



COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

Agreement on Environmental Cooperation between Canada and the Republic of Honduras

SUBJECT CATEGORY:

Environmental Cooperation

TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:

Bilateral

FORM:

Legally-binding treaty

STATUS:

- Signed on November 5, 2013
- Ratified by Canada June 19, 2014
- In force in Canada October 1, 2014
- In force internationally October 1, 2014
- Ongoing

LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:

Lead: Environment and Climate Change Canada

Partners: Global Affairs Canada, Others
(depending on cooperative activity)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Web Links:

[Canada-Honduras Agreement on Environmental
Cooperation](#) Website

[Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement](#)
Website

[Canada-Honduras Agreement on Labour
Cooperation](#) Website

Contacts:

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

COMPENDIUM EDITION:

October 2018

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

The Canada-Honduras Environmental Cooperation Agreement, signed in parallel to the Free Trade Agreement, is a legally binding mechanism for bilateral environmental cooperation. The Agreement requires both countries to encourage high levels of domestic environmental protection. Cooperative activities allow for policy dialogue and information exchange, which strengthens environmental protection in both countries. The implementation of the Canada-Honduras Environment Agreement is overseen by a Committee on the Environment, composed of officials from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Honduras' Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment.

OBJECTIVE

This Agreement commits both countries to encourage high levels of domestic environmental protection, to foster good environmental governance and to promote transparency and public participation. It also creates a framework for undertaking environmental cooperative activities.

KEY ELEMENTS

Commitments to ensure high levels of environmental protection and effective enforcement of environmental laws.

A non-derogation clause that obligates the countries not to relax their environmental laws in order to encourage trade or investment.

A dispute resolution mechanism regarding obligations identified in the Agreement.

A commitment to maintain appropriate procedures to conduct environmental impact assessments, and allow for public participation in these procedures.

Provisions to ensure that interested persons can request the investigation of alleged violations of environmental laws.

A requirement for each country to designate a National Coordinating Officer for the Environment Agreement and establish a Committee on the Environment

responsible for development and implementation of cooperative programs and activities.

A commitment to develop cooperative programs and activities, subject to available resources.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Facilitate collaboration between Canada and Honduras on environmental priorities, aimed at strengthening environmental protection.

Provide effective mechanisms to raise and resolve concerns about the effective enforcement of domestic environmental laws.

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT

Environment and Climate Change Canada works with Honduras' Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment to implement the Agreement, in partnership with external experts (including representatives of other government department/agencies, academics, private sector and NGOs) who may support collaborative activities.

RESULTS / PROGRESS

Activities

The Committee on the Environment is required to meet as mutually decided by the countries (either in person or by videoconference) in order to discuss priority areas for cooperation, approve the bilateral work program consisting of cooperative projects, discuss implementation of projects, and share policy updates. The Committee on the Environment last met in July 2015. The next Committee meeting is expected to take place in 2019.

Reports

The Committee on the Environment is required to prepare a summary record of meetings, in addition to reports and recommendations on bilateral activities.

There is also a requirement to consider undertaking a review of the implementation of the Agreement, within five years of its entry into force.

Results

Initial cooperation projects have focused on environmental impact assessment and enforcement of environmental laws.