# Montréal Process Informal Meeting
# US UN Mission
# January 25, 2011

## Record of Discussion

Capitalizing on having several Montréal Process countries in the same location at the same time, a two-hour meeting was held on 25 January 2011 at the US UN Mission. The meeting time was equally divided between an informal discussion among Montréal Process countries present at the United Nations Forum on Forests, and a broader discussion between Montréal Process (MP) countries and representatives of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Forest Europe (formerly MCPFE).

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**Hour 1 Agenda (Montréal Process Country Discussion):**

- Building on the discussion at the 21st MPWG, the 1st topic of this hour is to discuss the MP Web site redesign and a possible collaborative site
- Preparation for discussion with Forest Europe and ITTO on:
  - Harmonizing our C&I efforts and supporting data to respond to UN-FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA)
  - Lessons learned on how C&I frameworks and supporting data are used to influence policy within member countries
- Recommendations to MPWG on a follow-up meeting
- Proposed SFM Workshop and informal MP meeting in Japan

**Participants**

- United States – Peter Gaulke, Shelley Gardner, Cathy Karr-Colque, Guy Robertson, Michael Buck, Brad Smith
- Canada – Jennifer Hollington, Joanne Frappier, Simon Bridge, John Hall
- Japan – Takeshi Goto, Rikiya Konishi, Toshihisa Kato, Shuichi Hasegawa
- Australia – Ben Mitchell
- New Zealand – Alan Reid, Meredith Stokdijk
- China – XIAO Wenfa
- Chile – Angelo Sartori

**Web Site Redesign:**

- Mr. Barry Lilly, USDA-Forest Service web manager, developed the concept of the revised MP website and asked for comments from MP working group members last December.
- In response to the initial request, the US has received comments on the MP Website redesign from Japan, Canada and Chile
    - ***Actions:*** **Within the next few weeks, the US will: (1) send MPWG members a link to the Montréal Process web site that is under development; and (2) request further comment. The US will coordinate with the Liaison Office on the request.**
- Japan is checking whether software used by the US web designer produces files that are compatible with web design software used by the Liaison Office's technical staff in Japan.
- Building on the discussion at the 21st MPWG, representatives discussed development of a web-based collaborative site, based on Microsoft SharePoint, for file sharing and better coordination among member countries. Advantages of using this type of "SharePoint" site include:
    - Information is secure; files are anticipated to be housed on host country server (Canada)
    - The site is flexible and customizable to the MP's needs
    - Supports discussion forums, document sharing across MP countries, and Wiki capacity
    - Allows for password protection and different levels of permission.
    - ***Actions:*** **(1) Liaison Office will provide Canada with the email addresses of MPWG and TAC members. (2) Canada will then send an email to MPWG and TAC members providing information on and access to a proposed collaborative site for testing. (3) Member countries will be requested, as time and opportunity allows, to pilot use of the collaborative site.**

**Preparation for Discussion with Forest Europe and ITTO**

- Building on the discussion at the 21st MPWG, the 2nd hour of the meeting is to discuss initial opportunities for collaboration with these two C&I processes. Topics included;
    - Harmonizing our C&I efforts and supporting data to respond to the UN-FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment; and
    - Sharing lessons learned on how C&I frameworks and supporting data are used to influence forest policy in member countries.
- In order to have adequate time to prepare and coordinate messages between the three C&I processes and present a unified message to the UN-FAO, a meeting

would need to be held relatively soon. It was proposed that prior to an anticipated July-September meeting in Kotka, Finland, the three processes would need to meet in late spring or early summer. It was acknowledged that the Kotka, Finland meeting would be closely followed by COFO in 2012, to plan for the next FRA in 2015.

- It was highlighted that there were discussions at the last COFO about greater contribution of processes in the next FRA.

**Review of MP Statement at UNFF9**

- Following the meeting, Cathy Karr-Colque led a small group review of the MP statement to be read at UNFF9. The starting point for this statement was the MP statement read at COFO.

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**Hour 2 Agenda (w/ ITTO & Forests Europe):**

- Exploring opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration between criteria and indicator processes, with a specific focus on:
    - Harmonizing our C&I efforts and supporting data to respond to UN-FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment;
    - Lessons learned on how C&I frameworks and supporting data are used to influence policy within member countries;
    - Sharing knowledge & experiences around capacity building, policy and tools.

**Additional Participants**

- ITTO – Amha Bin Buang, Stephanie Caswell (independent contractor to ITTO)
- Forest Europe – Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs

**Discussion with Forest Europe and ITTO**

- Speaking in principle, there are opportunities and interest in coordinating between C&I processes in preparation for the FRA 2015, sharing of lessons learned and holding a joint meeting in conjunction with the next MPWG meeting.
- Japan highlighted and distributed a draft concept paper for the upcoming *International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest Management* to be held 8-10 March 2011. (See attached pdf file.)
- The US outlined a workshop in Valdivia, Chile on improving technical capacity and methods for monitoring biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in Latin America. This meeting, scheduled for the week of 11 April

2011 will focus on how the Montréal Process and C&I can enhance reporting in the region.

- It was recognized there is a lot of congruence between the C&I processes and there are opportunities to consolidate outputs from these and other upcoming meetings.
- Comments from Forest Europe (FE)
    - Forest Europe has supported cooperation with Montréal Process for some time and is interested in new ways to strengthen collaboration.
    - FE staff is currently heavily engaged in developing its Ministerial Conference in Oslo, Norway on 14-16 June 2011. Topics on the proposed agenda include:
        - Development of a common vision, measurable targets, climate change mitigation, role of forests in a green economy, biodiversity, provision of new products and energy, strengthening implementation of sustainable forest management, etc.
        - Strengthening cooperation in Europe; launching discussions on a legally binding agreement.
    - FE is finalizing a new 2011 State of Forests in Europe Report.
    - FE is looking at sustainability for biomass production, carbon flow, lifecycle management of wood products, adaptive capacity of forests.
    - FE is engaged in a pilot reporting process on 14 new forest types.
- Comments from ITTO
    - ITTO is open to thinking about a joint C&I process meeting/discussion.
    - ITTO was one of the pioneers in developing an SFM C&I process. They've been working on it since the 1990s. It established C&I for the management of natural forests.
    - The ITTO is working on operationalizing concepts of sustainable forest management in the tropics.
    - ITTO has established C&I at the national level and is the only process to use C&I at the forest management unit level.
    - They established a manual on how to implement C&I and are implementing a training approach through national training workshops.
    - Many member countries are using ITTO C&I as a basis for establishing their own standards.
    - ITTO is also involved in an ongoing project in Africa to facilitate knowledge and capacity building, as they have done within their own member countries.

- ITTO is also using C&I as the basis of reporting, including producing a report on SFM in the Tropics for 2005. Another report will be launched this year (2011), as part of the International Year of Forests.
- Currently doing a study (with the help of Stephanie Caswell) to look at the impact of C&I on improving forest practices on the ground. They have spent an estimated $30 million USD on C&I – What is there to show for this investment? They recognize that SFM C&I are very worthwhile for national reporting, but what is not clear is their impact on sustainable forest management on the ground. The global study:
  - Is also looking at ITTO, Terra Potta Process, Amazon Basin, African Timber Organization, Forest Europe, Montréal Process and asking whether C&I improve forest practices at the management unit level.
  - Forest Europe and Montréal Process have used their processes more for national reporting and less for on-the-ground work.
  - The study is expected to look at what other sectors are doing around C&I frameworks, e.g., developing new indicators around biomass.
  - What does C&I do for strategic planning, forest planning, and forest certification?
  - Request – 2 surveys
    - The first survey will be sent to national and sub-national governmental agencies.
      - ***Action:*** **Participants present were asked to review and update list of contacts at the national and sub-national level and send corrections to Stephanie Caswell at caswellsj@aol.com. (see attached pdf document)**
    - The second survey is targeted at non-governmental organizations, agencies and industry.
- The expected next step in the survey will be a small informal meeting of experts proposed for September or October 2011.

- Comments from the Montréal Process
  - MP countries recently completed our third set of national reports under the Montréal Process C&I.
  - The 7th criterion was agreed to in 2007; latest set of reports includes reporting on this criterion.
  - Produced a 4th edition on the Montréal Process booklet.
  - Produced publication for WFC in 2009.

- Forest Europe
    - Forest Europe is willing to collaborate and coordinate with the Montréal Process but all should be aware that the chair and secretariat for Forest Europe are expected to pass from Norway to Spain at end of 2011.
    - The MPWG will have an opportunity to make a statement at the Ministerial Conference in Oslo, Norway.
    - Montréal Process is an observer in Forest Europe.
- Upcoming meetings – During this discussion a number of meetings were put on the table for consideration, discussion and possible coordination. These meetings provide both opportunities and considerations for scheduling any coordination meeting between C&I processes. Meetings discussed included:
    - 8-10 March 2011: Japan's upcoming *International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest Management*
    - March 2011: United Nations-Economic Commission on Europe
    - April 2011: Workshop in Valdivia, Chile on improving technical capacity and methods for monitoring biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in Latin America
    - 14-16 June 2011: Forest Europe Ministerial Conference in Oslo, Norway
    - September/October 2011: ITTO hosting an informal meeting of experts related to their survey
    - September 2011: Proposed timeframe for a formal MPWG meeting; topics continue to be discussed and the date is uncertain
    - 2012: COFO
- It is recognized that uncertainty exists on whether any of these meetings offer an opportunity for all MPWG countries to come together in one location, and it is acknowledged that Montréal Process members can't attend all of these meetings.
- Canada is willing to host a MPWG meeting but was waiting for a resolution to the questions surrounding a joint meeting with Forest Europe and ITTO since the other processes may have suggested meeting in one of their member countries. As such a suggestion was not made, Canada can begin planning for a MPWG meeting in 2011, assuming concurrence of all member countries.

**Joint Montréal Process, Forest Europe, ITTO Meeting Discussion**

- A proposal was discussed to organize a meeting among the 3 processes this spring prior to the Kotka meeting. The proposed discussion was to take advantage of one of the planned spring meetings and hold a side meeting where the three processes could come together to discuss the topics outlined about, but with specific timing to allow for coordinated input into the FRA.
- The Chile meeting has a geographic focus that is limited, but it is an opportunity.

- Opportunities for harmonizing terminology, definitions, criteria, and indicators have been explored in the past and some feel have been exhausted. The question on the table is, if there is no opportunity or appetite for further work on harmonization, then what is the opportunity for further coordination?
- Forest Europe Comments
    - Forest Europe is interested and looking forward to an exchange of information and lessons learned between processes but are quite busy up to June 2011.
    - At present Forest Europe is in the intense process of preparing for a Ministerial meeting and has limited capacity to participate in a joint meeting prior to that Ministerial Conference
    - Sustainable forest management and its challenges are the core interest of Forest Europe.
    - Forest Europe developed guidance on afforestation and reforestation.
- Comments from Japan on the SFM Workshop 8-10 March 2011
    - As circulated to MP members earlier, Japan is planning to hold an international seminar on SFM on 8-10 March 2011, in Tokyo, in collaboration with ITTO and potentially Forest Europe. Japan will cover costs, including travel costs, for developing countries.
        - ***Actions:*** **(1) Japan distributed a draft concept paper and requests comments from MP countries (see attached pdf). (2) Japan would also like to ask the US, as current MPWG chair, to make a presentation at this seminar on behalf of the MP.**
    - The workshop is also about lessons learned and opportunities and is anticipated to explore the link between C&I and certification.
    - Japan would like to review achievements over the last 20 years since Rio, and contribute to Rio+20 process.
    - Another goal of the workshop, for which they received positive responses, is to provide assistance to participants from developing countries.
    - Japan would also like to propose a MP informal ad-hoc meeting on 7 March 2011, in Tokyo, as the back-to-back meeting with the international SFM workshop. The nature of this meeting is informal and voluntary. Japan has offered to cover the costs, including travel costs, for developing countries. The agenda for this informal meeting will be developed in coordination with MP member countries. This meeting is not being proposed as a MPWG initiative; it is an initiative of Japan.
        - ***Action:*** **Japan requests comments, potential agenda topics and likely attendance from MP countries regarding the SFM Workshop and informal MP Meeting. Please respond to Mr. Goto at takeshi_goto@nm.maff.go.jp no later than 21 February 2011. Yuuichi Satou will contact members of Forest**

**Europe and ITTO as well as MPWG members explaining upcoming meetings and timing.**

**Summary**

- There was expressed support and a strong willingness to have coordination and collaboration among the 3 processes.
- All are mindful that a number of meetings are planned.
- SFM workshop in Japan would provide a good opportunity for a sharing of lessons learned as an add-on to the 3-day workshop.
- A formal MP meeting later in 2011 would give ITTO time to develop its survey and for Forest Europe to get through its Ministerial meeting in June 2011.
    - ***Action:*** **Liaison Office and Canada will start looking at dates for the next MPWG meeting (possibly September in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada)**
- Regarding the desire to have coordinated FRA input leading up to Kotka, there was agreement that due to intense workload and preparation for upcoming meetings (listed above) there was too little time at this point to prepare for a formal coordination meeting. Timeframes are just too short. It was recognized that not all will be set and done in June 2011 in Kotka; and there will be the timeframe between Kotka and the next COFO where opportunities exist for input into the FRA process. Suggestion is to explore opportunities for harmonization first then prioritize and make strategic choices.
- All present agreed that this has been an opportunistic gathering of members.
    - ***Action:*** **US to summarize discussion and send to all 12 MP member countries.**
- Japan's informal meeting in March offers an opportunity to seek input on the agenda for the next MPWG, as well as furthering discussion with ITTO and Forest Europe on a coordinated meeting.
- The group recognized and thanked Cathy Karr-Colque for organizing and providing the meeting space. In addition, the group thank Peter Gaulke for facilitating the discussion.