



Montréal Process Informal Meeting Japan Forestry Agency, Tokyo, Japan

07 March 2011

Record of Discussion

Attendance

11 members from Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, New Zealand, Russia & USA

Argentina - Pablo Laclau

Canada - John Hall

Chile - Angelo Sartori

China - Lei Jingpin

Japan - Takeshi Goto

New Zealand - Alan Reid

Russia – Maria Palenova

USA, Chair - Peter Gaulke

Liaison office - Koji Ueda, Rikiya Konishi and Yuichi Sato

Summary of current MP activities and discussions

US

- 2010 national sustainability plan close to being ready with expected release in June 2011.

Chile

- 2nd report under MP ready by end of 2011
- 2 workshops coming up – USDA-FS sponsored workshop & 2nd meeting of south American countries (II Diálogos Forestales Sudamericanos) discussing specific issues related to sustainable forest management of the region
- Studies on REDD+ as this relates to forests' capacity to absorb carbon are underway with World Bank assistance through the bank's forest carbon partnership facility (FCPF).

NZ

- Degradation and deforestation case-studies (21st MPWG action) underway

Japan

- Forest degradation case study (21st MPWG action) in terms of Japanese institutional contexts, underway

Argentina

- A technical expert group is working on guidelines for proposed new forest policy this year. This proposed policy that will address issues of planted

forest competitiveness, local development and forest land and native forest use planning for accomplishing environmental and socioeconomic benefits

China

- Reviewing the possible budget resources to support research into monitoring REDD+, especially regarding forest degradation and carbon sequestration through SFM
- Reviewing with various agencies how to develop an integrated reporting system that will enable reporting to a range of forest-related international reporting; such as FAO, UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC and MP.

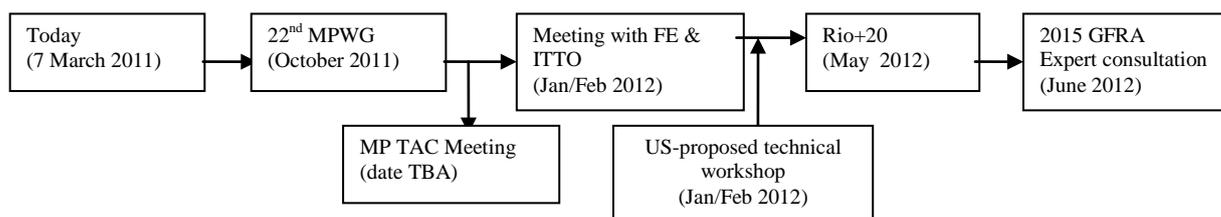
Canada

- The MP SharePoint Site is Up and Available

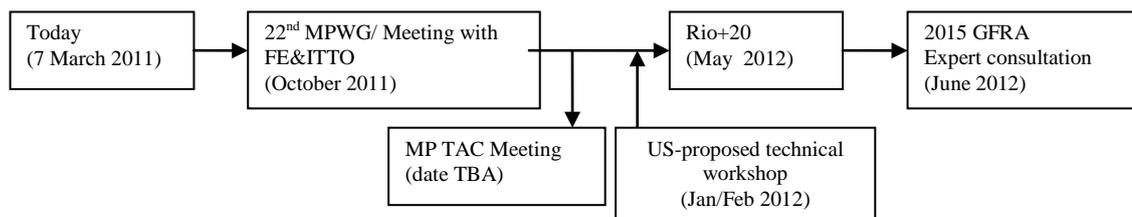
Upcoming Meetings

- The WG needs to now confirm the dates and the host for the 22nd MPWG
- Currently there are 3 MP-related meetings proposed for 2011 and early 2012; the 22nd MPWG, the Tri-lateral meeting with ITTO and FE and USDA-proposed technical workshop on C&I consistency, besides the international seminar in Tokyo this week.
- Two alternative timelines for the meeting process this year. The difference was whether the trilateral (with ITTO and FE) should be separate or concurrent with the MPWG22. Members present favoured the second timeline with a proposed concurrent meeting.
- There was also discussion on how these meetings would be timed to enable effective input into the Rio+20 in May 2012 and also effective contribution to the expert consultation, held in Kotka, Finland, planned for June 2012 in preparation for the 2015 GFRA.

Timeline #1



Timeline #2



Making use of the Sequence of meetings and IYF

- The technical workshop is proposed for early 2012 but we need to discuss issues of C&I with other processes this year.
- Since the informal MP meeting on 25 January 2011 the timing of the GFRA 2015 meeting has been put back to mid 2012. There is therefore a longer period to work with these other groups on the issues.
- The change in the FE Chair from Norway to Spain could affect the engagement with FE on C&I issues this year.
- Deep thinking and good strategy is needed so that all events starting with the seminar this week are well linked and used as opportunities to celebrate the IYF and to start initiative to promote and refine C&I leading up to and beyond Rio+20.
- The timelines also shows that the MPWG would need to ensure that the outcomes of the TAC and proposed technical workshop contribute effectively to the MP input to both the Rio+20 and the GFRA meetings

Technical Workshop (see proposal appended to these notes)

- The workshop is ambitious given that there is also a need to discuss how individual countries resolve their internal disconnects in reporting systems between different agencies serving different international reporting commitments.
- Consideration is to be needed how the workshop can fit in with the various less active C&I processes, such as the Tarapoto and ATO processes.
- The paper on the proposed workshop had good objectives and there is strong merit in getting to a more common approach to reduce the burden on reporting. It was noted that even with a good core set of data reporting can still be onerous.
- The C&I refinement across the various processes in the workshop could focus on three objectives to improve the overall reporting data and reporting sequence;
 - Developing a core set of indicators
 - Devising a common reporting framework
 - Informing and streamlining the process of reporting to international MEAs.
- The recommendations from the seminar this week should create a flow toward the technical workshop.

Reviewing the place of the C&I processes and their promotion in the Rio+20

- The MP needs to think ahead to Rio +20 and we run a serious risk of the 1992 Rio C&I systems which is the basis of all the current processes that arose from Rio becoming overtaken and hence marginalised by new indicators being developed covering trade, biodiversity and other interests.
- The C&I has provided the basis for important works since Rio in 1992, including the development of certification schemes and elaboration of

seven thematic areas, and before Rio +20 we should ensure we devise a way to promote all the achievements under the C&I process in liaison with Forests Europe and the ITTO

- MPWG should develop a broad approach to promoting C&I at Rio+20 based on dialogue through the tri-lateral discussion. This should address both the common aspects of the approaches by all C&I process plus the differences that have developed under each since 1992.
- This should be refined at the trilateral meeting but the idea should be initiated very soon, taking advantage of this week's seminar building on the dialogues with FE and ITTO on 25 January and possibly this week.
- Every opportunity should be taken to embed the idea of the MP C&I in international meetings and activities and the messages should start at this week's seminar.
- A similar message should be on the relevance of SFM and associated C&I processes to the developing concepts around "green economies" through the active participation in the international seminar to be held in October in Germany.

Possible tasks for the TAC

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) can undertake a rough assessment to assist the MPWG in deciding to start collaboration with other C&I processes for the refinement of C&Is. Monitoring and reporting are done well but assessment remains a weak link in the process and it is suggested that a system for promoting analytical assessment tools should be developed in conjunction with input from IUFRO. A possible outcome could be a "forest indicators partnership" similar to the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (see: <http://www.twentyten.net/language/en-us/about/2010biodiversityindicatorspartnership>)
- A "virtual centre of expertise", based on an "in-kind" web-based help centre could also assist countries with C&I application.
- The TAC should be tasked with gaps analysis work following MPWG22. This would be used in preparation for the preparation for the Rio+20.
- The less advanced of the C&I processes could be assisted through the proposed virtual centre of excellence.
- The TAC should address technical developments around improving and refining C&I application including analysing gaps in the current process.

REDD+ and C&I

- REDD+ is specific to developing countries with high forest cover.
- Political leaders attracted to prospective returns from REDD+ and we should be aware of the risks to C&I- developed SFM and to land use balance in general
- However there are also new opportunities as REDD+ and CBD have placed new demands on data with requirements for new measurements and refinements in assessment, monitoring and reporting especially at management unit level.

- We therefore need to figure out how the C&I processes, including the MP, can contribute to the emerging issues, such as MRV for REDD+ and Target 2020 under CBD, and meet their specific requirements for assessment, monitoring and reporting, in consideration of our relative weakness in monitoring for example: underground carbon, habitat changes and genetic diversity.
- The MP should be thinking in terms of a conceptual framework including both a refinement of the C&I system directed “inwards” towards SFM and an active “outwards” promotion of the forests C&I system to include other sectors and the links to the Rio Conventions (see diagram).

It should be kept in our mind, whenever we stress the comprehensiveness of the C&I in comparison with other indicators for specific purposes, that we are still weak in the assessment of multiple forest values compared with the progress in monitoring and reporting. It should be also noted, if we take a step forward toward the refinement of C&I and streamlining of reporting, that there are still many regions and countries where C&I is not well practiced.

Items by Russia

- Noted up coming UNECE seminar, including identified slot in the session for MP presenter. Title is: “State of forests and forest management in the UNECE region in the context of current and future needs and challenges: How successful is Sustainable Forest Management in North America and pan-European region?” - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 21 March 2011, International Forest Day (Russia)
- UNFF Virtual Newsletter. Maria will post the UNFF Secretariat Letter on the MP SharePoint site. UNFF Secretariat is looking for comments on the proposal. Great opportunity for MP and member countries to post updates in this newsletter. Could develop links to the updated MP website.
- State of the Worlds Forest Genetic Resources: Maria will be adding materials to the SharePoint site, including her proposal for a very specific team to organize a process or meeting to discuss the topic. Ultimately the MPWG is being asked what it wants to do about this new FAO data request.

Appendix

Proposal for an International Workshop

“Consensus Approaches for Improving Consistency in Reporting on Forest Conditions and Trends”

Organizers:

**Montréal Process Working Group, Forests Europe,
International Tropical Timber Organization,
United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization, and
Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

Objectives:

To develop a set of recommendations for consistently reporting on forest conditions and trends to multiple international mechanisms using a common set of core data and “good practices” for analyzing, assessing, and reporting.

Background:

Since UNCED’s Statement of Forest Principles was issued nearly 20 years ago, many countries have taken steps—individually and through joining with other countries having similar forests and interests—to improve their capacities for monitoring forests and reporting on forest conditions and trends. The Montréal Process Working Group on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (MPWG), Forests Europe (FE) and its predecessor organizations, and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) have each provided important leadership in forest monitoring and reporting in selected areas. Working together and with the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) through a series of meetings over the past decade^{1,2,3}, the four organizations have contributed to advancing the use of criteria and indicators to meet international reporting requirements on forest conditions. The *Global Forest Resource Assessment—2010*, (GFRA) recently released by UN-FAO, is organized along thematic areas and reports information in ways that are clearly linked to the dialogues that occurred at the cited meetings.

Current Issues:

Since the release of the 2010 GFRA, questions have arisen regarding ways to further improve the consistency of the information reported (e.g., the need for an improved definition of “protective” forests to achieve more consistent reporting. In addition, several other international mechanisms are proposing additional reports on forest

¹ International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: The Way Forward (CICI), Guatemala City, Guatemala, 3-7 February 2003

² Inter C&I Process Collaboration Workshop, Białowieża, Poland, 8-10 June 2006

³ Forest Criteria and Indicators: Analytical Framework and Reporting Workshop. Joensuu, Finland, 19-21 May 2008

conditions and trends. For example, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is developing technical requirements for monitoring, reporting, and verifying (MRV) forest conditions. The Global Earth Observation (GEO) program is developing a Forest Carbon Tracker (FCT) project that will require baseline information about forest conditions and changes over time. Further, a new United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) is seeking to identify “good practices” for monitoring, assessment, reporting, and verification of forest conditions. Other international bodies are also considering new or improved reporting standards that may require changes or additions to current forest monitoring and reporting activities. In some cases, the information sought by these emerging mechanisms are well aligned with existing data being collected for MPWG, FE, and ITTO reports and for the 2015 GFRA. In other cases, the information requirements and definitions may differ somewhat—semantically or substantively—from existing practices.

The experiences of the MPWG, FE, ITTO, and UN-FAO provide solid examples of the practical approaches that have been successful and the funding levels that are required in both developing and developed countries to support existing forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting activities.

Proposal:

Because the financial and human resources available for forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting activities are constrained in all countries, it makes good sense to collect forest data once and use it to satisfy multiple national and international reporting requirements. ***To promote the most cost-efficient approaches to meet both current and emerging international forest reporting objectives, the MPWG proposes to work with partners to convene an international workshop to develop a set of recommendations for consistently reporting on forest conditions and trends for multiple international reporting mechanisms—both current ones and emerging future ones—using a common core set of data and analysis products.***

Without this workshop, what could emerge are multiple sets of environmental statistics, measures, and indicators. The result could be confusion in reporting if the information sought differs in subtle ways among various mechanisms or if the same names are used for different information. Further, a proliferation of information expectations could lead to unaffordable burdens being placed on forest monitoring programs. By becoming advocates for a core set of data to be collected and consistent information to be reported, the participating members of regional processes and organizations may be better able to manage the multiple expectations for improved forest monitoring and reporting that are emerging internationally.

The proposed timing of this workshop is ***January-February 2012***. This timing will provide timely and useful input to UN-FAO and several other international processes.

To prepare the agenda for the workshop, a Planning Committee is proposed, comprised of 1 or 2 representatives from each of the organizers.