JAPC noted that the legal and political context varies among the three countries. It stated that:

- It is not JAPC’s role to comment on those aspects. It is JAPC’s view, however, that Indigenous Peoples are crucial actors in conservation and that promoting their involvement in the work programme of the CEC is necessary.

JAPC, therefore, recommends that:

- Council acknowledge the value and importance of involving Indigenous Peoples in the work of the CEC on the basis that working with Indigenous Peoples of the North American region and their communities is an important step in building local capacity for the conservation and protection of biodiversity. This could be accomplished by instructing the CEC Secretariat to build into the three-year programme plan(s) practical and culturally sensitive ways and means for the direct involvement of Indigenous Peoples in project planning and implementation with particular attention to developing new methods for facilitating communication among Indigenous Peoples in (our) three countries.

Methods to Improve the Public Portion of the Council Session

The Committee noted in its advice, that after listening to the public and participating in discussions with the JAPC members, National Advisory Committees and the United States Government Advisory Committee, it was clear that the public wanted increased interaction with the Ministers.

“JAPC has listened carefully to the public’s comments. In summary, the deficiencies of the methods used thus far are that the speaking time is too short, there are too many speakers and topics, and there is minimal exchange and no feedback.”

“After having considered various possible options, the following outline is recommended:

- The draft Framework for Public Participation in the CEC’s Activities will be of assistance and should be released and implemented as soon as possible.
- The Parties will select a theme or themes for the Regular Session of Council. The public meeting with Council at the Regular Session could be divided into two portions. On Day 1, workshop(s) would be organised to assist the participants in preparing for the public meeting with Council where they would present their views. This first, public portion of the Council session would then follow later the same day, allowing the Ministers to hear contributions from the attendees, first on the selected theme(s), then from individual speakers on any matter within the scope of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. On the second day, in the second public portion of the Regular Session, Council would respond to the most important topics or contributions, leaving time for an exchange of views.”

JAPC further recommended that the Parties begin their planning very soon for the next Regular Session of Council, to be hosted by the United States in June 2000.

Note

* The CEC is soliciting abstracts (maximum 300 words) that include a general description of the issue the paper will address and summary of its treatment in the study. Papers will be considered for presentation in several areas. For more information contact CEC in Canada: +1 (514) 350-4302.

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**Norway/UNEP**

**Ecosystem Approach**

From 6–10 September 1999 the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with UNEP and the Norwegian Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foreign Affairs, hosted a Conference on the Ecosystem Approach for Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Trondheim, Norway.¹

This is the third of a series of conferences organized to improve the cross- and multi-sectoral dialogue on biodiversity research and management and to contribute to a solid scientific basis for policy and management decisions needed to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The first Trondheim conference, convened in May 1993, provided important scientific input to the first Intergovernmental Committee meeting of the signatories to the CBD. The second conference in July 1996 focused on the theme of alien invasive species. The results of this conference were presented at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD and contributed to the development of the Global Invasive Species Program.

One of the main aims of the 1999 Trondheim Conference was to provide useful scientific input to discussions on the development and application of an ecosystem approach in the context of ‘sustainable use of components of biodiversity’. The conference built on the results of a Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach that was convened in Malawi in 1998. This workshop identified twelve principles (known as the ‘Malawi principles’) that can contribute to the application of the ecosystem approach in biodiversity management. The conference focused on research and development contributing to an improved understanding of the Malawi principles, with the objective to integrate them in everyday management practices.

The Trondheim conference primarily discussed the application of the ecosystem approach and the further elaboration of the Malawi principles in the context of
The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) of IUCN developed a Position Statement on the topic of mining and protected areas over a 12 months period. WCPA is one of the six commissions of IUCN – the World Conservation Union – and it represents the largest global network of protected area specialists.

The Statement (see page 286) defines the position of WCPA towards mining and associated activities in protected areas and in areas adjacent to them. It is based on the IUCN protected areas management category system; it is increasingly recognised and applied around the world and a number of countries are implementing it directly in their domestic legislation.

This Position Statement was reviewed and welcomed by the IUCN Council in April 1999. The underlying principle is that any activity in a protected area has to be compatible with the overall objectives of the protected area in question. WCPA developed this Position Statement hoping that it will make a valuable contribution to issues relating to mining and conservation throughout the world. (Milena Bellini)