

Annex F—Country experiences of SFM

Australia

In the absence of Australian representation, New Zealand outlined the country update supplied by Australia prior to the meeting. This was circulated among the working group.

Canada

Canada released two C&I reports following the 26th MPWG in China: the 2016 and 2017 editions of the State of Canada's Forests report. The 2017 edition was released on September 27, 2017 and celebrates 150 years of Canadian confederation. Canada also released a new product, the Forestry Fact Book, in November 2016. The 2017 edition should be released in November 2017. The Forestry Fact Book provides a selection of industry- and trade-focused statistics. Canada is also working on a project to reform how we manage, store, query and display our data about forests and their management. The goal is to be able to publish more indicators online beyond the small set that appear in our annual report. Canada also contacted the representative to Uruguay prior to this meeting. Finally, Canada continues to support the secretariat of the International Model Forest, which has helped to support the development of local level criteria and indicators.

Chile

C&I for Conservation and sustainable temperate and boreal forest management. Aspirations to reinforce use and implementation of the Montreal Process C&I framework.

MP C&I also allowed administration and scientists to identified lack of information in many SFM related issues. The challenge is to increase efforts to monitor new indicators and assessing their changes in time improving the current country effort to cover other than traditional aspect of forests that has been monitored.

Technological innovations and access to new technologies will increasingly facilitate more and better data collection, to widest characterization of forests and ecosystems and its biodiversity. Indicator and best knowledge on forest and ecosystems are important to promote awareness challenges on conservation of native forests associated species.

Also to monitor political decisions as the implementation of new public protected areas, to accomplish the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and prepare information to answer the Sustainable Development Goals requirements.

Forest land uses have changed over time following different driver as products price changes, new products and technology, changes in perception about forests functions. Also threats are always presents as the forest fires, soil erosion, volcanic activity and other biological and no biological agents that can disturb and engender degradation of forest lands.

In this context national policies decision related with conservation and sustainable forest managements need gradually new, better and more specific data and information, especially to face in global change

context major challenges for the country's forests identified in two new instruments recently agreed: The "Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources" and "2035 National Forest Policy" both led by the National Forest Service (CONAF).

China

1. Drafting, Revising, Finalizing and Releasing Yanji Declaration

China hosted the 26th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in Yanji City, Jilin Province, China in August, 2016. Under discussion, the meeting agreed that the new Declaration, which had been deliberated for three years, should be released at the soonest time, and thus a drafting group led by New Zealand and participated by Russia and China was established. Meanwhile, the Declaration was included into the 2016-2017 Action Plan and it was decided to submit the drafted Declaration to member countries. It was expected that all member countries would have ratified the Declaration before UNFF12 was held in 2017 and then the chair country could release and disseminate it on UNFF12 in an appropriate way.

China has actively participated into the whole process of drafting, revising and approving the Declaration. In the initial stage after the draft was completed, China, as the chair country and in collaboration with the liaison office of Montréal Process, assisted New Zealand in coordinating various member countries to provide their revisions and inputs and urging them to ratify the Declaration. With consents and approvals about the Declaration sent in electronic written forms through emails, the Declaration was completed as expected. It was approved by ten member countries excluding Mexico and Uruguay before UNFF11. Uruguay confirmed its approval of the Declaration during the face-to-face communication on the UNFF meeting. Mexico also sent its official approval of the Declaration just right before its release, which assured the representativeness of all member countries in the officially released Yanji Declaration.

Release of the Declaration: the Yanji Declaration of the Montréal Process was presented by Dr. Zhang Songdan, High Commissioner (Deputy Director General), Department of Forest Resources Management, State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China, on May 3, 2017, during the UNFF meeting.

Influences of the Yanji Declaration: on one hand, the presentation of the Declaration on UNFF has raised awareness of the international community of the efforts made by the Montréal Process in sustainable forest management (SFM) and helped them gain wide recognition all over the world. On the other, the knowledge of the Montréal Process and its member countries about SFM and its role and effects in SDGs as well as the efforts made in this regard have been demonstrated to the international community. China Green Times reported the release of the Declaration on its front page in the first place.

2. China SFM Pilots and Experimental Research on SFM Criteria & Indicators (C&I)

2.1 SFM Pilots

China has been making enormous efforts in demonstrating SFM in recent years, through a series of nation-wide SFM initiatives such as the targeted improvement of forest quality, natural forest protection, construction of national wood reserve bases, and so on. Currently, China has 12 demonstration sites, based on which the pilot work of UNFI is being implemented.

2.2. SFM C&I Evaluation and Monitoring

SFA has been attaching high importance to the development, application, monitoring and evaluation of SFM C&I. A number of productive experiments and verifications have been carried out under the guidance provided by the Department of Forest Resources Management, SFA, and these activities have achieved initial progresses. Regarding the evaluation methods against various indicators, a tool set integrating both qualitative and quantitative methods has been developed. Now in 2017, a set of general operational software for average management units is under development and it is hopefully finalized around the end of the year. It is driven forward in combination with China's national SFM pilot projects as well as the pilot efforts in implementing UNFI.

3. Publication of the *Briefing on Sustainable Forest Management in China* and Completion of 20 Years Review Report of China in Cooperation with TAC

After the publication of *the National Report on Sustainable Forest Management in China* in 2013, the *Briefing on Sustainable Forest Management in China* was published in 2017, both of which underpin the normal practices of national reporting dependent on the Montréal Process and exhibit the progresses and accomplishments in SFM achieved by China to the whole world.

As assigned by the Working Group of the Process, TAC organizes the writing and compilation of 20 Years Review Report of the Montréal Process. China has been actively cooperating with TAC in this regard by summarizing and reviewing the major work done and achievements gained by China in the past two decades, and the report has been completed and submitted to TAC.

Japan

Japan explained that they are making efforts to complete their third national report as soon as possible. Then they touched upon three topics related to forestry as follows: the Forestry Agency held a forestry machine demonstration for children during Government District Visit Days in August this year in the hope that more young children will entry forestry; renovation of a railway station with wood, based on the requests of the residents around it, was completed in a Tokyo metropolitan area In last December; finally the Forestry Agency is organizing International Symposium on the Promotion of the Deforestation-Free Supply Chain to Contribute to Halting Deforestation to be held in late January next year, in close cooperation with FAO and ITTO.

New Zealand

New Zealand kept their remarks short given the considerable time focused on New Zealand and New Zealand's forests both on Day one, and on the Thursday field trip. Members were pointed towards New Zealand's Third Country Report to the Montreal Process, and the individuals present that had contributed to that report to answer any questions on New Zealand's application of C&I.

New Zealand also assured members that they would be provided with an updated version of the New Zealand Forestry statistics brochure that were in delegate packs for the 27th meeting. New Zealand also

recommended a link to the “National Exotic Forestry Description online”, which was helpful in answering questions from the New Zealand presentations on day one.

USA

The USA reported the following activities and accomplishments relevant to the Montréal Process:

1. Publication of associated reports applying the MPC&I to (1) agricultural and urban forest (2016), and (2) tropical forests on US and US-affiliated islands in the Caribbean and Pacific (2017)
2. Revision and re-design of the US website to better accommodate delivery of individual indicator reports through an E-publication process
3. Updated indicator reports have been produced for each of the MPC&I. These will be mounted on the US Website (<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/>) in the coming months and will then be compiled into a new country report.
4. The US has agreed to continue to host the Montréal Process website and announced plans to (1) revise the site to better accommodate viewing on handheld devices, and (2) update content based on contributions from MP members. These actions will be undertaken in accordance with the MP Website ToR. (148 words—hah!)

In addition to describing its reporting activities as outlined in the country report above, the US described its favorable 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.