

## 27<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

Nelson, New Zealand

14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017



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### *AIDE- MÉMOIRE*

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The Montréal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests held its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nelson, New Zealand, November 14 – 17, 2017. The Montréal Process includes Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, and Uruguay.

[Annex A - 27<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group Meeting Agenda](#)

[Annex B - List of participants](#)

[Annex C - Report on CFRQ](#)

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[Annex E - Future strategic direction](#)

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[Annex G - TAC Convenor report](#)

[Annex H - TAC Convenor draft Overview and Achievement report for feedback](#)

[Annex I - Revised Terms of Reference](#)

## **Agenda**

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 25 participants from 6 Montréal Process member countries (Canada, Chile, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States of America) and invited representatives from Forest Europe, FAO and ITTO. The meeting was greatly enhanced by the participation and contribution of the authorities and technicians of the New Zealand government. A list of participants is attached as [Annex B](#).

### **1) Opening Welcome**

The Working Group was welcomed in a mihi whakatau (a Māori greeting) by representatives from seven local iwi (Māori tribes), these representatives and their iwi are as follows:

<b>Iwi :</b>	<b>Representative:</b>
<b>Te Ātiawa o Te Waka a Maui</b>	Archedeacon Harvey Ruru (Chair) Cindy Batt (Kaikaranga)
<b>Ngāti Kuia He Iwi Pākohe</b>	Waehaere Mason (Chair) Kereopa Ratapu (Kaikorero) Dave Johnston (GM)
<b>Ngāti Koata Iwi Trust</b>	Tāhua Solomon (Trustee)
<b>Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust</b>	Andrew Stephens (Trustee)

The Honourable Mr. Shane Jones, Minister of Forestry, welcomed the participants and briefly introduced the development and progress on SFM in New Zealand. This included the initiative to plant 1 billion trees over the next 10 years which will contribute to regional economic development and assist New Zealand to meet our climate change obligations to the Paris Agreement. He encouraged the Working Group to share knowledge and learn from each other, outlining how in New Zealand, these lessons have been learnt the hard way in order to pass them on to the future generations.

## 2) Chair nomination & introductions

Zhang Songdan, State Forestry Administration, China, as the former Chair welcomed members and thanked them for their contributions to the Declaration, and thanked New Zealand for hosting the current Meeting. Mr Steven Cox, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand, was nominated to serve as Meeting Chair of the Montréal Process Working Group's 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The Montréal Process Working Group unanimously endorsed his nomination. He expressed gratitude for China's leadership and efforts since the last Working Group meeting and thanked Japan for their work as the Liaison Office.

## 3) New Zealand Experiences

New Zealand representatives presented a broad overview of the country including its history, people, cultural considerations and our forests. This presentation also touched on the role of the eradication of invasive species in New Zealand, and how this links to Montréal Process Criterion 1 on the conservation of biological diversity in forests.

Due to New Zealand's geographic isolation and relatively late colonisation by European settlers, a spectacular array of native, and largely endemic, species evolved free of mammalian predators. The introduction of mammalian predators initially by Māori, and accelerated by the European colonisers, had a considerable impact on native species. Birds were, and are, particularly affected by invasive species. Much of the conservation effort in modern New Zealand focuses on eradicating invasive species and restoring the birdsong to our forests. This includes an ambitious goal to eradicate all possums, rats and stoats from mainland New Zealand by 2050.

This presentation linked to the field trip later in the week where a Department of Conservation staff member and representative from Project Janszoon explained the efforts to eradicate invasive species (plant and animal) and restore endemic species in the Tasman region of New Zealand, and showed the group examples as we toured the region.

New Zealand also presented an overview and history of their forests and forestry sectors. The majority of the natural indigenous forests are protected in the Government conservation estate.

The planted forest estate, based primarily on radiata pine, was established during three main phases of forest planting. Planted forests now support a significant domestic wood processing sector, and exports of logs and manufactured wood products is a key export earner.

Courteney Sealey, Ph. D candidate at the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre, University of Canterbury, New Zealand presented some perspectives from her research on Indigenizing Sustainable Forest Management Frameworks. These perspectives included the inevitability that sustainable forest management frameworks reflect the cultural perspectives of those who develop them. Even though frameworks like the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators have been developed in collaboration with indigenous communities, western perspectives prevail and notably it is the culture-nature dualism that seems to be causing the most controversy. Because the current frameworks tend to reinforce a binary between the instrumentally-focused western perspective and intrinsically-oriented indigenous peoples' perspective it denies indigenous people the ability to identify with both simultaneously. But a hybridity approach has allowed Māori in New Zealand to do both. This approach offers opportunities for future framework development.

#### **4) Introduction and appointment of the Aide Mémoire Drafting Committee**

Representatives from China and New Zealand volunteered to serve on the Aide Mémoire Drafting Committee.

#### **5) Report by the Liaison Office and proposal for the future of 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 26th Working Group meeting, adding that there was no offer made to host the Liaison Office in place of Japan. Mr Kunio Shimizu, Japan, outlined three proposals regarding the Liaison Office transfer including an offer to host the 28<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting in 2019 as well as a possible option of rotational LO hosting system. After discussion including the one on the agenda item on the 28<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting, the Working Group decided to move forward on the Action Item below.

<p><i>Action Item 1</i> - The Working Group invites countries to submit to the Liaison Office expressions of interest to host the Liaison Office at the earliest possible time due to only Japan having the capacity to continue to serve as the Liaison Office until the next Working Group meeting to be held in Japan in 2019.</p>
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#### **6) Report on CFRQ**

The Working Group welcomed the presentation from Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO, regarding the outcomes of the CFRQ meeting which was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November in Nelson.

CFRQ partners presented their views on CFRQ experiences since it was implemented in the Forest Resources Assessment 2015. The experience was positive and this collaboration on CFRQ has resulted in more consistent use of terms, definitions and reporting, and has led to the development of a Global Core Set of forest related indicators, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international processes and commitments. A proposal for joint data collection for pan European reporting was presented as an example of closer collaboration among CFRQ partners and FAO.

FAO, as coordinator of the FRA, expressed their gratitude to all CFRQ partners and the participants of the Montréal Process meeting for their contribution and active participation in this review. The FAO is willing to continue strengthening the collaboration with all CFRQ members including the Montréal Process and welcomes further contributions in hosting regional workshops and supporting the FRA review and reporting phase.

The Working Group acknowledged the value of the 2015 CFRQ helps countries to:

- Respond to a growing number of requests for forest information
- Improve data consistency among reporting products
- Increase the credibility of national data
- Facilitate novel analysis of data, and
- Foster collaboration among partners

The Working Group appreciated the efforts of the FAO to develop the CFRQ for FRA 2020 and acknowledged its continued value to member countries. Further details can be found in [Annex C](#).

## 7) **Draft communications plan and proposal for small working group**

The Working Group welcomed the presentation from Simon Bridge, Canada concerning the draft communications plan and a proposal for a small Working Group to develop the communications plan during the meeting. The Working Group recognised the importance of Communications, particularly in order to reach a variety of audiences to improve the visibility of the Montréal Process. The Working Group reflected that Strategic Direction 4 includes enhancing communication and the important role the communications will play in meeting the wider Strategic Directions. The Working Group recognised of the limited capacity of working group members to deliver this, but came up with the following action item(s).

*Action Item 2* - The Working Group agreed on the Communications Plan and details are in [Annex D](#).

## 8) Future strategic direction of the Montréal Process - building on the Yanji Declaration

In preparation for this agenda item New Zealand had requested Working Group members discuss three questions prior to the meeting:

1. What are the top 3 issues the Working Group should address in the next 5-10 years?
2. What will be different as a result in the next 5-10 years? What will we see? What will we hear? What will people be saying?
3. What should we work together on to achieve these results?

Following an initial discussion a small group was tasked with collating responses to these questions and developing a number of action points.

The proposed actions focus on Strategic Directions 2, 4 and 5, and recognises the importance of the XI World Forestry Congress, to be hosted by Korea in 2021, as a key milestone event for the Montréal Process. The details can be found in [Annex E](#).

*Action Item 3* - Countries to submit ideas to the Liaison Office ahead of the next Working Group meeting on: additional activities for the success of a Montréal Process event at the World Forestry Congress 2021.

*Action Item 4* - Add an item to the agenda of the 28<sup>th</sup> Working Group on “Planning of Montréal Process event at World Forestry Congress in 2021.”

*Action Item 5* - The Working Group endorse the advancement of the Strategic Direction 2 by enhancing capacity building: building opportunities for thematic capacity building into MPWG Meetings, enabling an international conference on applied remote sensing to enhance National Forest Inventories, encouraging active member participation of non-present members, and encouraging all members to share learnings. Please refer to [Annex E](#).

*Action Item 6* - The Working Group directs the TAC to prepare a synthesis report on C&I for Boreal and Temperate Forests and asks member countries to submit their condensed National Reports to the TAC Convenor by October 30, 2018. The synthesis is to be delivered at the next World Forestry Congress 2021. More details are outlined in [Annex E](#).

## 9) Cultural, social and spiritual values of trees in Montréal Process countries

The Working Group welcomed the presentation by Andres Meza, Chile, regarding the cultural, social and spiritual needs and values for Montréal Process countries. People and communities, in both rural and urban areas, have a variety of cultural, social, and spiritual connections to forests based on traditions, experiences, beliefs, and other factors. Among them, the spiritual and cultural connections of indigenous people and local communities to forests often form part of their identity and livelihood. These values may be deeply held and influence people's attitudes and perspectives towards forests and how they are managed. These indicators provide information on the extent to which cultural, social, and spiritual needs and values exist and are recognized by society.

The presentation showed information on trees considered as remarkable for their cultural, social or spiritual value from nine countries; Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation and United States of America.

*Action Item 7* – Chile will submit the draft information to countries for their final approval.

*Action Item 8* – Request that the USA (as website manager) places a remarkable tree species on the Montréal Process website's front page, so it regularly changes, once a country has confirmed the tree species and the information provided.

*Action Item 9* – The Working Group requests Chile collate information provided on the remarkable tree species into a booklet for approval by the Working Group at the 28<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group Meeting.

## 10) Developments in Criteria and Indicators

The Working Group welcomed reports on New and Emerging Indicators from the UNFAO, ITTO and Forest Europe. These are summarised below:

Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO presented on the current status of the Global Core Set (GCS) of the forest related indicators. The GCS work was introduced in the Ottawa Collaborative Action Plan in May 2016 and a draft set of approximately 20 indicators will be finalized for CPF submission in the second Task Force meeting on Dec 13-14th, 2017. Montréal Process countries, together with FOREST EUROPE and ITTO, was invited to provide their feedback on the current draft before or during the second Task Force meeting.

Steven Johnson, ITTO presented the 2016 revised Criteria and Indicators which included various developments to ITTO, both external (e.g. emerging governance initiatives, climate

change, SDGs etc) and internal (e.g. a series of country workshops promoting uptake of the C&I, various country projects to implement the C&I). To provide more clarity, the indicator set has been revised to 58 indicators. ITTO plans to undertake another reporting cycle using the revised C&I in the 2018-19 biennium and to publish a third Status of Tropical Forest Management report based on responses received, possibly in collaboration with FAO and other partners.

Ratislav Rasi, Forest Europe presented on the 2015 updated set of indicators for SFM which was endorsed at the Madrid Ministerial Conference as Annex I to the Madrid Ministerial Declaration. Newly adopted indicators cover Forest land degradation and Common forest bird species and Forest fragmentation replaced a previous indicator on Landscape pattern. Qualitative indicators on policies, institutions and instruments for each of six criteria for SFM were also introduced.

FAO alongside Simon Bridge, Canada discussed the process of the SDG indicator development. Canada presented the background of the process and FAO clarified the current status of the forest and mountain sustainability indicators. SDG 15.1.1 is currently of Tier 1 and 15.2.1 and 15.4.2 of Tier 2.<sup>1</sup> The data for the forest related indicators will be collected through the FRA process and the data for 15.4.2 has been compiled by FAO using sample based visual assessment of high and very high resolution optical remote sensing data.

Baseline for the indicator 15.4.2 has been established in 2017, expressed as the proportion of the area of green vegetation over the total mountain area for each country. Data for all countries have been produced by FAO Mountain Partnership Secretariat and are in the process of being distributed to governments for their validation. Metadata for all three indicators is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

As requested by the Working Group at its 26th meeting in China, Canada presented an aggregated indicator-by-indicator analysis of current reporting practices for Montréal process member countries. The results were discussed by the Working Group during their deliberations on strategic directions for the Montréal Process.

The Working Group appreciates the presentations by the other reporting organisations and welcomed their inputs into our discussions.

*Action Item 10* – The Working Group will continue to use opportunities to promote understanding between the reporting processes and seek opportunities to share our experiences and C+I processes.

## 11) Country experiences of SFM

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 15.1.1 refers to Forest area as a percentage of total land area.

SDG 15.2.1 refers to Progress towards sustainable forest management.

SDG 15.4.2 refers to Mountain Green Cover Index. For further details on SDG indicators, please refer to <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>.

Countries shared their progress and achievements since the 26th 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 F](#)).

## 12) TAC Convener report

The TAC Convenor presented his report ([Annex G](#)) to the Working Group. The report covered Ecosystem Services; Emerging issues, advances, and developments; and the Overview and Achievement report. The Working Group discussed the Convenors report.

*Action Item 11* – The Working Group directed the TAC Convenor to outline a plan by the end of December 2017 for finalisation of the Achievement and Overview report with a proposed timeline for consideration and approval by the Working Group Chair out of session.

*Action Item 12* – The Working Group members agreed to provide the TAC Convenor with feedback on the draft report ([Annex H](#)) by 22 December, 2017.

*Action Item 13* – The Working Group directed the TAC Convenor to work with TAC members to develop a scoping document and draft plan, by March 2018, for development of condensed National reports and a synthesis report for presentation at the 2021 World Forestry Congress in Korea.

## 13) Endorsement of the Revised Terms of Reference to the Working Group

The Working Group acknowledged the efforts by Australia in providing an updated Strategic Document with reference to the Working Group's Terms of Reference and the Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process website.

Guy Robertson, USA, provided minor revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process website and distributed the revised draft to the Working Group on Thursday morning. The USA compiled comments to present a final draft, and the website TOR was approved by the Working Group.

The Working Group endorsed the revised Terms of Reference in [Annex I](#).



## 14) Update on UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

Japan highlighted some key issues relating to Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting activities identified in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, including the Voluntary National Contributions. Reference was made to paragraph 33 of the Strategic Plan which encourages processes to promote the integration of the global forest goals and targets into their respective strategies and programmes noting that Montréal Process is also in a position to align itself with this course.

## 15) Upcoming UNFF expert meeting on national reporting

New Zealand gave an update on the upcoming UNFF Monitoring and Reporting Experts Group Meeting on reporting to the UNFF UN Strategic Plan on Forests. New Zealand outlined the agenda and the desired outcomes from the meeting. The meeting also presented another opportunity for countries to see, discuss and input on the global set of core forest indicators. Members agreed that New Zealand, as chair of the Working Group, can use the opportunity to make general statements and draw on existing agreed Montréal Process documents to contribute to the UNFF expert meeting.

## 16) Interactive web-based indicator reporting using Tableau

Canada gave a presentation on how it is presenting indicator information on its website in an interactive format using Tableau.

## 17) Review and update the 2017-18 Implementation schedule

New Zealand proposed that the group address the current version of the implementation plan to understand what items are either standing items that should remain in the document, or items that have not yet been completed and require additional work.

*Action Item 14* – The Working Group agreed that New Zealand as Chair, along with the TAC Convenor, would fill out the table with agreed actions and workplans from the 27<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting and circulate this populated table within one month of the closing of the Working Group meeting. The TAC Convenor would assist in confirming the new timelines for the comprehensive achievement report, an item which was not completed in the previously set out timeframes and requires further work.

## 18) USA updates

In addition to describing its reporting activities as part of country reporting (details in Annex E), the United States described its favourable experience using the revised set of Criterion 7 indicators. It also notified the Working Party of the interest on the part of US Forest Service scientists and academic collaborators to prepare an analysis of MP reporting history for peer reviewed publication in an academic journal.

## 19) Review of the Aide Mémoire

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

*Action Item 15* – The Aide Memoire is to be finalised by the Working Group Chair and distributed through the Liaison Office to the Working Group members for endorsement by February 2018.

## 20) 28<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

The Working Group welcomed the offer by Japan to investigate options to host the 28th Montréal Process Working Group meeting in 2019. The Working Group looks forward to Japan providing an update on the timing and location of the 28th Working Group Meeting.

At the 28<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group meeting in 2019, the Working Group members will:

- *Submit ideas ahead of the 28<sup>th</sup> Montréal Process Working Group meeting on additional activities for the success of a Montréal Process event at the World Forestry Congress 2021.*
- *Address planning of Montréal Process event at World Forestry Congress 2021.*

The Working Group will place a call for additional agenda items through the Liaison Office 6 months prior to the meeting, as is tradition.

## Expression of Thanks

The Working Group expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of New Zealand for their hospitality in hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group. The Working Group also expressed its deep appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group Meeting, Mr. Steven Cox, New Zealand. The Working Group also wants to acknowledge the host Working Group member, Adam van Opzeeland for his contributions to this meeting and acknowledge Sarah Pereira for her dedication in the Aide Memoire drafting group and ensuring the meeting ran smoothly. Special thanks for the excellent field trip to Nelson Pine Industry and our tour guides from the Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon.

The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Iwi of the Nelson region for their hospitality and for welcoming the group to their rohe for this meeting. The working group express their thanks in Te Reo Maori as follows:

**Tēnā koutou katoa, ngā Iwi o Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Māui,**

**Tēnēi te mihi kia koutou, mo to koutou pōwhiritia mai kia mātou ki to koutou rohe o Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Māui**

**He mihi maioha kia koutou mo to koūtō mānaaki me to koutou whākataumai ia mātou o te Montreal Process Working Group.**

**Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa.**

**Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.**

**Naku noa, na**

**Montreal Process Working Group**