

Implementation of the JPAC-led initiative *Advancing Responsible Consumption of Forest Products*:

- Initiate project implementation.

Climate Crisis:

- Support the Parties' efforts by aligning JPAC fora and public consultations with the workstreams and cross cutting themes under the H-2030 initiative to address the triple planetary crisis.
- Provide JPAC Advice stemming from these fora and public consultations, to be considered for the H-2030 report.
- Continue to build on efforts to increase knowledge sharing, public dialogue, and public engagement in North America on climate change mitigation and adaptation through JPAC events, by addressing topics such as:

- TEK and Indigenous perspectives;
- Environmental Justice;
- GHG emissions reduction pathways of trilateral interest and impact (e.g., the role of green infrastructure and options to contribute to the decarbonization of trade and supply chains).

Water:

- Support the TEKEG, as appropriate, in the final phase of the project *Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management in North America*.

Integration of Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) perspectives:

- Throughout all activities, JPAC will seek to integrate a Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) approach into its work and activities, as part of its commitment to address inequity and respond to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by marginalized and disadvantaged groups and individuals. A strong emphasis will continue to be given to the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives, while being respectful of relationships with Indigenous communities. This will include the integration of TEK, when appropriate, based on free, prior, informed, and culturally appropriate consent.

Perform such other functions as the Council may direct

- In accordance with Article 6(4) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), JPAC may pursue additional activities during the calendar year.

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
31 January 2024	Meeting to review the submissions received for the EJ4Climate Grant	Participation of the JPAC Chair
9 February 2024	Alt Rep Meeting (virtual)	Participation of the JPAC Chair
Late March	Alt Rep Meeting (virtual)	Participation of the JPAC Chair
Week of 13 May (TBC)	Alt Rep in-person Meeting in Canada	Participation of the JPAC Chair
Week of 27 May	Joint JPAC and TEKEG pre-Council videoconference	
24-25-26 June 2024	JPAC Public Forum (hybrid) (<i>Exact theme TBD</i>) (24 June)	Location: Wilmington, North Carolina, United States
	Field trip, Youth Forum and official inauguration of the Council Session (25 June)	
	In-camera and Council Sessions (26 June)	

Fall 2024	JPAC Regular Session 24-02 in the United States (<i>Exact location and theme TBD</i>)	
Late Fall 2024	Joint JPAC/TEKEG videoconference (November- December)	