
CCME

Canadian Council Le Conseil canadien
of Ministers des ministres
of the Environment de l'environnement

CCME STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING

PREAMBLE

Federal, provincial, and territorial governments undertake and use environmental monitoring and reporting to fulfill their respective mandates to:

- measure and assess environmental conditions and the health of ecosystems
- observe, record and predict environmental changes and trends
- identify and track emerging issues
- measure progress on the achievement of environmental objectives, and
- account to the public for progress on environmental issues.

Governments work cooperatively on monitoring and reporting activities of mutual interest to access a broader monitoring network, to present a more comprehensive picture of the environment, and to improve decision-making. In doing so, the federal, provincial and territorial governments not only work with one another but also work with other parties that undertake monitoring and reporting. These parties include local governments, industry, academic institutions and citizen/community organizations. The information gathered and disseminated through monitoring and reporting supports informed decision-making throughout society on environmental management issues, environment and human health issues, and with respect to adaptation to environmental conditions.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CCME Statement of Principles to Guide Cooperative Arrangements on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting are to:

- facilitate informed decision-making by jurisdictions, stakeholders and the public that leads to the protection of human and ecosystem health and safety in Canada; and
- guide the negotiation of arrangements between federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and between governments and other interested parties to cooperatively deliver monitoring and reporting that:
 - is effective and efficient
 - meets scientific standards for accuracy and consistency
 - facilitates comparisons and analysis across regions and jurisdictions
 - communicates information to partners, stakeholders and the public in a timely and useful manner, and
 - ensures the credibility of data and transparency of the monitoring and reporting process.

SCOPE

The Statement of Principles applies to environmental monitoring and reporting activities where federal/provincial/territorial governments agree that these would best be delivered through cooperative arrangements, such as protocols or agreements.

Cooperative arrangements could be developed for activities such as:

- monitoring, such as ambient environmental monitoring, discharge based monitoring, transboundary pollution monitoring, and broad environmental effects monitoring;
- data management, which means quality assurance mechanisms, data modeling, meta-data, data base applications, and archiving of data;
- data interpretation including data analysis, data summary and prediction; and
- reporting, which means the dissemination of the results to governments, and/or the public of monitoring, including data analysis, data summaries, interpretation, and prediction.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide cooperative arrangements for monitoring and reporting negotiated by governments and by governments with other parties:

1. **Communication of information:** There will be open, transparent and timely reporting of information from monitoring programs, sufficient to meet the needs of jurisdictions and their obligation to communicate to the public.
2. **Mandates respected:** Cooperative arrangements will respect the mandates of jurisdictions and other parties.
3. **Shared responsibility:** Resourcing and implementing monitoring and reporting activities is a shared responsibility among federal, provincial, territorial and local governments, and between governments, industry, academic institutions and other partners. Identifying these responsibilities is an integral component of cooperative arrangements.
4. **Effectiveness and efficiency:** Parties will plan and deliver monitoring and reporting activities in a coordinated way that makes the best use of public and private resources.
5. **Timely sharing of data between parties:** Parties will share their data with each other in a timely fashion to support their activities and to meet their legal, program and/or international obligations.
6. **Third party access to data:** Third parties may have access to data for research and/or analysis other than that for which it was originally collected, subject to the applicable government legislation, policies and contractual obligations.
7. **Proprietary information:** Parties will protect proprietary information included in data in accordance with applicable policies and legislation.
8. **Cost recovery:** Where appropriate, parties may make data, analysis and reports available on a cost-recovery basis, consistent with applicable government policies.

9. **Scientific standards:** Parties will respect commitments to national and international monitoring and reporting protocols, and will work cooperatively to develop new protocols as appropriate, to allow for the meaningful analysis and comparison of data and results.
10. **Standardized data and data management:** Parties agree that data should be standardized and to respect data management protocols and develop new protocols as appropriate, to ensure compatibility and facilitate the effective sharing of data, support data integrity, permit comprehensive data analysis, and protect historical records.
11. **Accountability and transparency:** Parties will make information about cooperative arrangements available to stakeholders and the public, and will consult, as appropriate, in developing these arrangements.
12. **Flexibility:** Cooperative arrangements should provide the flexibility to adapt to changes in technology, priorities, and organizational structures and mandates.
13. **Reciprocal notice:** Parties will provide appropriate prior notice in the event of terminating or changing cooperative arrangements.