



## Aide Memoire

31<sup>st</sup> Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

Republic of Korea (physical/virtual)

3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Aide Memoire and accompanying Annexes:

Annex A – List of Registrants

Annex B – Agenda

Technical Annexes (provided in separate document):

Annex C – Presentation by Australia

Annex D – Presentation by China

Annex E – Presentation by Korea

Annex F – Presentation by New Zealand

Annex G – Presentation by USA

Annex H – Report on TAC Activities

Annex I – Update on Montréal Process Synthesis Report

Annex J – Document on Micro Symposia

Annex K – Document on OECMs

## Participation

The meeting included 41 people from 8 Montréal Process countries (Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United States of America) and 1 person from UNECE participated in the meeting. The registrant list is available at [Annex A](#).

### 1) Opening the Meeting

The 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group was opened by the host country, the Republic of Korea (Korea).

### 2) Transfer and Nomination of Chair

The Chair of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group, Linda Heath (USA) transferred the role of Chair to the nominated candidate, Yong Kwan KIM, Korea Forest Service, Korea. The group endorsed the nomination.

### 3) Welcome Participants

The Chair expressed appreciation to Linda Heath, Liaison Office, TAC Convenor, and all of delegates participating both on-site and on-line, welcomed participants, and reflected on the history of the Montréal Process, the development of the Criteria and Indicator Framework (C&I) and its leading role in forest policies, national forest inventory programs and forest certification systems in many countries around the world. The Chair hoped that the 31<sup>st</sup> MPWG Meeting could serve as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between member countries.

Members viewed a video presentation from Dr. Hyun Park, President of National Institute of Forest Science, Korea. Dr. Hyun Park welcomed the delegates, expressed thanks to Linda Heath, TAC Convenor and Liaison Office, and recognized the importance of MP in the improvement of SFM and the development of practical policies and the recent international discussion on emerging issues, such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service, deforestation and COVID-19.

### 4) Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Jingpin Lei, the Liaison Officer introduced the provisional agenda to the group. No changes were proposed, and the Working Group adopted the agenda without amendment. The agenda is provided at [Annex B](#).

### 5) Nomination of Meeting Officers

Representatives from Canada, China, and Korea volunteered to serve as Meeting Officers.

### 6) Report of the Liaison Officer

The Liaison Officer, Dr. Jingpin Lei expressed gratitude to the TAC Convenor and TAC members for their active involvement and tremendous efforts on the development of the synthesis report, especially Canada and New Zealand for their financial support and their work on graphic production and technical edits. She also expressed appreciation to Korea for hosting the 31<sup>st</sup> MPWG Meeting and America for coordination of the WFC side event together with Korea, and welcomed Mr. Roman Michalak from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She briefly introduced activities undertaken since last MPWG Meeting, including joining the TAC meeting, assisting the Chair for the MPWG Meeting preparation, acting as bridge for

the communication and collaboration between members, and participating in the UNFF Expert Group Meeting. USA acknowledged the work of the Liaison Officer along with Canada and New Zealand.

## 7) Country Experiences with Sustainable Forest Management

Australia, Canada, China, Korea, New Zealand and USA gave presentations on their country experiences with Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) for the first day of the meeting.

### Australia

Australia gave an update on their next 5-yearly State of the Forests Report based on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators and the FAO Asia-Pacific Primary Forests Reporting Workshop on improving reporting on tropical and subtropical primary forests in the Asia-Pacific region hosted by Australia in November 2021. These reports are now available online and are based on the MP C&I. Details about the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package Initiative were also shared. Australia has launched a pilot initiative to improve carbon absorption and biodiversity in forests. Australia acknowledged the MP members and TAC Convenor for their active engagement.

### Canada

Canada provided an update on its 2021 State of the Forest Report. Canada briefly introduced some of the key elements, such as how much forest does Canada have? How disturbances shape its forests? Is timber being harvested sustainably? How does the forest sector contribute to Canada's economy? How is the forest sector changing? How Covid-19 impacted the forests, how the forests adapted in the context of Covid-19 and the new program to plant 2 billion trees as a nature-based climate solution. The main features of the report include a map of an ecosystem, challenges of natural disasters, and the way forest influences people. The report also looks at the effects of COVID-19 and how the forest sector responded by increasing demand of paper-based products and masks.

### China

China gave an update on China's Pilot Practices on sustainable forest management, including the challenges and issues faced by China's forest management, goals and significance of China's Forest Management Pilots, the overview of the pilots and the lessons learned from the pilots, such as highlighting the pertinent role of forest management planning and improving the supportive policies for forest managers, establishing an evaluation mechanism for plot delineation and mapping, strengthening expert's serve for the forest management decision-making and enhancing specialist training and skills training scheme. China also shared that China revised its Forest Law in 2019 and the amendments emphasized the legal status and roles played by forest management from legislation perspective.

### Korea

Korea gave an update on their recent efforts to achieve SFM and carbon neutrality, reflected the history of rehabilitation in Korea and shared key factors for its success including community engagement; strong leadership; policy implementation including the National Forest Plan; and economic development. Korea's greening policy has transformed forest conservation and management. Korea concluded the presentation with the current status of forests in Korea and their efforts to achieve SFM.

## New Zealand

New Zealand provided an update on proposed legislative changes to manage afforestation as well as a new SFM standard. The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) provides an incentive for afforestation by providing NEW Zealand Units (NZUs) for carbon sequestration. The commercial purpose of the forest has shifted from timber production to carbon absorption. The new permanent forest is on the ETS market, which can be risky for striking a balance between environmental effect, and biodiversity. In order to reduce the risk, New Zealand is trying to decrease the number of registrations for ETS. It does not mean that it will entirely block the registrations but discourage the sharp rise by offering incentives. Australia and New Zealand are considering the endorsement of PEFC of each country, and New Zealand has recently finished the review of FSC. All of the information is available on the web.

## USA

As reflected in various Montreal Process reporting indicators, forest area in the USA is relatively stable and forest stocking volumes are increasing. However, natural disturbances, often exacerbated by climate change, and forest fragmentation in populated areas continue to present challenges to forest sustainability. Disturbance impacts, notably those associated with wildfires, drought, and insects are of particular concern. Deforestation and fragmentation are also being monitored. Employment in wood processing continues to decline subject to cyclical variation and long-term secular trends in the wood products sector. Roundwood production is slightly on the rise, but it has not yet recovered to the level seen prior to the 2008 economic crisis. This decline negatively impacts forest workers, particularly those in rural areas. Like New Zealand, the U.S. focuses on forestation and using timber products to achieve carbon sequestration goals.

### 8) Report on TAC Activities after 30<sup>th</sup> WG meeting

The TAC Convenor expressed gratitude to TAC members, Working Group members and everyone who has been assisting all the activities that TAC has been undertaking. He briefly introduced the activities including regular virtual meetings held fortnightly for the development of MP Synthesis Report and the presentation for the WFC side event. As the Synthesis Report is not complete, the TAC Convenor presented a revised timeline for final publication. It is expected to be submitted to the Working Group by the end of June/early July. After the Working Group's review, the report will be published in mid-August. Key findings of the report will be presented at the World Forestry Congress side event to be held on May 4, 2022. Canada has volunteered to translate the report from English to French, and Argentina has volunteered to translate from English to Spanish.

The activities on international networking were also shared, including the side event jointly held by FAO, IUFRO, Forest Europe, ITTO and Montreal Process. Upcoming activities were noted, including the IUFRO World Congress to be held in Sweden in 2024, and the possible IUFRO C&I Working Party virtual conference in 2023, to invite the Working Group to think about how to engage in the activities.

New Zealand suggested that the publication task should not simply involve uploading the synthesis report online. For wider distribution, New Zealand suggested to consider other viable ways for launching the report. They also emphasized the WFC side event as an opportunity for promotion.

#### Action Item 01

TAC to consider innovative ways for launching the MP Synthesis report to incorporate in the communication strategy (link to Action item 3)

### 9) Discuss the Montreal Process Synthesis Report and Process for Adoption

The TAC Convenor briefly reflected on the goals, progress and next steps of the MP Synthesis Report. The Report is expected to be reviewed by Working Group in late June, signed off in mid-August and launched

afterwards. Canada suggested to develop a communication plan and create a list of potential events to celebrate the release of the report. Canada also suggested to celebrate the release of the report in different language circumstances given the report's availability in multiple languages (English, Spanish and French). The TAC Convenor noted that should member countries want to translate the text of the report into additional languages, it would be straight forward to incorporate the text into the graphics template. In addition, the report could be released via existing networks, including the FAO and the UNECE newsletters. MP members agreed that the report could be released via members' network. Observer from UNECE expressed their readiness that they would be happy to help the share the report through their communication channels. China asked for clarity on how to sign off the report. The TAC Convenor explained that the report could be signed off intersessionally by the Working Group by Email. New Zealand said it would be a good opportunity to launch the report at the APEC meeting to be held in second half of August 2022.

#### **Action Item 02**

The TAC to finalise the synthesis report using the process as outlined by the Convenor including:

- Creating an infographic summarizing the MP Synthesis report (contingent upon resources)
- Obtain Working Group email sign off by exception and provide caveat (propose to send e-mail with timeframe given to provide response, and no response means approval)
- Following up with New Zealand regarding suggested event in August as launch possibility. Opportunity to keep the momentum going to get to APEC forestry ministerial meeting(mid-august)

#### **Action Item 03**

TAC and Working Group to develop a communication plan (to include list of potential celebration opportunities) around the release of the report and circulate it as soon as it is drafted

#### **Action Item 04**

Canada to reach out to certain less communicative countries directly to encourage their participation

## 10) TAC Convenor Potential Candidate

New Zealand invited the group to think about the potential candidate of the TAC Convenor, and asked for the possibility of co-convenor role for contingency planning. Canada asked for further understanding of TAC Convenor role and responsibility, time investment etc. The idea of a new candidate from the new TAC members was welcomed. The TAC Convenor proposed a slow integration to share all necessary hand-off information/details, etc. The TAC Convenor noted he was available to continue in the role while a succession plan was developed.

#### **Action Item 05**

TAC Convenor, with support from TAC and WG members to develop a succession process for the Convenor role, and to clarify the Terms of Reference (TOR) that outline the role's responsibilities necessary for member countries to better understand the role and what it entails in terms of workload for discussion at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting.

#### **Action Item 06**

TAC Convenor to draft a think piece on the capture and management of historical TAC related knowledge for discussion at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting.

## 11) Micro Symposia

New Zealand shared the proposal for MP Micro-Symposia, providing an overview, goals and proposed process, and invited the members to comment on the proposals and the suggest topics for Micro-Symposia such as reporting on Primary Forest and Degraded Forests. New Zealand outlined 5 key goals of the Micro-Symposia:

1. Develop greater understanding of challenges faced in developing and using C&I for SFM
2. Progress the continued development and understanding of SFM through MP C&I
3. Provide a forum to share knowledge, enable learning from Member country experiences, and progress topics of interest highlighted in MP meetings
4. Provide a forum to discuss emerging trends and topics that could affect approaches to describing SFM
5. Broadly promote and encourage wider participation in the Montreal Process and the use of C&I

The Liaison Office indicated the overlap of the Micro-Symposia with Working Group Meetings and TAC meetings, and asked for clarification on the nature of the Micro-Symposia and the difference between the Micro-Symposia and WG meeting or TAC meeting. Micro-Symposia would be an opportunity to bring in experts that have not been able to engage with the WG, and would provide an opportunity to continue work outside of the WG and TAC meetings.

These would be slightly different to WG meetings being more focused on a specific topic. Would allow these members to engage outside of the WG, it would be open to all MP countries but not mandatory to participate. Micro-symposia will provide an opportunity to dive into details and technical conversations about very specific topics, which cannot be addressed during TAC or WG meetings.

Canada shared some examples that have come up post-WG meetings, such as Lidar technologies. Proposed that these could be an introduction to some of the formalities on a voluntary basis for succession planning and transference of knowledge among the countries. Reiterated that this is a useful context to forward discussions on topics of international concern and relevance, and help relay these into the WG focused conversations and objectives in a streamlined way.

Japan highlighted the workload of member countries and the importance of outreach and how it will be conducted. Japan also stressed importance of voluntary contribution and non-binding nature of decisions and discussions that come out of the Micro-Symposia.

Members did not reach a consensus on this issue. Members raised concerns regarding TAC's workload and reiterated the strictly voluntary nature of this initiative. However, the Working Group agreed that New Zealand and Australia will pilot the Micro Symposia. Canada, Korea and the USA expressed their interests.

### **Action Item 07**

New Zealand to take the lead on the pilot for Micro-symposia and will reach out to members who have expressed interest prior to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting.

## 12) Discussion of OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Mechanisms)

CBD defined OECMs in 2018—key concept is that they are protected areas management for social and economic outcomes that exist outside of protected areas. They are interested in better understanding how member countries are answering to this and their approach to implementing this definition.

Australia recapped that several WG members previously noted the value in discussing this (e.g. in context of production forests, challenges on informal conservation, different age classes, reporting on disturbances, how to capture small-scale harvests that have conservation objectives, how to promote biodiversity in certain plantations). Needs to discuss merits around these protections, and highlighting that this is CBD's role in doing

so especially in relation to other reporting frameworks. Australia reflected on the definition of OECM provided by the CBD and the discussion at the last MPWG meeting, and invited the group to discuss the following items:

1. Under your reporting, how do you capture conservation management that occurs in forests that are not within formal protected areas?
2. What are the key challenges you face in reporting on this category of land?
3. Would it be useful to request the Technical Advisory Committee to document, and compare and contrast, reporting approaches among Montreal Process members?

New Zealand noted that this data has not been a part of concerted national data collection processes, is held by various entities, and there is no central repository for these data.

AUS does include this reporting but has not broken it down in some of their disturbance-prone forests (among others).

US noted that many multi-use landscapes do not fall into conservation categories, but their multiple long-term benefits can be missed or may not be easy to include. One approach is to look at forest jurisdictions separately from forest characteristics; however, each approach comes up with different results and answers. Soil and water conservation is an interesting example.

Canada noted that data on OECMs is difficult to report on. Since vast northern forests do not fall within a managed forest zone nor are they within any formal conservation construct (at least not ones established by the Crown). Land constructs that allow Indigenous communities/institutions to self-govern and define their own protected areas are ensuing—whose authorities and therefore whose data gets included? The vast majority of Canada’s lands under protection are not necessarily included under industrial management but still contribute, and each jurisdiction has different land management types that need to be considered.

China recognized the importance and benefits of the OECMs, but expressed that it would be much more appropriate for this topic to be discussed at other international mechanisms, such as CBD.

Japan noted difficulty in providing information and data related to OECMs in some countries including Japan.

Canada proposed to bring this up at a Micro-symposia to clarify the scope and objectives could help answer this issue.

#### **Action Item 08**

Australia to include OCEMs as a topic for a future pilot for a Micro-Symposium and engage relevant experts.

### **13) Montreal Process Website**

The USA reflected the recent situation of the website, which was blocked in summer 2021 and re-established in late 2021 with the new website: <https://montreal-process.org/>, then shared the near-term action items, including posting the MPWG 31 AM and the MP Synthesis Report and updating country contacts and officers. The USA highlighted the important role of Montreal Process Website and website management, and shared the upcoming WFC side event jointly held by MP, FAO, IUFRO, ITTO and Forest Europe.

Liaison Office encouraged members to update the contact and officer information in time.

Canada, New Zealand and Japan expressed gratitude for USA’s contribution on the website maintenance and operation.

#### **Action Item 09**

Website:

- USA to purchase additional years of rights
- USA to continue managing the web site for the time being

- USA to work with Liaison Office to provide explicit documentation of URL ownership and assurance of continuity
- Have a standing agenda item at all MPWG meetings that confirms the currency and requirement to review ownership of the URL

**Near-term action items:**

- Post Aide Memoire, MP synthesis report, next edition of country notable trees (Japan is on board with participating in the notable trees objectives)
- Update country contacts and officers as needed (member countries to inform USA about any changes in contact information)
- Update MP documentation related to website

## 14) The Next Meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group

The Chair called for volunteers to host the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group. Australia volunteered to hold Montréal Process Working Group 32, in 2023 in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

**Action Item 10**

Australia to begin planning the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of MPWG in coordination with the Montréal Process Working Group Current Chair and Liaison Office.

## 15) Review of the Aide Memoire

The Meeting Officer presented the initial Draft Aide Memoire action points to the Working Group for their review. All action items were accepted by their respective countries, though adjustments to some items were suggested. Subsequent draft of Aide Memoire was transmitted by the host country (Republic of Korea) to the MPWG for their final concurrence prior to finalization of the document.

**Action Item 11**

Meeting Officer to prepare second Draft Aide Memoire and distribute to WG Chair and to Liaison Officer

**Action Item 12**

Working Group Chair sends Draft Aide Memoire to MPWG for approval via a silence procedure.

## 16) Other Business

The Chair asked Members whether any other business remained to be discussed. The WG member from Canada (Judi Beck) announced her retirement and will no longer be representing Canada at the MPWG. She expressed her gratitude to all the WG members for advancing the important work of SFM.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group was closed.

## Annex A—MPWG31 List of Participants

Country/Organization	Name	Activity
Argentina	Esteban Borodowski	WG
	Natalia Acosta	TAC
Australia	Keiran Andrusko	WG
	Ellie Carmichael	WG
	Claire Howell	TAC
Canada	Judi Beck	WG
	Caroline Gosselin	Observer
	Glenda Russo	TAC
	Margot Downey	TAC
	Maureen Whelan	TAC
	Caroline Gagné	Observer
China	Talha Sadiq	Observer
	Jing Yang	WG
	Jingpin Lei	Liaison Officer
	Xuejun Wang	WG
	Sixian Zheng	WG
	Chaozong Xia	TAC
	Wenfa Xiao	TAC
Tong Shen	WG	
Japan	Tetsuo Tanimoto	WG
	Naoki Hayasaka	WG
	Hideki Kawai	WG
	Toshiya Matsuura	TAC
	Hideki Suganuma	Observer
New Zealand	Rata Muda	WG
	Tim Payn	TAC Convenor
	Sebastian Klinger	TAC
	Tim Barnard	TAC
UNECE	Roman Michalak	Observer
Republic of Korea	Yong Kwan KIM	TAC
	Kwan Ho KIM	WG
	Dong Gab CHOI	WG
	Hee HAN	TAC
	Young Hwan KIM	Observer
	Ara SEOL	Observer
	Joong Hoon SHIN	Observer
	So Hee PARK	Observer
	Won Jae CHOI	Observer
USA	Lara Murray	Observer
	Linda Heath	WG
	Guy Robertson	TAC (retired)
	Kathleen McGinley	Observer

WG : Working Group, TAC : Technical Advisory Committee

# 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group Agenda

**Day 1 - 09:00 to 11:00, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Day 2 - 09:00 to 12:30, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Seoul Time Zone (GMT+9)**

## Day 1 (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday)

Time	Topic	Moderator / Presenter
09:00 - 09:05	(1) Opening meeting (2) Nomination of MPWG Chair—Yong Kwan KIM (Korea)	Linda Heath (Current MPWG Chair, USA)
09:05 - 09:15	(3) Welcome participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement from MPWG Chair</li> <li>• Video presentation by Dr. Hyun PARK, President of the National Institute of Forest Science, Korea</li> </ul>	Yong Kwan KIM (Korea)
09:15 - 09:25	(4) Adoption of Agenda, (5) Nomination of meeting officers (6) Report from the Liaison Office	Jingpin Lei (LO)
09:25 - 10:15	(7) Country Experiences with SFM: * Alphabetical order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia (brief communication, 3-5 min)</li> <li>• Canada (brief communication, 3-5 min)</li> <li>• China (10 min)</li> <li>• Korea (10 min)</li> <li>• New Zealand (10 min)</li> <li>• USA (10 min)</li> </ul>	Yong Kwan KIM (Korea) / Country Presenters
10:15 - 10:30	(8) Report on TAC Activities after 30 <sup>th</sup> WG meeting	Tim Payn (TAC Convenor)
10:30-11:00	(9) Discuss the Montreal Process Synthesis Report and process for adoption	Tim Payn (TAC Convenor)
11:00	End of day 1	

**Day 2 (May 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday)**

Time	Topic	Moderator / Presenter
09:00 - 09:50	(9) (cont.) Discuss the Montreal Process Synthesis Report and process for adoption	Tim Payn (TAC Convenor)
09:50 - 10:10	(10) TAC convener potential candidate	Yong Kwan KIM
10:10 - 10:35	(11) Micro Symposia	Rata Muda (New Zealand)
10:35 - 11:00	(12) Discussion of OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Mechanisms)	Keiran Andrusko (Australia)
11:00 - 11:05	(13) Montreal Process website	Guy Robertson (USA)
11:05 - 11:30	Break (compile conclusions and action items for MPWG review of Aide Memoire)	
11:30 - 12:20	(14) The next MPWG meeting (15) MPWG review of the Aide Memoire (Main conclusions and action items)	Meeting officer or meeting Chair
12:20 - 12:30	(16) Any other business and closure of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada (brief announcement, 2-3 min)</li> </ul>	Yong Kwan KIM (Korea)
12:30	End of day 2	