



Annex 2: The Québec Declaration

Québec City, Canada
Monday, September 22, 2003

Québec City Declaration

Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests

Montréal Process

We, the Member countries of the Montréal Process Working Group, the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and Uruguay,

Reaffirming the important contribution of forests and their sustainable management to sustainable development;

Also reaffirming the important contribution of criteria and indicators to improving forest monitoring, assessment and reporting, as well as policies and practices to achieve sustainable forest management in member countries;

Recalling the Santiago Declaration of 3 February 1995, by which countries endorsed a comprehensive set of Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests;

Recognizing the widespread interest among countries in implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and the applicability of lessons learned in the Montréal Process to other criteria and indicators processes;

Encouraged by the contributions of member countries to the collaboratively produced Montréal Process *First Approximation Report* (1997), and *Progress and Innovation in Implementing Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests* (2000);

Also encouraged by the release by Member countries of their first Country Forest Reports using the Montréal Process set of 7 criteria and 67 indicators to convey to policy makers and the public the state of and trends in forests at the national level based on contemporary scientific understanding of forest ecosystems and their values to society, as well as the release of the collaborative Montréal Process *First Forest Overview Report: 2003*, which highlights the information and progress reflected in the country reports;

Pleased that despite the challenges of data collection and indicator measurement, member countries will continue to strive to improve their ability to monitor, assess and report on forests using the criteria and indicators in the next five years;

Also pleased that countries are increasingly using the criteria and indicators as a framework for strategic planning, forest inventory, stakeholder involvement and communicating progress to policy makers, and as a model for monitoring, assessment and reporting on other natural resources, such as rangelands and freshwater;

Affirming the value of the Montréal Process Working Group as a forum for international collaboration, including catalyzing national efforts, promoting a shared view of sustainable forest management and how to measure it, and fostering bilateral and regional partnership and cooperation among Members to build capacity; and

Believing the seven criteria endorsed by the Montréal Process represent the essential components of sustainable forest management of all types of forests;

Decide to:

Reaffirm our commitment to implementing the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators as an important means of national monitoring, assessing and reporting.

Continue our active engagement and collaboration in the Montréal Process Working Group.

Endorse the actions annexed hereto as the means to further increase Member country capacity to report on forests using criteria and indicators and better inform policy-makers and other stakeholders on national progress toward sustainable forest management.

Request the Government of Canada on our behalf to present this Declaration to the XII World Forestry Congress now convening in Québec City and the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in Geneva, May 2004.

Québec City, Canada
22 September 2003

ANNEX 1-A: Annex to the Québec City Declaration

Vision for the Montréal Process: 2003-2008

The focus of the Montréal Process Working Group and its Member countries over the next five years will be to further increase country capacity to report using criteria and indicators and to better inform policy makers on national progress toward sustainable forest management. The following actions will be pursued to this end:

1. Review, refine and share data *inventory protocols* to build capacity for reporting;
2. Develop *extension materials* on national and sub-national applications of criteria and indicators;
3. Enhance *technical collaboration* among member countries;
4. Review and as needed refine the Montréal Process *indicators*;
5. Make the achievements of the Montréal Process *more visible* and easily available at all levels;
6. Develop strategies to help countries *mobilize resources* to collect needed data;
7. Continue to urge broad participation of relevant *stakeholders* within countries;
8. Encourage universities and other *educational institutions* to incorporate the latest information on sustainable forest management and criteria and indicators;
9. Encourage national and international institutions to carry out *research* on indicators difficult to measure;
10. Increase communication, collaboration and cooperation with *other criteria and indicators processes*;
11. Use criteria and indicators as the basis for *national reporting* on sustainable forest management to international fora, including the United Nations Forum on Forests;
12. Seek international endorsement of a *global set of criteria* to provide a framework for existing regional and international criteria and indicator processes;
13. Promote application of forest criteria and indicators to *other sectors* and to international initiatives on indicators for sustainable development; and
14. Encourage other countries to *become members* of the Montréal Process Working Group.