



www.montrealprocess.org

AIDE-MÉMOIRE

14th Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting

Tokyo, Japan

3rd – 7th December 2012

Summary

At the 22nd meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada the Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was tasked to *'identify appropriate indicators and mechanisms that provide a stronger foundation for describing how sustainably managed forests conserve soil and water resources and related services and functions'* (section 10: http://www.montrealprocess.org/Resources/Meeting_Reports/Working_Group/22_e.shtml).

The work was initiated at the 13th TAC meeting in Russia in July 2012. This meeting built upon the findings from the Russia meeting and resulted in the development of a number of recommendations to be presented at the 23rd MPWG meeting in July 2013, and follow up actions for the TAC in preparation for that meeting.

The meeting was opened by Ichiro Nagame, Montréal Process Working Group member, Japan and was attended by representatives of 7 of the 12 Montréal Process countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, and the USA) and observers from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Forest Europe (FE), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Observatory of Forests of Central Africa (OFAC). Montréal Process representatives from Canada participated in sections of the meeting via web streaming technology. ([Participant list](#))

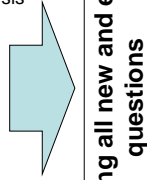
Agenda

The [agenda](#) for the meetings activities was tabled and discussed. The meeting had seven agenda items. Backgrounds to items 1, 2 and 3 and the overall goals of the meeting were [presented](#) briefly in overview at the start of the meeting and then in more detail in each agenda item.

MP C&I have focussed traditionally on the 'forest footprint' and the state of the forests, but increasingly forests are being seen in the context of the wider environment and a multi-sectoral situation. New questions are being asked of forest data such as the effects of the forest on the wider environment. Forest Ecosystem Services are one of the emerging interests globally. The question for the TAC therefore was to evaluate if the current set of C&I can accommodate these new questions and, if not, what changes to either the indicators or the technical notes would be required to enable the MP to better respond. Work is outlined in the following figure.

Common goal

- Gap Analysis
 - Are there any indicator gaps?
 - Use DPSIR framework in gap analysis
 - Use MEA Ecosystem framework in gap analysis
- Gap filling
 - What new indicators if any do we need?
- Existing Indicator improvements
 - Technical notes
 - Land use change
 - Scaling
 - Planted vs natural forests
 - Spatial components
- Dialogue and communication
 - Fact sheets



Agenda items 1, 2 and 3 focussed on using two frameworks (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and Drivers Pressure State Impact Response) to assist in a gap analysis of the indicator set, and an analysis of criterion 4 technical notes to identify needed improvements. There were strong common threads in these three agenda items.

Agenda Item 1: Accounting for land use change, ability to report on native and planted forests in Criterion 4, and incorporation of spatial components into existing soil and water indicators.

A [paper](#) prepared by Australia was presented by Andrew Wilson. The paper covered possible amendments to the technical notes related to soil and water indicators in criterion 4. Discussion of the paper followed.

Key points from the discussion were:

- There would be benefits from revisions to the technical notes for C4 to better reflect aspects of water yield and regulation and to highlight the difficulty of scaling of soil and water data from the local to the national level. These modifications could be to both the chapeau and the specific indicator notes.

Agenda item 2: Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) – development of new indicators

A [paper](#) and presentation prepared by Japan and the TAC Convenor, was presented by Satoru Miura and Tim Payn that outlined the concept of FES and the use of the MEA framework to organise the C&I set into the four service types – supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural. A second [paper](#) on FES prepared by the USA was also presented. A [presentation](#) was also made on the outline of a possible new soil erosion indicator based on new research by Japan, and described the mechanism of developing soil functions through interactions between forests and soils. Discussion then focussed on whether the existing indicators could accommodate soil and water related ecosystem services such as water yield.

Key points from the discussion were:

- Ecosystem services related to soil and water are covered in multiple indicators across the set (4.1.a, 4.2.a, 4.2.b, 4.3.a, 4.3.b, 6.1.c, 6.3.c, 6.3.d, 6.4.a, and 6.4.b) and the group agreed that there was no need for additional indicators – for example including water supply indicators within C4 as the existing indicators could accommodate this concept with some revision to the technical notes in 4.3.b.
- Significant discussion occurred on indicator 6.1.c 'Revenue from forest environmental services' in relation to its scope, breadth and intent. Key points from the discussion included whether revenue was too specific a term, as opposed to value; or whether non-financial terms such as

amount or quantity of the service should be used. Also discussed was the evolution of the term environmental services to ecosystem services and whether this was now a more appropriate term to use.

- The new soil erosion indicator proposed by Japan was seen more as a methodological approach that would support indicator 4.2.b 'Area and percent of forest land with significant soil degradation'. The work presented highlighted the importance of maintaining stable forest floor cover to protect soil and the need for increased awareness of the impact of loss of forest floor on the soil resource and the potential of subsequent forest degradation.
- It was recognised that when new methods such as this were developed that there was currently no mechanism to share these advances across the MP and the idea of a 'methods library' section on the MP web site would be very helpful and that this library of methods should allow linking of methods to specific indicators.

Agenda Item 3: Drivers:Pressure:State:Impact:Response (DPSIR) framework

Tim Barnard, New Zealand, tabled a [paper](#) and associated [presentation](#) on the DPSIR approach which was followed by discussions.

Key points from the discussion were:

- The DPSIR framework is potentially a very helpful adjunct to the MP indicator set for analysing the effects of either external pressures on forests or on the impacts of possible changes to policy or regulation. The meeting agreed it would be useful to undertake a number of soil and water related case studies to present the potential value of the approach to the 23rd WG meeting.

Overall conclusions from Agenda items 1, 2 and 3.

Overall the indicator set and technical notes are comprehensive and robust and only minor changes to indicator 6.1.c and the technical notes for Criterion 4 would be needed to fully accommodate new concepts such as forest ecosystem services related to soil and water.

Recommendations to the Working Group.

- 1. **Criterion 4 Technical Notes:** That the Working Group adopts revised technical notes associated with Criterion 4 to give greater profile to aspects of water regulation, and the issue of reporting scale and spatial components for water and soil related indicators, and also to enhance the descriptions of rationales of indicators to illustrate mechanisms of soil related functions.*
- 2. **Indicator 6.1.c:** That the Working Group accepts the following variations to indicator 6.1.c.: (i) that the title of indicator 6.1.c 'Revenue from forest environmental services' be modified to replace 'environmental' with 'ecosystem' and the glossary of terms updated with a current internationally recognised definition of forest ecosystem services; (ii) that the technical notes for indicator 6.1.c be updated to reflect the modification to the title; and that the full technical notes be reviewed for consistency of the term 'ecosystem'.*
- 3. **DPSIR approach:** That the Working Group considers and discusses case studies of the application of DPSIR frameworks for both reporting and forward looking activities to determine the value of the approach to support the implementation of Criteria and Indicators.*
- 4. **Capacity Building:** That the MPWG establishes a 'methods sharing' section on the MP website, organised by indicator, that will allow sharing of new and existing methods (such as Japan's new soil erosion method) across the MP community to enhance capacity building*

Agenda Item 4: Forest Soil and Water Fact sheet development planning

Peter Gaulke (US) [presented](#) on mechanisms for display of soil and water indicators and led a discussion on potential methods for displaying or communicating supporting information related to soil and water indicator and “telling their story”. The focus of the “mechanism” for communicating this information was on use of the recently revised Montréal Process website. Methods displayed for communicating this information on the web included “Cob-Web Graphs”, various levels of fact sheets, “State of the Ecosystem” displays, success stories, “State of the Forests” briefs, and reports.

This topic included some discussion on the scale at which displaying soil and water information would be most meaningful – Watershed Scale, Landscape Scale, Catchment, Basin or Riverine System, Sub-National Reporting, and National Reporting. Peter then gave a presentation on a method the US is using to rate the condition of watersheds, known as the Watershed Condition Framework.

This led to a review and discussion on use of the Montréal Process website for presentation of communication materials and a number of enhancements to the web site were proposed and discussed.

Recommendations to the Working Group

1. **Modifications to the MP Website:** *That the WG adopts the following changes to the website:*
 - a. *Materials which communicate the value of the MPC&I Framework, importance of Sustainable Forest Management, and highlight the MP as a “Vital Process”, that is, materials which align with “Addressing Global Forest Challenges” can be posted on the main page in the middle section of the left hand bar.*
 - b. *An “Other Resources” section is added under the “Resources” section of the left hand bar. This “Other Resources” will include links to other C&I processes and, based on Working Group guidance, country specific examples that apply C&I frameworks.*
 - c. *That options for a ‘conversation forum’ on the web site is considered and developed to enhance discussion on topical issues and technical exchanges*
2. **Website content:** *That at the 23rd meeting the Working Group discuss and adopt where agreed, proposed ground rules developed by the TAC covering the scope of what material types are appropriate for inclusion on the web site (www.MontrealProcess.org)*
3. **Mechanisms for communication:** *That the Working Group continues to explore the role of social networking media in enhancing communications and capacity building*

Agenda Item 5: International Steeplands workshop design and planning

Further discussions were held on the concept of an international workshop on ‘harvesting damage, mitigation, best management practises and training needs related to steepland forests’. This concept was first developed at the 13th TAC meeting in Russia. It was suggested that the meeting could be hosted in conjunction with the 25th Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting to be held in Rotorua in November 2013. The TAC Convenor undertook to explore the concept with Patrick Durst of FAO, Karl Kleemayr of IUFRO Division 8.03 Natural Hazards and Risk Management, and the New Zealand forest sector. The concept will be presented to the 23rd MPWG with recommendations and for discussion.

Agenda Item 6: Format of TAC report to 23rd Working Group meeting

Content of TAC report to MPWG

- Summary of TAC activity and Recommendations – TAC Convenor
- DPSIR case studies – NZ lead (Tim Barnard)
- Revised indicator title for 6.1.c and technical notes for C4 (and wider w.r.t. consistency regarding ecosystem services terminology) – Australia lead (Andrew Wilson)
- Ground rules for scope of material to be presented via the website – USA lead (Peter Gaulke)
- Discussion note and recommendations for steepland workshop concept - (TAC Convenor)

Agenda Item 7: Advancing the Joint Communications Plan

Peter Gaulke (USA) presented a [paper](#) prepared by the USA and New Zealand and an associated [presentation](#) providing an update on recent communication product successes, progress of the Communications Sub-Group's activities, communication challenges, progress in coordination with partners, and potential next steps. A robust discussion took place with the following ideas brought forward:

- Continued work on harmonizing and partnering with other C&I processes is yielding successes. 'A voluntary partnership making a difference'.
- There is value in progressing the sustainable forests partnership or "Forest Indicators Partnership" brand.
- Opportunities for videos and "iconography" (see The Danish Wood Initiative's "[Wood is Good](#)" video) will continue to be explored. Whatever is developed needs to stand out.
- Possible topics for communication materials include the role of forests in human well-being, ecosystem services, forestry as a business, and forests "making a difference".
- Consider messaging that talk directly to member country ministries and agencies, through materials presented at international bodies, such as UNFF.

The TAC provided updates to the short-term communications calendar (2-year or less) originally developed during the 22nd Working Group Meeting (Victoria, Canada). This short-term calendar lists meetings and events for which communications products could be developed and presented. This updated list is as follows:

2013

- 23rd Montréal Process Working Group Meeting (8-12, July, Australia)
- 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests (16 - 21 May, Portugal)
- United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF-10 (8-19 April, Turkey)
- FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference (2013/14)
- The European Forest Week (9-13, December)
- Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (November – New Zealand)
- International Conference on Boreal Forests and Climate Change (September – Russia)

2014

- International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress (5-11, October, Salt Lake City, USA)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report (2014/15)

2015

- Launch of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment
- Montréal Process 20th Anniversary
- End of the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work (2007–2015)
- United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF-11
- 2015 World Forestry Congress (September, South Africa)

The TAC then discussed (1) common concepts, issues or themes to promote, (2) intended audience, (3) key messages, and (4) likely communication medium or delivery mechanisms. The following recommendations were put forth for consideration by the Working Group:

Recommendations to the Working Group

1. **Communications priorities:** *Given the timing of MP meetings, timeline to complete communications products and limited resources, it is recommended the Working Group focus communications products on (i) the next meeting of the United National Forum on Forests (UNFF10) in April, 2013, (ii) the IUFRO World Congress in 2014, and (iii) the UN FAO World Forestry Congress in 2015.*
2. **UNFF 10 Communication focus:** *It is recommended the communication products would focus on highlighting the importance, value and recent successes of C&I Process partnerships. :*
 - Common theme to promote: *“Better Partnerships, Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Forest Conditions” which demonstrates the value of these partnership;*
 - Intended audience: *UNFF Membership, Member Country leadership and policy makers;*
 - Likely communication delivery mechanisms: *Handouts, Leaflets, and Forum presentation.*

Additional agenda items

Forest Indicators Partnership

Further discussions were held on the Forest Indicators Partnership concept first developed at the 22nd Working Group meeting in Canada and the scope of such a partnership across C&I groups such as Montreal Process, ITTO, Forest Europe and OFAC. Discussions focussed on opportunities to be gained from enhanced communication, the ability to address common technical needs or issues, and the potential for capacity building from a technical perspective. The [Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#) was discussed as a model example that might be considered. It was noted that it is a formal entity or project with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), underpinned by the

World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Maria Palenova (Russia) undertook to explore the concept with colleagues from the World Bank in Moscow who attended the 13th TAC meeting and include the topic as an agenda item on the next MPWG phone conference in January 2013.

International Seminar on Streamlining Forest Based reporting.

Montréal Process TAC representatives attended the seminar and Toshihiro Shima, (Montréal Process Liaison Office, Japan) [presented](#) an overview of the Montreal Process and its activities and participated in the following panel discussion. Ichiro Nagame, Working Group member, Japan, facilitated the panel discussion. The [seminar](#) presented a variety of perspectives on forest based reporting by agencies such as ITTO, FE, FAO, CBD and the Montréal Process.

Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) discussions

Montréal Process delegates also contributed to the CFRQ and offered continuing support to the FRA process by promoting links between the MP and member country FRA correspondents to facilitate FRA activities where possible. The USA and Canada will provide review and report preparation support to the FRA 2015 for the North American region, and other member countries will undertake individual activities in support.

Agenda for 23rd Working Group meeting

Informal discussions were held to identify potential agenda items for the 23rd Working Group meeting to be held in 2013. Australia informally confirmed their willingness to host the meeting in Adelaide, South Australia in the first week of July 2013. Official notification and an invitation to Working Group members is expected in early 2013.

Hakone Field Tour

The participants of the meeting were hosted by the Japanese Forestry Agency, the Forest and Forest Products Research Institute, and the Japan Forest Technology Association for a field tour of the Hakone forestry region to demonstrate the field survey method of Japanese National Forest Inventory especially focusing on soil erosion survey.

Next steps for the TAC:

- Report back to Montréal Process Working Group phone meeting 23rd January 2013.
- Communicate findings to TAC members of countries unable to attend and seek input
- Establish regular Skype/phone/email contact schedule with TAC for follow up actions
- Undertake agreed actions
 - Indicator and technical note revision process
 - Draft for circulation – mid February – developed by small group
 - Interactions (track changes) by TAC participants
 - Phone conferences as required
 - TAC sign off mid March
 - Develop and compile DPSIR case studies
 - Develop steepland workshop discussion paper
 - Draft ground rules for website content
 - Prepare final report and recommendations to MPWG by April 1st 2013

Acknowledgements:

The TAC acknowledges the support of the Japanese Forestry Agency in hosting, organising and supporting the meeting, and also the involvement and significant input of UNECE, FAO, ITTO, and OFAC to the meeting. It extends especial appreciation to the members of International Forestry Cooperation Office of the Forestry Agency for their contributions to the very successful outcomes of the meeting.

The TAC would also like to thank the Japanese Forestry Agency, and especially staff of the Tokyo Kanagawa District Forest Office (headed by Mr. Toshizumi Sakai, DFO), and staff of FFPRI and JAFTA for a very successful field visit.

FAO would like to thank the MP TAC and the Forestry Agency of Japan for the opportunity to participate in the MP TAC meeting, International Seminar and CFRQ Partners meetings. The joint meeting with the TAC helped demonstrate the value of continued technical exchange between the CFRQ partners and the TAC.

*Dr Tim Payn, Convenor, Technical Advisory Committee
March 2013*