

# UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

## Enhancing Intelligence, Targeting and Analysis, and Training

### BACKGROUND & MAIN OBJECTIVES

Through an interagency agreement with USTR, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is supporting the monitoring and enforcement of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Chapter 24 environmental obligations. USTR and CBP share the objective of implementing Chapter 24 (Environment) of USMCA and the Environment Cooperation and Customs Verification Agreement (CVA)<sup>1</sup> between the United States and Mexico. To do so, CBP will increase capabilities to produce and utilize intelligence and data to target high-risk shipments for inspection and entities for verification, and support USTR requests related to customs verifications under the CVA. The work is divided into the following three goals:



**GOAL 1: Improve CBP's enforcement tools and enhance collaboration among CBP and partner agencies to produce and utilize intelligence and data that will effectively target high-risk shipments for inspection and entities for verifications.**

#### GOAL 1 OUTCOMES:

- In February 2022, CBP met with officials from the Canadian government including representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to discuss enhancing data sharing regarding environmental issues covered under the USMCA.
- In June and July 2022, CBP participated in two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-led Border Enforcement Steering Committee Kickoff Meetings with Canada and Mexico, respectively. These workshops are the first of a series to expand tri-lateral communication between the USMCA countries and enforce the USMCA Environmental Chapter of articles pertaining to environmental pollution.
- In September 2022, CBP hosted the Timber Law Enforcement Cooperation Workshop, a virtual event in which representatives from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada discussed how to expand trilateral cooperation to prevent and address illegal logging and timber trafficking, comply with USMCA environmental provisions, and keep illegal timber out of North American markets.
- CBP continues to partner with other U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations to investigate importers suspected of importing seafood products involving Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

**GOAL 2: Expand U.S. border enforcement capacity to implement environmental obligations of the USMCA, specifically concerning but not limited to Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (ILAT) and IUU fishing.**

#### GOAL 2 OUTCOMES:

- In February 2022, CBP met with the Department of Justice and the U.S. Forest Service to discuss options for training in Mexico under the USMCA program. CBP proposed virtual webinars on trade enforcement, risk-based targeting, regulatory audit techniques, and timber targeting and identification.
- In June 2022, the CBP Office of Trade provided training to CBP Officers, Import Specialists, and Agricultural specialists to raise awareness on the USMCA Chapter 24 environmental obligations and the importance of combatting wildlife crime that is often linked to serious crimes, such as money laundering, drug trafficking, and forced labor. The training fully explained documentation requirements when shrimp are imported to ensure they come from a sustainable source, not involving IUU fishing.



**GOAL 3: Expand CBP's engagement with the trade community to ensure compliance with U.S. laws and regulations associated with the environmental obligations under USMCA, facilitate legitimate imports, and effectively manage risks and enforcement resources.**

#### GOAL 3 OUTCOMES:

- CBP continues to participate in public events involving the trade community. In May 2022, along with other partner U.S. government agencies (*i.e.*, as USDA, USFWS, and FDA), CBP participated in the International Trade Day in Miami, Florida, to raise awareness about trade compliance issues (including those related to USMCA) and respond to questions.

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1. The CVA is a separate agreement between the U.S. and Mexico regarding specific shipments of fish, timber, and wildlife (including live) products. It allows the parties to request information and verify whether an importer has provided accurate and adequate documentation demonstrating shipment legality.

