

26th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

Yanji City, Jilin Province, P. R. China

August 1st - 5th 2016



AIDE- MÉMOIRE

The Montréal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests held its 26th meeting in Yanji, P.R. China, August 1 - 5, 2016. The Montréal Process includes Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, and Uruguay, which together represent 49% of the world's forests and 90% of the world's temperate and boreal forests. This document includes the following annexes:

Annex A - 26th Montreal Process Working Group Meeting Agenda

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Annex F - Montreal Process strategic documents

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Annex H - Principles for membership of the Montreal Process

Annex I - 2016-2017 Implementation Schedule of the Montreal Process Strategic Action Plan

Leadership Transition

Dr Andrés Meza, National Ecological Restoration Program, Chile, on behalf of the Working Group member for Chile, welcomed members and thanked China for hosting the current session. Mr Sondan Zhang, Deputy Director, Department of Forest Resource Management, State Forestry Administration, China, was nominated to serve as Chair of the Montréal Process Working Group. The Montréal Process Working Group members present unanimously endorsed his nomination. He expressed gratitude for Chile's leadership and efforts since the last Working Group meeting.

Agenda

Mr. Songdan Zhang welcomed the members to P.R. China. The Chair introduced the draft agenda, which was reviewed and adopted by the Working Group. The agenda is attached as Annex A.

Participation

The meeting included approximately 50 participants from 9 Montréal Process member countries. The meeting was greatly enhanced by the participation and contribution of the authorities and technicians of the P.R. China government. A list of participants is attached as Annex B.

1) Opening Welcome

Mr. Liu Dongsheng, vice minister of State Forestry Administration welcomed the participants from the member countries, highly evaluated the achievement of Montreal Process, and briefly introduced the development and progress on SFM in China as well as Montreal Process. He expressed his willingness that China will continually contribute to Montreal Process, and to strengthening global forest sustainable management, enhancing ecosystem security, addressing Climate Change via bilateral and multilateral corporation. Local official from the Jilin Province Government, forestry department gave a general information about the forest and forestry and extended their commitment to Sustainable forest Management.

2) China Experiences

China's activities/ progress of SFM in 2015-2016

1. Based on the C&I framework of SFM, the brief national report that using the latest data has been updated, compiled and translated into English.
2. From 2015 to 2016 both forest area and stock volume are increasing continuously and the tenure reformation and marketization process are well facilitated. Biological control technology is becoming more and more important for combating forest pest, both crisis and frequency of forest fire increased gradually but more effective monitoring system has been established. Eco-tour and under-forest economy (NFTP) has played an important role in local economy.
3. Reforms in state-owned forest areas and state owned forest farms have been carried out. The policy of banning commercial logging on key state owned natural forest may reduce the consumption of 3 million cubic meters and will benefit forest restoration. New ideas about ecosystem governance from the central government has been put into practice, such as the Eco-red line, the "mountain, river, forest, farmland, lake" life community, which contributed to improvement in all forest-related aspects.
4. Annual available cutting volume of forest resource, the significant part of "thirteenth-five-year planning", continually implement pilot study on C&I utilization in China.
5. Forest certification scheme make a great progress in recent years, and 37 different afforestation and reforestation projects about carbon sequestration was carried out.
6. Private forest sector gradually become a very important driving force for SFM. As the amount of cities titled "National Forest City" increased, urban forest has get a great achievement, the forest coverage percentage increment was 1.
7. The annual investment increased 20-29% in past 10 years.
8. National SFM Planning (2016-2050) was released by the government bringing forest management of China into a new era.
9. SFA has set 12 pilot demonstration sites which focus on the development and implementation of forest management plan, and a specific budget was established for the development and application of C&I for SFM at FMU level.
10. Some national key research projects on forest have been launched, about 2000M RMB that covered

all important aspects will be funded in next 5 years, such as forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, natural forest management, the technology to promote the productivity of those dominant Plantation, which will be very important for China to establish a solid and integrated theoretic and technique system to support SFM.

3) Introduction and appointment of the Aide Mémoire Drafting Committee

Representatives from the United States, New Zealand, Canada, and the TAC Convenor volunteered to serve on the Aide Mémoire Drafting Committee.

4) Report by the Liaison Office

The Working Group welcomed the presentation by Mr Toshimasa Masuyama, Japan, on Liaison Office activities which had been carried out since the 25th Working Group meeting.

5) Report on the 16th Technical Advisory Committee meeting and activities

The Working Group welcomed the presentation from Tim Payn, Technical Advisory Committee Convener, New Zealand, on the actions and progress of the Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee since the 25th Montréal Process Working Group meeting.

The Technical Advisory Committee completed activities associated with the XIV World Forestry Congress and convened one meeting, the 15th, hosted by Canada in Ottawa in May 2016. This meeting focused on further development of the 20 year overview report, discussed indicators related to Forest Based Ecosystem Services, and identification of emerging issues and trends in C&I. The Working Group acknowledged the contribution Canada in hosting the Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Further details can be found in the Convenor's report in [Annex C](#).

The WG agreed there was no need to proceed with further work on Indicator 6.1.c. - Revenue from forest based environmental services.

Action Item 1 - The Working Group encourages the TAC Convenor to initiate informal interactions amongst member countries to share knowledge and experience on Forest-based Ecosystem Services by October 2016.

Action Item 2 - The Working Group directed the TAC to conduct regular horizon scanning exercises to identify emerging issues, advances and developments in criteria and indicators with associated narrative and bring to the Working Group at its meetings for information and discussion.

6) 2016-2025 Montréal Process Strategic Action Plan

The Working Group welcomed the presentation from Andrew Wilson, Australia concerning the current 2016-2025 Strategic Action Plan and the actions needed to update this. The WG amended and approved the strategic directions and associated sub items as appended in [Annex D](#).

7) Development of a new Declaration

The Working Group Members considered the need for a new Declaration. It was noted that issues affecting Sustainable Forest Management have continued to evolve since the last Declaration was agreed in Quebec City in 2003. The Working Group was supportive of developing a new Declaration and discussed its intent and focus. The Working Group developed the concept for inclusion in the new declaration and a path forward for its development. A small group was established consisting of New Zealand, Russia, and China and led by New Zealand to develop the draft Declaration. A timeline for the development and release of the declaration has been established and will be included in the Implementation Plan 2016-17.

Action Item 3 - The small group will circulate the first draft of a new Montreal Process declaration to the Working Group by September 1, 2016.

8) Report on the international C&I workshop hosted by Canada in cooperation with FAO

The Working Group welcomed the presentation of findings by Canada on opportunities and advantages of collaborating with other C&I processes and other forest related fora to highlight the value of collaborative approaches between those that collect and analyse forestry information.

The Working Group thanked Canada for hosting, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the International expert workshop on strengthening collaboration on criteria and indicators (C&I) to promote and demonstrate sustainable forest management, held on May 1-3, 2016 in Ottawa. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the generous financial support provided by the FAO to Chile and Russia to facilitate their participation at the workshop. The Working Group also acknowledged the assistance of FOREST EUROPE, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in guiding the development of the workshop.

The Working Group took note of the workshop report, the 6 priority areas for action and the sub-groups of experts that have committed themselves to follow up on these actions (See workshop summary attached in [Annex E](#)).

The Working Group encouraged its members and members of the TAC to contact Simon Bridge to learn more about the work of these sub-groups of experts and consider ways that they might contribute, as individual experts, to advancing the work of these sub-groups.

Action Item 4 – The Working Group requested Canada to periodically update Working Group members on progress of the sub groups that formed around the priority areas at the Ottawa workshop up to the 27th Working Group meeting.

The Working Group also welcomed the report by Canada regarding recent developments relevant to priority area for action 1: Develop a core set of indicators to use in global forest-related reporting. The Working Group noted with interest the proposal for an Organization-led Initiative in support of the UNFF, as proposed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, tentatively planned for November 28-30, 2016, and the opportunity it may present for developing a core set of indicators to use in global forest-related reporting. The Working Group noted that the FAO, as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, will likely lead the development of the Organization-led Initiative agenda. As such, the Working Group will express to the FAO its interest in the Organization-led Initiative and its willingness to contribute to the Organization-led Initiative, as appropriate and subject to available resources.

Action Item 5 – Chile, as past Chair of the Working Group and participant in the Informal Inter-agency Expert Group Chaired by FAO, will, by August 15, 2016, inform FAO of the contact details of the new Working Group Chair and express the Working Group's interest and ability to contribute to the Organization-led Initiative, including reviewing the concept note for the Organization-led Initiative.

Action Item 6 – The Chair of the Working Group will, upon receipt of the concept note for the Organization-led Initiative from the FAO, will send the concept note to member countries.

9) **23rd Committee on Forestry of FAO**

The Working Group welcomed the report from the Liaison Office on behalf of Japan on the 23rd Committee on Forestry (COFO) of FAO, held from July 18 to 22, 2016 in Rome. The Liaison Office informed the Working Group of the endorsement of the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring and made members aware of the intent of the FAO to formulate a corporate climate change strategy. The Working Group also noted the role of forests in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the contribution that C&I can make to ensure a fulsome understanding of sustainability as it relates to forests.

The Working Group also appreciated the information provided by Canada on the side event called Criteria and Indicators: Mobilizing Action for Sustainable Forest Management and the Sustainable Development Goals, held on July 19, 2016 at the 5th World Forestry Week in Rome, co-organized by the FAO, Canada, ITTO, UNFF and the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Working Group took note of the number of participants at the side event and the interest in the two main discussion items – A core set of global forest indicators and integrating C&I into decision making in intersectoral policy decision making and planning.

The WG noted the appointment of the new FRA coordinator and expressed its interest in continuing to collaborate with the FAO to further streamline global forest reporting, building on the success of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire.

The Working Group welcomed the report provided by Chile and Canada on the 4th meeting of the Informal Inter-agency Meeting on Indicators to Monitor Progress towards sustainable forest management and Forest-related Sustainable Development Goal Indicators held on July 20, 2016 in Rome.

The Working Group was informed of updates provided during the Inter-agency meeting on the progress in developing forest-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, including indicator 15.2.1 – Progress towards sustainable forest management. The Working Group was advised that indicator 15.2.1 is actually a composite indicator composed of at least 4 sub indicators and that while the Sustainable Development Goal indicators have been adopted in title by the UN, these sub indicators are still open to some modification.

The Working Group was also advised that the FAO, as custodian agency for indicator 15.2.1 wishes to finalize the sub indicators by September 15, 2016, prior to final approval of all indicators by the appropriate UN authority and that the FAO will send a revised proposal for indicator 15.2.1, for review and comment, to all participants of the 4th meeting of the Informal Inter-agency Meeting. The Working Group expressed its interest in reviewing and providing comments on the revised proposal for indicator 15.2.1, cognizant of the FAO's deadline of September 15, 2016.

The Montreal Process members may consider referring to the MP C&I and the value they would bring to enhancing the reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Action Item 7 – Chile, as past Chair of the Working Group and participant in the Informal Inter-agency Expert Group meetings Chaired by FAO, will, by August 15, 2016, inform FAO of the contact details of the new Working Group Chair and express the Working Group's interest and ability to review the revised proposal for indicator 15.2.1.

Action Item 8: The Chair of the Working Group will, upon receipt of the revised proposal for indicator 15.2.1 from the FAO, will send the proposal to member countries.

Action Item 9 : The USA will lead the development of a general statement on the achievements of the Montreal Process taking into consideration comments from members.

10) Review of the Montreal Process strategic documents

The Working Group amended and accepted the Montreal Process strategic documents as appended in Annex F. The Working Group reviewed the terms of reference for the Liaison office, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee Convener but noted the fact that the working group does not have a terms of reference for its own

operations and that procedural rules are difficult to follow. A terms of reference would increase the efficiency of the Working Group.

Action Item 10 – Canada will review existing rules and procedures as captured in historical Aide Memoire material and produce a Terms of Reference for the WG for discussion and endorsement at the 27th meeting of the Working Group.

Japan noted that they had held the LO for ten years and called for self-nominations for a country to assume the LO role from MPWG 27.

Action Item 11 – The Working Group invites Countries to submit expressions of interest to the Liaison Office to host the Liaison Office by the 30th May 2017 for discussion and decision at the 27th MPWG meeting.

11) Country experiences of SFM

Countries shared their progress and achievements since the 25th Working Group meeting related to application of criteria and indicators and implementing Sustainable Forest Management. Highlights included progress in preparing country reports, new strategic frameworks for data collection, analysis, and streamlined reporting, and utilization of Montréal Process criteria and indicators at regional and sub-regional levels (Annex G).

The opportunity to share and learn from other countries' experiences was recognized as a major benefit of meeting together and the Working Group members agreed to continue sharing experiences as a standing agenda item for future Working Group meetings.

12) Selection, appointment and support of the TAC Convenor for the next term

At the 25th meeting the Working Group noted the current term of the Technical Advisory Committee Convenor will be expiring in 2016 and called for members to nominate a candidate to serve. The Liaison Office reported that one nomination had been received from New Zealand for Dr Tim Payn to hold the role of Convenor for the next triennium.

The Working Group discussed the appointment of the TAC Convenor for the next three year term. As only one nomination was received the candidate was appointed by acclamation. The WG noted with appreciation the ongoing work of the TAC Convenor in undertaking his duties in the past three years and thanked New Zealand and Scion (as the host agency of the TAC Convenor) in supporting the TAC Convenor.

13) Increasing the Montreal Process Membership: discussion of options and ways forward

The Working Group welcomed the paper by Mr Steve Cox, New Zealand, on the membership process for the Montreal Process. He outlined a set of principles for membership of the Montreal Process and the group agreed to a revision to the membership section of the MP strategic

documents. The process for Joining is appended in Annex H. These procedures will be incorporated into the Montreal Process strategic documents

Action Item 12 – The MP strategic documents will be updated to clarify the process for the invitation or application of new member countries.

14) Review of the past MPWG activities and national country reports

The Working Group welcomed the discussion led by Toshimasa Masuyama that led the WG to recognize that member countries have established reporting mechanisms, each of which has its own time line. He brought to the WG's attention the fact that there is a move globally to align reporting time lines and cycles, e.g. Forest Europe and FRA2020. The WG explored country plans and the background to these plans. It was noted that reporting depends on timing and availability of data sources such as forest inventory. Some countries are moving to a more frequent update cycle for some indicators. There are also movements to web based and more flexible methods of report delivery.

15) Updating the MP website and communication activities

Website

The Working Group discussed potential enhancements to the MPWG website. The need for a long term review and refresh process was discussed. Major changes are not currently required and the USA noted that minor changes could be made where needed. The Working Group noted that a new key point of contact for the web site needs to be identified. In the interim Guy Robertson is the contact. The WG recognised the excellent contribution made by the USA and specifically Tracy Hancock and Peter Gaulke to the development and maintenance of the website. A small group was established (Australia, New Zealand, Chile, USA, China, Liaison Office) and asked to develop a terms of reference for managing the website. This group will also examine key elements of the website three times a year to ensure the content is fresh and links work.

Countries with content to add should send it to the web site small group.

Action Item 13 – The WG requests the USA to modify the accessibility of pdfs on the website to enable them to be cut and pasted into other documents.

Action Item 14 – That a small group be established (Australia, New Zealand, Chile, USA, China, Liaison Office), led by Australia, to develop a terms of reference for managing the website for consideration and approval by the WG at its next meeting. The Terms of Reference will be incorporated into the suite of strategic documents after consideration at the 27th meeting of the Working Group.

Action Item 15 – The WG requested the US communicate the new key point of contact/website administrator for the MP website once they are identified.

Action Item 16 – Member countries are requested to provide photos and information to the Chilean WG member on culturally significant trees in their countries for future incorporation on the website.

General Communication Plan

The Working Group discussed the need for a communications plan to better coordinate communications efforts related to the Montreal Process. This would help raise the MP profile in a rapidly changing world. The Working Group established a sub group led by Canada with participation by USA, NZ, China, Chile and the Liaison Office, to develop a plan for future communications including the web site and other venues. The plan would also include an approach to branding and aspects for a common look and feel for MP documents.

Action Item 17 – The Working Group requested a small group led by Canada, develop a draft communications plan, prepared three months in advance of MPWG27, to include for example, aspects of the Strategic Action Plan or new Declaration, web, branding, templates, and upcoming related international events for discussion at the MPWG 27.

Action Item 18 - The WG encouraged the Chair to make the most of opportunities to promote the MP in international forums (draft)

16) Review on the consistency between the set of Montreal Process indicators and the SDGs indicators framework.

The WG welcomed the presentation of Mr Toshimasa Masuyama, the Liaison Office, on commonalities between the MP C&I and the SDG Indicators framework. He noted how complex the environment was becoming and the need to align and harmonise approaches, also the rapidity of developments in the area by a wide variety of agencies. The WG expressed its appreciation to Mr Masuyama for his great efforts in preparation of the paper and presentation for this agenda item.

It was noted that the MP C&I are a great opportunity to contribute to SDG process and they are built on 20 years of solid foundations and the MPWG will contribute to the SDGs where it feels it can add value, possibly through a small group. The Working Group discussed the need to consider how MPWG can better contribute to this process.

Action Item 19 – The WG requests Countries inform the LO if they are intending to send representation to OLI meeting in support of UNFF to be organized by FAO in November and share with WG and for them to discuss how best MP countries could contribute to the meeting in relation to ongoing development of forest related indicators.

Action Item 20 – The WG requested an indicator by indicator analysis of current reporting practices, in aggregate, of Montreal Process members, by October 30, 2016. Canada will do the analysis.

17) The MP comprehensive overview report

The Working Group welcomed the presentation by the TAC Convenor on the Overview and Achievements report, state of development and key considerations for the next steps. The Working Group agreed the report should be concise (8 pages) and should focus on MP impacts, achievements, and future aspirations with links to concise 2-page country achievements that are readily updatable. It was agreed that it should link to any new Declaration and that a joint launch of both, potentially at UNFF12 in May 2017 should be explored. The TAC Convenor will produce a development plan with responsibilities and resource and support requirements to determine the feasibility of a May 2017 launch. A template for the country sections will be circulated to all countries to enable a common approach. If the report is to be launched before MPWG 27 the report will be approved out of session by the Chair after input from Working Group members.

Action Item 21 – The Working Group directed TAC Convenor to determine the feasibility of a plan to develop the Achievement report to be launched in conjunction with the new Montréal Process Declaration at UNFF12 in May 2017

Action Item 22 – The Working Group directed the TAC to develop the Achievement report based on feedback from the 26th Working Group meeting, and availability of resources, for approval by the Chair out of session after ratification by the Working Group.

Any other business

No further business was identified for discussion at the meeting due to time constraints.

18) Approval of Revised 2016 -18 Montréal Process Implementation Schedule

Following discussion on the Strategic Action Plan and concerning a revised 2016-17 Montréal Process Implementation Schedule, the Working Group approved the updates and additions required (Annex I). The Working Group thanked Japan and acknowledged the fine work of the Liaison Office in maintaining the implementation schedule.

19) Review of the Aide Mémoire

The Aide Mémoire was discussed and will be considered for endorsement out of session.

Action Item 23 – That the Aide Mémoire be finalised by the Working Group Chair and distributed through the Liaison Office to Working Group Members for endorsement by December 2016.

20) 27th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

The Working Group welcomed the offer by New Zealand, subject to the confirmation of funding, to host the 27th Montréal Process Working Group meeting. At this meeting, the Working Group meeting agenda will include:

- *update on TAC activities including discussion on forest-based ecosystem services*
- *the draft communications plan – Canada*
- *follow-up activities of the sub-groups established at the Ottawa workshop*
- *update on the Informal Inter-agency Expert Group and related SDGs indicator framework*
- *findings of an indicator by indicator analysis of current reporting practices - Canada*
- *endorsement of the TOR for WG as well as the MP strategic documents including the TOR for managing the website*
- *outreach activities on the MP comprehensive overview report as well as the new declaration*
- *update on the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and UNFF12*
- *the Liaison Office host country*
- *Review the 2017 – 2018 Implementation Schedule, and amend as needed;*
- *Share country experiences in the application and utilization of criteria and indicators to promote and implement sustainable forest management;*

The Working Group will place a call for additional agenda items through the Liaison Office 6 months prior to the meeting. The Working Group recognizes the value and encourages inter-sessional ad hoc meetings at other forest-related meetings before the 27th Montréal Process Working Group meeting as opportunities may arise.

Action Item 24 - The Working Group Chair will communicate with all Montréal Process members not in attendance at the 26th meeting, making all materials presented and produced at the 26th meeting available, and inviting them to participate in all subgroups formed at the 26th meeting.

Expression of Thanks

The meeting expressed its deep appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group Meeting, Mr. Songdan Zhang, and his colleagues from the P.R China government, and the people of Jilin Province for their hospitality in co-hosting the 26th meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group. Special thanks for the excellent field trip go out to Wangqing National Forest.

Annex A 26th Montreal Process Working Group Meeting Agenda

<p>26th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting Monday 1st to Friday 5th August 2016 Yanji City, Jilin Province P.R. China</p>	
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Sunday 31st July

18:00~20:00	Pre-Conference Event at Small Ballroom(Shift Chair country , Clarity , discussion & adaption on Agenda and Logistical details)	All Representatives
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Monday 1st August

Opening Ceremony		
Time	Topic	Coordinator
09:00~09:15	1. Welcoming speech by leader of Changbai Mountain Forest Industry Group	P.R. China (Chair)
09:15~09:30	2. Welcoming speech by leader of Jilin provincial forestry administration	
09:30~09:45	3. Welcoming speech by leader of SFA	
09:45~10:20	<i>Group Photo & Tea Break</i>	
Reports by Chinese Representatives		
10:20~10:40	4. Policy and institution of forest resources management in China	P.R. China (Chair)
10:40~11:00	5. Theory and techniques of sustainable forest management in China	
11:00~11:20	6. Tenure reform progress and effect in China	
11:20~11:40	7. Forest certification progress in China	
11:40~12:10	8. Question & Discussion	
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:30~13:40	9. Self-introduction & Aide Memoire drafting members to be volunteered	P.R. China (Chair)
13:40~14:10	10. Report by the Liaison Office	Liaison Officer
14:10~14:40	11. Report on the 16 th TAC meeting	TAC Convenor
14:40~15:00	<i>Tea Break</i>	
15:00~17:00	12. 2015-2025 Strategic Action Plan –first segment	Australia
17:00~18:30	13. Discussion on the MP declaration	Russia
<i>Welcome Banquet By SFA</i>		

Tuesday 2nd August

Time	Topic	Coordinator
09:00~11:00	1. Report on the international C&I workshop hosted by Canada in cooperation with FAO	Canada
11:00~11:20	<i>Tea Break</i>	
11:20~12:00	2. An update on the outcomes from 23rd COFO and how the MP will contribute to COFO	Members who participated
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:15~14:45	3. Review of the terms of reference for MP, TAC and Liaison Office	Australia
14:45~15:45	4. Member countries share their experiences of SFM (each country 5-10 minutes)	LO
15:45~16:15	5. Selection, appointment and support of the TAC Convenor for the next term	P.R. China (Chair)
16:15~16:30	<i>Tea Break</i>	
16:30~17:40	6. Increasing the Montreal Process Membership: discussion of options and ways forward.	New Zealand
17:40~18:10	7. Introduction of forest management experiences by Wangqing forestry bureau	P.R. China
18:10~18:20	8. Field Trip introduction	Wangqing forest bureau
<i>Dinner</i>		

Wednesday 3rd August

9:00~18:00	Field Trip	P.R. China
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Thursday 4th August

Time	Topic	Coordinator
09:00~10:30	1. Review of the past MPWG activities and national country reports	LO
10:30~10:45	<i>Tea Break</i>	
10:45~12:15	2. Updating the MP website and communication activities	(US/Canada/LO)
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:40~15:45	3. Review on the consistency between the set of Montreal Process indicators and the SDGs indicators framework.	LO
15:45~16:00	<i>Tea Break</i>	
16:00~18:00	4. The MP comprehensive overview report	TAC, All members
<i>Dinner</i>		

Friday 5th August

Time	Topic	Coordinator
09:00~12:00	1. Adoption of the MP declaration	P.R. China (Chair)/Russia
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:30~15:00	2. Adoption of the 2015-2025 Strategic Action Plan	P.R. China (Chair)/Australia
15:00~17:00	3. Reviewing the Aide-Memoire	P.R. China (Chair)
17:00~17:15	4. Any other business subject to discussion	LO, TAC ,P.R. China (Chair), LO
17:15~17:30	5. Next Working Group meeting	LO, P.R. China (Chair)
	Closing Ceremony	P.R. China (Chair)

Annex B List of participants

26th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting List of Participants

Name	Country	Organization	Title
Andrew David Wilson	Australia	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Director, National Forest Policy
Judith Ann Beck	Canada	Natural Resources Canada/Canadian Forest Service	Director General Pacific Forestry Centre
Simon Richard Jess Bridge	Canada	Natural Resources Canada / Canadian Forest Service	Section Head, Planning, Operations and Information Branch
Andres Osvaldo Meza Alvarez	Chile	National Forest Service	National Ecological Restoration Program
Songdan Zhang	China	Department of Forest Resource Management, State Forestry Administration (SFA)	Deputy Director General
Min Zhang	China	Department of Forest Resource Management, State Forestry Administration (SFA)	Division Director
Chaozong Xia	China	Chinese Academy of Forestry Inventory and Designing(SFA)	Division Director
Wenfa Xiao	China	Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection (CAF)	Director
Jingpin Lei	China	Research Institute of Forestry(CAF)	Professor
Joji Yoshida	Japan	Japan Forest Technology Association	
Kunio Shimizu	Japan	International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan	Senior Policy Analyst for International Affairs
Toshimasa Masuyama	Japan (Montreal Process Liaison Office)	International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan	Deputy Director
Young HwanKim	Korea	National Institute of Forest Science	Research Scientist
Steven John Cox	New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries	Senior Analyst

Name	Country	Organization	Title
Timothy William Payn	New Zealand	Scion	Technical Advisory Committee Convenor
Maria Palenova	Russia	All-Russian Research Institute for Silviculture and Mechanization of Forestry	Head of the International support sector of the Dept. "Analytical Research of Forest Management and Forest Use"
Guy Cedwart Robertson	USA	US Forest Service	National Sustainability Assessment Program Leader

Annex C Technical Advisory Committee Convenor's report on activities

TITLE: Report on Technical Advisory Committee activities since the 25th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

AUTHOR: Dr Tim Payn, TAC Convenor

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

1. Consider, discuss and approve, where appropriate, recommendations from the TAC related to the development of the Montréal Process 20 year overview/achievement report, the treatment of Forest Based Ecosystem Services within the MP C&I, and newly identified emerging technically related issues.

BACKGROUND

At the 25th meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group held in Santiago and Valdivia, Chile in July 2015 the Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was tasked with continuing a range of activities as outlined in the Aide Memoire from that meeting. (http://www.montrealprocess.org/Resources/Meeting_Reports/Working_Group/25_e.shtml). In summary below:

- Finalise preparation for the launch of all revised Montréal Process documentation and the new 2-4 page leaflet at the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa. September 2015
- Continue development of the plan for the in depth 20 year Montréal Process overview/achievements report for launch at a later date

Not explicitly mentioned as an Action in the Aide Memoire, but continuing previous work streams

- Continue discussions on how Forest Based Ecosystem Services are covered by the Montréal Process C&I, especially related to indicator 6.1.c: revenue from forest based ecosystem services.

In this period the TAC activities were undertaken with one physical meeting in Ottawa, Canada in May 2016 and using electronic means – mainly email, and phone conferences. The opportunity was also taken to have informal discussions amongst TAC and Working Group members attending the World Forestry Congress in Durban.

Over the period the TAC Convenor coordinated the work programme through TAC updates and countries were asked for volunteers (either TAC representatives or other technical experts) to undertake specific aspects of the work programme related to the action items. The TAC Convenor and TAC Representatives also contributed to a number of other technically related ad hoc items in support of the Working Group.

The work and recommendations are outlined in the following sections.

FOR INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & AGREEMENT

Montréal Process activities at the XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa: Launch of new and updated Montréal Process materials, Joint C&I side event, FAO FRA2015 report and papers launch

- The Working Group signed off on work undertaken by the TAC at the 25th meeting in Chile where planning for contributions to the World Forestry Congress in Durban was completed. TAC members contributed very significantly to the planning and production of materials along with the Liaison office.
- The [2-4 page overview report](#) was completed and launched at the World Forestry Congress in Durban in September 2015 and is now also on the website. This is also known as the 'Fact Sheet'. This is very informative on who the Montréal Process is, our history, up to date statistics, the value of the Montréal Process and a 'did you know' section.
- As part of the WFC the Montréal Process held a very successful side event with ITTO, Forest Europe and the FAO chaired by the TAC Convenor and with input from a number of TAC and Working Group members to some very stimulating discussions on the future of C&I in forestry. The side event will be written up as a paper – led by John Hall of Canada.
- FAO's series of [global forestry papers](#) based on the FRA 2015. A number of TAC, Working Group, and MP country members were co-authors on this very comprehensive series of papers on global forest trends from 1990-2015. The special issue of Forest Ecology and Management, one of the world's top forestry journals, is [here](#).
- The fifth edition of the C&I were completed with a new [booklet](#) and [technical notes](#) plus a [poster](#) all completed and launched. These are now all on the Montréal Process website.



16th Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Canada hosted the 16th TAC meeting in Ottawa from the 4th to 6th May 2016, and the TAC would like to thank especially John Hall, Simon Bridge, Joanne Frappier, and Marie-France Roussel of Natural Resources Canada. Representatives from 9 of the 12 Montréal Process countries attended. A representative from the UNECE also attended as did additional representatives of Natural Resources Canada.

The meeting had three agenda items:

- Development of the in depth 20 year overview/achievement report
- Further discussions on Forest Based Ecosystem Services
- A review of emerging Technical Issues, Developments or Trends in C&I of interest and relevance to the Montréal Process

Additionally the TAC held a small group discussion led by John Hall (Canada) to progress the World Forestry Congress C&I side event paper.

The meeting was successful and a number of recommendations were generated for consideration by the Working Group at its 26th meeting. Key points are presented in this paper, a fuller coverage will be contained in the meeting's Aide-Memoire.



Agenda item 1: Development of the in depth 20 year overview/achievement report

Background and Approach taken

The 20 year overview/achievement report has been under development for some time and now the [2-4 page overview report](#) is complete and launched TAC focus has moved back to the in depth report. At the 25th meeting the Working Group discussed the intent of the comprehensive overview report based on the TAC work. This helped focus the overall

direction of the report and the focus of this meeting. This TAC meeting was to build on our past development work and finalise the structure and focus.

Prior to the meeting a draft outline (Annex 1) was prepared and circulated to the TAC for comment and input and then used to guide discussion at the meeting. We also held a number of preparatory planning phone and video meetings to prepare for the meeting.

At the meeting we used a mix of small group and plenary discussions to work through the sections of the report and develop a clear picture of content and focus for each section. Also discussed was the form that the report might take e.g. electronic or web based or hard copy, plus a revisit on the key audiences for the report.

Outcomes

Discussions were very productive and we have advanced development of the report content, focus and planning significantly. Some key points from the discussion are highlighted here. There is much more detailed material supporting these points.

- The report outline was adopted with no changes to the sections, however there was some discussion about the order of the different sections to achieve the impact we wish from the report: focus early on the impacts and achievements and move the more general information such as background to the MP to later in the document.
- The concept of a *leitmotif*¹ or a common theme for the report was introduced by Tracy Hancock (USA). A number of possible leitmotifs were suggested (Annex 2) and discussed. This discussion also led to the development of a series of words that the TAC felt really reflect the Montréal Process and that should recur throughout the report. These are listed below. Further development of the leitmotif concept and its application to the report is ongoing.



- Possible content and focus for each section was developed in small groups and compiled after the meeting. Key points that emerged:
 - The interactions between sections 5 – MP achievements and impacts and section 6 – Country Advances and Impacts is very important (see leitmotif ideas), especially the link between the country advances and impacts section and the overall achievements and impacts. These two sections will be the hub or focal point of the report
 - Section 4 on forestry trends is important. MP trends should be the focus but they should be put in the context of all temperate and boreal forest data in the FRA 2015. This analysis would be part of the report and not separate.

¹ **Definition:** a Leitmotif is a recurrent theme throughout a musical or literary composition, associated with a particular person, idea, or situation.

- It was proposed that the Working Group had a major input section 7 – The Future
- The intended audience and type of publication was discussed again to ensure that the content would align with both the format and content of the report. The audience of the report should be decision makers, policy analysts, management and professionals. Key characteristics of the report should be – clear, concise and web friendly, useable in many ways. It was noted that production resources for design and publication will be required.

Overall good progress has been made and outline, content, leitmotif and approach are well defined. A clear timeline for the next steps towards publication and assignment of roles and responsibilities still needs to be finalised. This was discussed only briefly at the meeting due to time constraints. Since the meeting TAC members have focussed on some individual activities in support of the report. These include further consideration of the leitmotif concept, drafting of the background section, and determination of what may be in each country's advances and impacts section. The timeline is also under discussion and will be presented at the Working Group meeting. The TAC will seek guidance from the Working Group on this.

Recommendations and next steps

It is recommended that the Working Group note and discuss progress and consider the timing, resourcing publication of the report, and also possible launch



Agenda item 2. Indicator 6.1.c Revenue from Forest Based Ecosystem Services

Background and Approach taken

At the 14th TAC meeting in Japan we made progress on revisions to this indicator but left the work incomplete as other priorities emerged. As we all know ecosystem services are becoming a more mainstream topic and the TAC felt that the indicator as it stood was quite limited in its perspective and that there may be broader perspectives that could be brought to bear on this topic. At this meeting we reviewed where discussions had reached in past TAC meetings and explored what if any changes or modifications might be valuable. A short presentation was made by Tim Barnard (NZ) on the topic and progress to date to stimulate discussions.

Outcomes

Discussion focussed not so much on Indicator 6.1.c on its own but on how the whole set of Montréal Process Indicators may be used to 'tell the story' of Forest Ecosystem Services. It was recognised that Ecosystem Services are a complex topic. TAC members noted it was a topic increasing in importance and profile in their countries but could be hard to understand as a concept. In regards communicating state and trends in ecosystem services it was noted a multi indicator approach reporting is appropriate with the use of multiple indicators rather than one individual. A number of participants reflected on how they had used the set of indicators successfully in the recent reporting round. More sharing of experiences across countries was suggested.

The TAC concluded that it was possible to tell the story effectively with the current suite of indicators and highlighted ones that may be the most appropriate. From the set of 54 X are related to ecosystem services and are spread across the four groups (supporting,

provisioning, regulating, and cultural). At a previous TAC meeting all indicators had been mapped into the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment ES framework to identify gaps where indicators may be required or modifications to existing indicators necessary. There are probably some gaps but indicator 6.1.c provides an important contribution to the overall story.

Recommendations and next steps

The TAC recommends that no further work is required specifically on Indicator 6.1.c 'Revenue from Forest Based Ecosystem Services' at this time as the MP indicator set (including 6.1.c) allows reporting on Forest Ecosystem Services. Given the increasing importance of the concept the TAC also recommends the Working Group encourages sharing of knowledge and experiences across the Montréal Process network through establishment of an MP wide Interest Group. It is recommended that this interest group identifies any areas of FES that are not covered by the current indicators. This knowledge could then feed into a future indicator review.



Agenda item 3. Emerging Technical Issues, Developments or Trends in C&I

Background and Approach taken

TAC meetings are always a good opportunity for sharing experiences from a technical perspective and given the focus of the Working Group on revising the strategic action plan we formalised a session at the meeting to identify any emerging technical issues or developments that could be helpful to the Working Group in its discussions.

We used a brainstorming approach and asked participants to note any issues they thought important (from a technical perspective). These were all captured on a wall, and then the group clustered the ideas and titled an overall theme for each. Following discussion the themes were prioritised using sticky dots. We also categorised the issues into 'country level', 'internal to Montréal Process' and 'External to Montréal Process'. This exercise was undertaken by all meeting participants so is an 'expert' rather than 'country' perspective on emerging issues and therefore a very preliminary identification of issues.

Outcomes

Nine issues were identified (red - country level, blue – internal to Montréal Process, green – external to Montréal Process)

Issue #	Issue title
1	Linking MP to local level / certification
2	Linking MP to global reporting
3	Indicators review
4	Reporting on forests adapting to change
5	Reporting public versus private land
6	Data collection challenges
7	Improving communications on indicators
8	Making connections between criteria
9	Bio economy and Green economy

Detail on the discussions will be contained in the more comprehensive Aide-Memoire from the meeting. Some key points that emerged; there are a number of C&I framework related topics and these relate to the need for continuous improvement of the C&I framework and indicators, and use of the set for communicating thematic issues, in this case adaptation to change. There are a number of country level issues around data collection and communication and linking the C&I to the local level. Linking MP to global reporting activities and possible implications of the emerging bio economy and green economy were seen as important.

The meeting felt that this very preliminary and quick exercise was valuable and would benefit from being more in depth.

Recommendations and next steps

The TAC recommends that the Working Group: 1. Discuss the preliminary findings and 2: Considers the value of this approach in informing future activities of the Working Group and the role of the TAC in facilitating it.

Small group discussion item: World Forestry Congress joint C&I side event paper.

Background and Approach

At the World Forestry Congress in Durban in late 2015 we held a very successful joint 'established' C&I Process side event with colleagues from ITTO, Forest Europe and FAO. The presentations and discussions were designed to support a short paper, led by John Hall, as an output from the meeting. We took the opportunity to have a small side meeting one evening to discuss progress and take the draft further. This included the small group who organized and participated in the side event but was open to all.

Outcomes

The group reviewed progress and decided upon next steps.

Recommendations

That the Working Group note the progress on this item.

Dr
Tim

Payn, Convenor, Technical Advisory Committee

SUB-ANNEX 1. DRAFT 20 YEAR REPORT OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION

Title: The contribution of the Montréal Process to the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests: a 20 year review

- 1. Abstract/Executive Summary**
- 2. Introduction**
 - a. **Intent of this report:** give a deep picture of state and trends in Montréal Process countries' forests and of the contribution of the Montréal Process to SFM
 - b. Context and history of SFM
- 3. Background and history of the Montréal Process**
 - a. **Drivers – Rio, Brundtland report etc.**
 - b. **The Working Group and reason for being**
 - c. **The C&I framework**
 - i. **Development**
 - ii. **Evolution**
 - d. **Capacity building, co-development and learning**
 - e. **Timeline for the MP**
- 4. Forestry trends: 1995-2015**
 - a. **Key summary statistics and trends from the FRA 2015/CFRQ database**
 - i. **For the MP as a whole**
 - ii. **Can we combine with other temperate and boreal countries?**
- 5. Achievements/Impacts**
 - a. **Network of Knowledge (see 2009 report)**
 - b. **Collaborative partnerships**
 - i. **Joint C&I discussions and activities e.g. CFRQ**
 - ii. **Other Linkages**
 - c. **Benefits from working together**
 - i. **MP Countries**
 - ii. **Global benefits**
 - d. **Usefulness of the C&I**
 - e. **Value proposition**
- 6. Country Advances and Impacts**
 - a. **Up to 2 pages for each country to discuss their progress over the 20 years under a standard set of headings**
 - i. **The utility of the C&I**
 - ii. **Key trends in forestry data**
 - iii. **Achievements and major changes over the period**
 - iv. **Other headings??**
- 7. The Future**
 - a. **Communication mechanisms**
 - b. **Collaborative activities**
 - c. **Use of C&I for strategic planning**
 - d. **Capacity building within member countries and globally**
 - e. **The evolution of forestry C&I**
- 8. Conclusions**
 - a. **Key points on the contribution of the Montréal Process over the 20 years**
 - b. **Key points for the future**

9. **Bibliography**
10. **Glossary**

SUB-ANNEX 2: LEITMOTIFS

Potential leitmotifs include:

- Shared common language and understanding for sustainable forest management
- Reduces redundancy for global reporting
- Deliver impactful indicators for sustainable forest management
- Collaborative network of member countries
- Helpful tool for all scales – it's effective, efficient, and accessible
- Better data – informed decisions
- People and forests – building relationships and advancing knowledge
- Flexible and comprehensive
- Anchors and integrates policy, planning, and science
- Lasting and durable – long term staying power
- Builds bridges, awareness and capacity
- Tracks progress and reporting
- C&I making a difference
- "Deliverology" – indicators to advance thinking
- Better decisions through C&I

Annex D 2016-2025 Montréal Process Strategic Action Plan

To be provided

**Annex E Report on Report on the international C&I workshop hosted by
Canada in cooperation with FAO**

To be mounted separately on MP Website

Annex F Montreal Process strategic documents

To be provided

Annex G Progress and Achievements related to Criteria and Indicators in Member Countries from August 2015 to July 2016

AUSTRALIA

Australia is about to start the development of its 5th State of the Forests report. These reports provide comprehensive reporting to the Australian public and the International Community on the sustainable management of Australia's forests. Australia's State of the Forests Reports have been based on the Montreal Process C&I since 2003. Australia continues to report annually on a range of indicators associated with the sustainable management of forests. Australia's reports are available at "http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia".

CANADA

There were a number of activities related to C&I in Canada in 2015. Canada released its 2015 State of Canada's Forest Annual Report (available at <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/report/16496>). Canada made a number of changes to the report last year, including presenting much of the information in the form of infographics, which were easily shared on social media. As a result, visits to the web site and downloads of the report have increased over previous years and there has been considerable reuse of the infographics by third parties. Canada is also pleased that the synthesis report of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) is modelled on Canada's State of the Forest Report. With respect to the GFRA, two Government of Canada employees, Graham Stinson and John Hall, contributed to the peer reviewed articles that accompanied the release of the Global Forest Resources Assessment. Canada also co-organized three important C&I events since the last MPWG meeting – a side event at the World Forestry Congress, a side event at World Forestry Week 5, and the International Expert Workshop held in May 2016 in Ottawa. Canada has also worked closely with the USA and Mexico, through the North American Forest Commission, to combine forest inventory information for all countries into a North American Forest Database. This database serves as a platform for delivering harmonized forest inventory data consistently for continental-scale and regional cross-border forest assessments. In certification, the Canadian Standards Association approved a revised version of its certification standard for SFM. Simon Bridge, a Government of Canada employee, served as a member of the technical committee that renewed the standard, which is based on C&I. Simon Bridge is also involved in the ongoing review of the PEFC certification standard.

CHILE

Chile started working on a new challenge to produce a national forests policy 2035 based on a multi stakeholder discussion process. The first step of this process is already finished this year (2016), with a document containing the main orientations and proposals. The next step is to discuss widely with other interested parties and coordinate and synchronize the actions implementation to progress on SFM in the country. This process give an opportunity to use the MP C&I as a tool, not only to conduct discussions but also to monitor and asses the success of the measures adopted by the Administration in the period.

Chile produces for the 25 WG meeting in Santiago and Valdivia (2015) the second National Report on C&I. This report will be available in English in the MP Website very soon.

During the 25 Working Group meeting in Santiago-Valdivia (2015), Chile became the chair of the Montreal Process for the period 2015-2016. In this role participated in the World Forest Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. One of the most important activities there was the “Side event” on Criteria and Indicator, where Chile gave a presentation on behalf of MP member’s countries.

Chile was also present on behalf of the MP in the tree “*Informal inter-agency meeting on indicators to monitor progress towards SFM and forest-related SDG indicators*”, implemented under FAO leadership, and considering the main global Agencies related with forest (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, FAO-FRA, UNDESA, ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, and African Timber Organization). The first one was held during the World Forest Congress in September 2015; the second one in April 2016 in New York, and the last one for this period, was held in Rome during the COFO meeting in July 2016. Chile shared preliminary information on this process through the Liaison Office. The outcomes of the last meeting in Rome will be shared as soon as possible, when the aide Memoire of the meeting will be released.

Chile coordinated during the period with the Liaison Office (Japan) and the counties involve the implementation of the 25 WG meeting agreement, according the aide Memoir mandate and items.

Many different efforts to engage participation of Latin America countries in the Yanji City meeting were made by Chile as leader of the MP. Argentina and Uruguay were contacted, but not enough guarantees to ensure their participation in the 26 MPWG meeting in China was obtained. It was not possible to have any contact or answer from Mexico.

In other remarkable action for the MP Chile translated the Fifth Edition of the C&I Booklet into Spanish and coordinate their revision with Argentina and Uruguay. With the support of United State this document was set on the MP web site and is now available. Chile wants to thank Pablo Laclau (Argentina) for his help in translation and Tracy Hancock (USA) for her help with the web site.

CHINA

See the aide memoire.

JAPAN

Japan distributed a paper titled ‘Update on Japan’s forestry and forestry’, which explained the three topics.

The first topic was ‘International Contribution.’ Japan held an expert panel meeting in Tokyo this March, in collaboration with United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. This served as a brainstorming session for what is called Ad-hoc Expert Group (AHEG) meeting to discuss the ‘Strategic Plan 2017-2030’ as well as the ‘Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020’ to be decided next year at UNFF12 Special Session.

The second topic was ‘New Forestry Policy’s Direction.’ ‘Forest and Forestry Basic Plan’ to provide forestry policy direction for the next 10-20 years is revised every five years in accordance with

‘Forest and Forestry Basic Law.’ The new Forest and Forestry Basic Plan was put into effect this May, stating that using forest resources ready for harvest and creating new demand for wood especially in non-housing sector, forestry needs to be transformed into ‘growth industry.’

The last topic was ‘Mountain Day.’ August 11th was designated as a new national holiday called Mountain Day, effective from this year. The purpose of the Mountain Day is to provide the people with opportunities to get familiar with mountains and appreciate blessings from mountains.

After explaining the above paper, Japan added that they were considering starting preparation for their third national report this year.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In 2005, the MP’s 54 indicators of 7 criteria and their applicability had been examined in Korea. The 28 indicators of 7 criteria were chosen and announced to public as the National SFM C&I in Korea. These 28 indicators were considered in the 1st National Report of SFM submitted in 2009.

When the 2nd National Report was submitted in 2014, the applicability of MP’s indicators was examined again and 8 indicators were included in the report with limited datasets. However, there is no subsequent national-level statistics available for the 8 additional indicators. Therefore, the current 28 national indicators are mainly considered in the future SFM monitoring in Korea.

The 3rd National Report of SFM is supposed to be submitted in 2019. However, it is considered to postpone to 2021 after the 7th National Forest Inventory (2016-2020).

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand launched its Third National Report in September 2015, with data up to 2013. New Zealand continues to update underlying data series for many indicators. The forest industry has invested in an online Portal for Plantation Forests, which is based around the Montreal Process C&I. New Zealand is currently undertaking a number of initiatives which will enhance the achievement of SFM within New Zealand, including

- 1) The goal of removing key exotic predators from New Zealand by 2050
- 2) A review of Afforestation encouragement schemes
- 3) A consultative process to update the national Biosecurity strategy.
- 4) Progress nationally consistent approaches to managing the environmental impacts of plantation forests
- 5) Ongoing work to update the Harvesting and Wood Products data for climate reporting
- 6) A review the Emissions Trading Scheme has increased the carbon price, while reducing operational and technical barriers to forestry participants.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

There were a number of activities related to C&I in The Russian Federation in 2015/2016. Russia released its annual report "State and use of forests of the Russian Federation for 2015" - official information and analytical paper was prepared by the FBU VNIILM

in the framework of the State program of the Russian Federation "Development of forestry for 2013-2020" (available at www.mnr.gov.ru/regulatory/list.php?part=1508).

In 2015 5.4 thousand permanent plots (in the area of 54 million hectares) in 22 regions of the Russian Federation was laid down to determine the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of forests; remote monitoring carried out in the zone of intensive logging on the leased forest land in 16 regions of the Russian Federation in the area of 76 million hectares; forest management fieldwork carried out on an area of 24.1 million hectares.

In other remarkable action for the MP Russia translated the Fifth Edition of the C&I Booklet into Russian. With the support of United State this document will set on the MP web site.

During the 23rd session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in July 2016 hosted the Russian side-event in the course of which the representatives of Russia, Switzerland, Poland, Belarus, UNECE, FAO discussed issues of the contribution of the boreal forest in the solution of global environmental problems. The two sides exchanged experiences and presented their vision on the contribution of boreal and temperate forests in the Paris Agreement, food security and the achievement of the SDGs. Following the meeting, the COFO recorded a decision on strengthening the attention of FAO in relation boreal and temperate forests in view of their importance for achieving SDGs/Agenda 2030, including the fight against climate change and food security.

USA

The U.S. pursues sustainable forest management (SFM) through a variety of laws, regulations, programs and private sector activities administered at the federal, state and local levels. These activities are supported by a robust monitoring framework involving forest inventory plot sampling throughout the country augmented by forest health surveys and a variety of other sources providing information on the ecological, social and economic aspects of forests and SFM. At the national level, this information is summarized in the Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment and in the National Report on Sustainable Forests, a Forest Service report based on the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators (MPC&I).

Recent SFM assessment activities related to the Montréal Process include: (1) publication of "Assessing the Sustainability of Agricultural and Urban Forests in the United States," a Forest Service report considering the current status of trees and forests on agricultural and urban lands using the MPC&I as a framework for analyzing information availability and data gaps; (2) preparation of another report assessing SFM for tropical forests through an indicator-by-indicator application of the MPC&I to tropical forests on U.S. affiliated islands in the Caribbean and Pacific (to be released in 2017); and (3) production of indicator reports for the next version of the National Report on Sustainable Forests (release expected in late 2017). We will also be looking at revising our website to facilitate more timely delivery of key MP indicators. See the project website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/> for publication downloads and additional information.

Annex H Principles for membership of the Montreal Process

Joining the Montreal Process

A country that has temperate and/or boreal forests should inform the government of the current Montreal Process Chair that it agrees to contribute to furthering the work of the Working Group, and the use of the Montreal Process's Criteria and Indicators in reporting. The Montreal Process Chair will then inform the Liaison Office, which will inform the other MP process countries.

When agreeing to contribute to furthering the work of the Working Group, the country's representative will have the authority from the agency that is responsible for forests within their country to represent their country and report on behalf of their country.

Observers at the Working Group

Prior to joining the Montréal Process as a member country one or two representatives from countries interested in joining the Montreal Process may attend Working Group meetings as invited observers.

At the invitation of the Chair, representatives from international and regional organisations and processes with an interest in criteria and indicators for the conservation and the sustainable forest management may also participate as observers.

Invited observers may participate in the Working Group meeting as appropriate.

Countries interested in attending as observers should contact the Liaison Office, who will put them into contact with the host country of the next Working Group meeting so a formal invitation can be issued.

Annex I 2016-2017 Implementation Schedule of the Montreal Process
Strategic Action Plan

To be provided