



Annex 3: The Yanji Declaration

Montréal Process Yanji Declaration – May 2017

The Montréal Process Working Group presents this statement to reaffirm our collective commitment to sustainable forest management, and to open and transparent monitoring and reporting through the Montréal Process framework of criteria and indicators for temperate and boreal forests.

The 12 member countries of the Montréal Process Working Group are: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, and Uruguay.

Recalling the Santiago Declaration of February 3, 1995 and Québec City Declaration of September 22, 2003;

Reaffirming our intent to pursue the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests;

Recognizing that forests are known for their important contributions in addressing global environmental challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation;

Recognizing that the Montréal Process continues to have a positive impact on sustainable forest management policies and practices in our countries, and will continue to collectively enhance consistent and transparent monitoring and reporting of temperate and boreal forests;

Reaffirming the vital role and significant contribution of temperate and boreal forests in achieving sustainable development and environmental conservation;

Recognizing the voluntary nature of the Montréal Process and the positive engagement by member countries to advance cooperation;

Recognizing that the Montréal Process is enabled by a collaborative Working Group that advances sustainable forest management by sharing innovations in monitoring and reporting methods, processes, and technologies among member countries;

Valuing the successes of the Montréal Process, including the development of the Montréal Process criteria and indicators, which take into account the ecological, social, economic and institutional diversity within member countries;

Continuing to gain value from the Montréal Process as a long-standing iterative process that has consistently refined and improved its indicator framework and, for many countries, improved the availability and the quality of forest-related data;

Recognizing the importance of a collaborative approach to developing forest monitoring and reporting practices that enhance the efficiency of gathering data, improve the utility of reporting, and further develop the concept of sustainable forest management and national reporting capacities;

Recognizing that the Montréal Process framework of criteria and indicators is a tool for promoting, implementing and demonstrating sustainable forest management, is relevant to international efforts to streamline national reporting on forests such as the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire, as well as global initiatives to assess the progress made toward international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Forest Instrument;

Recognizing the benefits we derive from our participation in the Montréal Process,

We, the member countries affirm our commitment to the following guidelines for the actions we as a group will carry out in the future:

To make the utmost use of the Montréal Process criteria and indicators to provide a robust and flexible framework to inform policy and debate, and to address emerging issues that challenge our ability to manage our forests sustainably.

To pursue the continuous enhancement of the utility of criteria and indicators to support sustainable forest management policies and practices at local to global scales by promoting ways to improve capacity to monitor, assess and report environmental, economic and social values of forests and meet various international reporting requirements in an open and transparent way.

To actively engage in global initiatives related to forests, drawing on the experience member countries have gained through their on-going participation in national reporting efforts and sharing best practices, analytical methods and new technologies, using Montréal Process criteria and indicators¹, to increase the consistency of authoritative information about forests, help focus efforts toward the ultimate goal of sustainable forest management, streamline reporting, and strengthen collaboration among experts and organizations to these ends; and

To actively and positively communicate and collaborate with other regional and multilateral forest and non-forest organizations to enhance the understanding and uptake of sustainable forest management policies, practices and reporting processes.

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<https://www.montrealprocess.org/documents/publications/techreports/MontrealProcessSeptember2015.pdf>

We, the member countries of the Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montréal Process), request the Government of China present this Declaration on our behalf to the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York, May 2017.

The Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montréal Process) UNFF-12 (New York, USA, May 2017).