

PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT WORKSHOP TO

Streamline Global Forest Reporting and Strengthen Collaboration among International Criteria and Indicator Processes



WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
The Montréal Process, International Tropical Timber
Organization (ITTO), FOREST EUROPE, and the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

HELD ON
October 18–20, 2011
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada

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Executive Summary

FROM OCTOBER 18 TO 20, 2011, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS, INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO), FOREST EUROPE, AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, FORESTRY DEPARTMENT (FAO) MET IN VICTORIA, CANADA, FOR A JOINT WORKSHOP OF INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA AND INDICATORS PROCESSES.

The objectives of this workshop were to i) enhance the ability of countries to respond to current and emerging global environmental and sustainable development issues; ii) enhance streamlining of global forest reporting; and iii) rally global recognition of the progress and continued relevance of criteria and indicators for environmental and sustainable development activities on its 20th anniversary.

Together, the three processes and the FAO represent countries that have virtually all of the world's forests. The workshop included 30 participants with experience in the development, use, and application of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. The workshop was specifically designed to build on the wealth of knowledge and information available from these experts to meet the desired objectives.

Workshop participants identified a series of issues that affect the ability of countries to respond to current and emerging environmental and sustainable development issues. Based on these issues, a number of possible options that would help the criteria and indicator processes

achieve a shared vision were explored. Specifically, the joint workshop recommended that the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and FAO:

- endorse a joint statement of collaboration;
- pursue efforts to streamline reporting requirements for the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA);
- improve communication around sustainable forest management; and
- continue to work together and improve collaboration.

While this joint workshop was an important step in improving collaboration between the major criteria and indicator processes, it was recommended that the four bodies continue to explore opportunities to work more closely together. The results of the joint workshop demonstrate the desire and willingness of the criteria and indicator process and the FAO to examine how criteria and indicators can help countries deal with emerging forest issues, to explore possibilities for improved collaboration, and to streamline global forest reporting.

Introduction

FROM OCTOBER 18–20, 2011, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS, INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO), FOREST EUROPE, AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, FORESTRY DEPARTMENT (FAO) GATHERED IN VICTORIA, CANADA, FOR A JOINT WORKSHOP OF INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA AND INDICATORS PROCESSES.

Together, these processes and organizations represent countries that have virtually all of the world's forests.

The joint workshop was hosted by Canada and held in conjunction with the 22nd Meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- 1) enhance the ability of countries to respond to current and emerging global environmental and sustainable development issues;
- 2) enhance streamlining of global forest reporting; and
- 3) rally global recognition of the progress and continued relevance of criteria and indicators for environmental and sustainable development activities

on the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The objectives and agenda for the workshop were prepared with input from members of the Montréal Process, FOREST EUROPE, and ITTO (**Annex A**).

Altogether, the workshop included 30 participants (**Annex B**) with varying degrees of experience in the development, use, and application of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. The facilitated workshop was designed to capitalize on this wealth of knowledge and experience in order to effectively meet the desired objectives.

Taking Stock

THE FIRST PART OF THE WORKSHOP WAS DESIGNED TO GAIN A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE AND HOW CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

Specifically, participants were asked to identify concrete ways in which criteria and indicators have helped countries address environmental and sustainable development issues and to identify the most important challenges they faced or continue to face in addressing these issues. While various examples were provided (see **Annex C**), some common elements were identified.

Over the past two decades, the criteria and indicators processes represented at this workshop have matured beyond the development phase and into the application phase. Since their early development, criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management have been widely used and adopted at international, national, and local levels, and are now being adapted to address sustainable development issues across other sectors. The success of these frameworks was attributed, in

part, to the fact that they encourage a holistic view of the full range of forest values, while providing the tools needed to monitor, assess, and report on progress towards sustainable forest management. Today, the forest sector is a global leader in the use of criteria and indicators, but this leadership could be better recognised within the forest community as well as by other sectors. Specifically, criteria and indicator frameworks provide a mechanism for collaboration and capacity building, and help advance discussion around the value of sustainable forest management worldwide. As a result of their success, these criteria and indicator frameworks have helped influence the description of sustainable forest management used by the FAO in its Global Forest Resources Assessment and are, therefore, applicable to all countries.

In spite of these successes, workshop participants identified a number of important challenges that they continue to face. For example, it is often difficult to communicate the

benefits of using and applying criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. In particular, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain political awareness around sustainable forest management amidst changing political priorities, global situations, and stakeholder interests, as well as the current inability to make strong connections between the use of criteria and indicators and policy development. Growing fiscal constraints are also making it increasingly important to demonstrate the value of the data and information that is being collected and/or produced. As new issues and priorities emerge, there will be a growing need for the criteria and indicators processes to collaborate with other fora outside forestry, particularly with those sectors or organizations working to develop their own sets of criteria and indicators (e.g., bioenergy, biodiversity, climate change). It is therefore important that these processes continue to adapt to the changing global situation and build on past successes to provide leadership around environmental and sustainable development issues.

Visioning

AFTER IDENTIFYING WHERE AND HOW CRITERIA AND INDICATORS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AS WELL AS CURRENT AND EMERGING CHALLENGES, WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WERE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS AND ASKED TO DEVELOP A COLLECTIVE VISION FOR THE FUTURE — THAT IS, AN IDEALISTIC DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN 5 TO 10 YEARS IF EVERYTHING GOES PERFECTLY.

The purpose of this exercise was to develop a shared understanding of what might be achieved by the criteria and indicator processes and the FAO as it relates to the objective of influencing global environmental and sustainable development issues. While four vision statements were created (see **Annex D**), the two common

themes that emerged were 1) a universal capacity to report in an open and transparent way enabled by collaboration and streamlined reporting requirements and 2) credible information on sustainable forest management that is broadly supported, widely used, and compels decision makers to act.

Summary of the GFRA Meeting in Finland

THE FAO'S GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT CATALYST FOR DISCUSSION AROUND COLLABORATION AND STREAMLINED REPORTING AMONG THE CRITERIA AND INDICATOR PROCESSES.

In September 2011, the FAO hosted a meeting to plan the development of the GFRA system and draft recommendations concerning the implementation of the next assessment in 2015 (FRA2015). Those participants of the workshop that attended this meeting were asked to provide feedback on relevant information for the benefit of those unable to attend.

The process of planning for the FRA2015 is currently underway, and there is an increased interest in reviewing what and why information is being collected and reported on. For the first time, the FAO is undertaking a long-term planning exercise and involving a wider spectrum of users than it has historically (e.g., academia, NGOs). In the past, the criteria and indicator processes have often felt marginalized from the GFRA process. However, there is now an increased willingness to collaborate in order to reduce the reporting burden and to add value

to the GFRA through the inclusion of other indicators, such as those under the Montréal Process Criterion 6 (Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies) and Criterion 7 (Legal, policy and institutional framework). While reducing the reporting burden for countries is considered a priority, it was seen as a difficult undertaking. Nevertheless, this is seen as an opportune time to forge ahead with attempts at greater collaboration and information and data sharing across countries and processes. In particular, there are various opportunities for the criteria and indicator processes to get involved in upcoming GFRA meetings, including an expert meeting in March 2012 and a correspondents' workshop in April 2013, as well as the associated parallel meetings on streamlining reporting through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Current and Emerging Issues

IN THE NEXT PART OF THE WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO IDENTIFY IMPORTANT CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO DEVELOP A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT, BOTH POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY, THE ABILITY OF COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO CURRENT AND EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

While a number of issues were identified (see **Annex E**), some common issues emerged.

In terms of positive issues, there is now greater communication between processes and countries and a greater willingness and ability to collaborate on issues related to sustainable forest management. It is also becoming easier to access data and information and to use new technology to share pertinent information on sustainable forest management among a wider audience. There is a growing awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues among stakeholders, including the role and benefits of forests and green technology, as well as greater expectations that forests will be managed sustainably. There is also a high level of activity around the use of criteria and indicators at the moment, particularly in other sectors (e.g., bioenergy, biodiversity, climate change).

On the other hand, participants identified a number of current and emerging issues that are or may have negative implications. Specifically, there continues to be increased global pressure and demands on natural resources, including forests. Also, it is often difficult to effectively communicate the benefits of sustainable forest management to a wide range of stakeholders, in part due to the lower political ranking of forestry relative to other resource sectors, as well as the inability to provide pertinent information on emerging issues. Finally, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the criteria and indicator processes to remain relevant and competitive in light of parallel or conflicting activities on criteria and indicators in other sectors.

Developing and Prioritizing Options

THROUGH THE PREVIOUS EXERCISES, WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES, AS WELL AS A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

The next step was to develop possible options that would help the criteria and indicator processes achieve their shared vision. While a number of options were identified (see **Annex F**), some common themes emerged.

Specifically, it was suggested that the criteria and indicator processes should assume global leadership on the development of criteria and indicators, improve capacity building and learning among countries, and explore options for adding value beyond reporting, obtaining additional resources, and promoting thematic reporting.

It was suggested that the processes should endeavour to work more closely together, develop a streamlined criteria and indicator framework (with room for additional process-specific indicators), improve on existing indicators, and improve data collection and management methods, as well as enhance communication. It was also suggested that the criteria and indicator processes produce a joint statement of collaboration and work to streamline reporting through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment.

Of the options proposed, participants were asked to prioritize options based on perceived importance.

The options were prioritized by taking into account the practicality, strategic direction, importance or urgency, and relevance of the proposed options with regard to the workshop objectives and the common vision. To ensure fair representation across the processes, representatives for each of the processes were asked to confirm that the top priorities were consistent with the priorities of each of their respective organizations. Based on the results, the priority options were for the criteria and indicator processes to i) produce a joint statement of collaboration; ii) work to streamline reporting for FRA2015; iii) improve communication around sustainable forest management; and iv) work more closely together.

Action Plans

FOR EACH OF THE PRIORITY OPTIONS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN THROUGH WHICH EACH OPTION MAY BE ACHIEVED.

The workshop participants worked in teams to develop a draft joint statement to be considered by the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and FAO. The workshop participants also proposed draft action plans for achieving the other priority options: i) work to streamline reporting for FRA2015; ii) improve communication around sustainable forest management; and iii) work more closely together.

The proposed action plans and draft joint statement are presented in Annex G. These proposed action plans were agreed to in principle by all of the processes/organizations, subject to future discussions among cooperating partners and to resource constraints.

Recommendations

WHILE THIS JOINT WORKSHOP WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN IMPROVING COLLABORATION AMONG THE CRITERIA AND INDICATOR PROCESSES, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, AND FAO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADVANCE COMMON OBJECTIVES.

Specifically, these four bodies should present and discuss the results of the joint workshop with their respective organizations at the first available opportunity, and agree to work toward undertaking the proposed action items outlined in **Annex G**. In particular, it is recommended that the Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE:

- endorse the joint statement of collaboration;
- accept the FAO's invitation to work more closely in the delivery of the 2015 GFRA, with associated recognition of the contribution of the three processes in the branding and promotion of the 2015 GFRA;
- pursue efforts to streamline reporting requirements for the 2015 GFRA by:
 - identifying similarities and differences among the three criteria and indicator processes to use as a core set of indicators for the 2015 GFRA,
 - developing joint data collection schedules and methodologies between FAO and the three criteria and indicator processes,
 - collaborating in a joint messaging and communication strategy for the release of the 2015 GFRA, and
 - developing a joint timetable and meeting schedule to achieve these steps;
- establish a joint communications group that will examine ways to improve communication around sustainable forest management and explore options for a joint long-term communications strategy; and
- work to establish a joint partnership of criteria and indicator processes, "Forest Indicator Partnership," that would:
 - include members of the three processes, as well as other groups or processes with expertise in the development of criteria and indicators to deal with current and emerging sustainable forest management issues,
 - invite, attend and keep members informed of meetings and relevant information and encourage other stakeholders to join in,
 - identify relevant venues and activities and share the joint statement and intentions with other parties,
 - work to maintain and enhance the value of collaboration to participants of the partnership through future joint workshops, and
 - proactively engage with other organizations interested in developing criteria and indicators for forests to determine how the three processes can help them achieve their forest-related goals.

The results of the joint workshop demonstrate the desire and willingness among the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and FAO to examine how criteria and indicators can help countries deal with emerging forest issues, to explore possibilities for future collaboration, and to streamline global forest reporting. Together, these four bodies represent countries that have virtually all of the world's forests, and therefore, have the potential to affect considerable progress toward sustainable forest management.

Next Steps

1	Within a week of the workshop, Canada will distribute the proceedings of the Joint Workshop to the participating processes/organizations for comment (Canada).
2	ITTO will circulate Stephanie Caswell's consultant report on local level application of indicators for information and comment.
3	Canada will facilitate the production of the joint workshop proceedings in a format to be disseminated by participants at upcoming events.
4	Canada, as current chair of the Montréal Process Working Group, will continue to hold joint teleconferences for the processes, including FAO, to maintain their momentum to undertake the actions as planned (first teleconference to be held early December 2011). The proposed action plans may be amended based on the input from the processes/organizations.
5	Representatives of the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and FAO will present the results of this joint workshop to their respective organizations at the first available opportunity (mid-November).
6	Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and FAO will identify representatives for the forest indicators partnership to begin to implement action items identified at this workshop (beginning with the first joint teleconference in early December).
7	A range of upcoming meetings/events were identified where the forest indicators partnership can engage in the short term as a lead-up to developing longer-term engagement strategies/opportunities (will be undertaken by the forest indicators partnership). For a list of upcoming events, see Annex H .
8	New Zealand will communicate the outcomes of the joint workshop at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (November).
9	Once there is a substantial agenda, the partnership will explore the possibility of holding another joint meeting with representatives of the criteria and indicator processes, including members beyond the secretariats. This event may be held in conjunction with other meetings as side events to reduce travel burdens/costs (following the first joint teleconference in early December).
10	The forest indicators partnership will consider a joint side event at the next CBD-COP meeting (end 2012).

ANNEX A: Agenda for the Joint Workshop of Criteria and Indicator Processes

OBJECTIVE 1	Enhance the ability of countries to respond to current and emerging global environmental and sustainable development issues
OBJECTIVE 2	Enhance streamlining of global forest reporting
OBJECTIVE 3	Rally global recognition of the progress and continued relevance of criteria and indicators (C&I) for environmental and sustainable development activities on its 20th anniversary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

TIME	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
0830–0900	Opening information	Housekeeping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by the host • Logistics • Structure of the workshop and field trip • Review the agenda (GROW) • Review the objectives • Expectations of the group • Establish a record of the workshop drafting team • \$\$ for field trip 	Host and facilitator		
0900–0915	Introductory remarks	Introductory comments from ITTO, FE, FAO, MP	ITTO, FE, FAO, MP	An understanding of who each rep is and what their top-of-mind thoughts are	Identify reps from each organization and their priorities

TIME	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
0915–1000	Establishing what we do well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in small groups, sharing concrete examples of the impact of C&I in countries for a common understanding of where and how C&I have been successful and some of the lessons learned. Key points will be presented back to the group. 	Facilitator and all participants	Increased awareness of the concrete ways C&I have already helped countries respond to global environmental and sustainable development issues	Hard information for a joint report of best practices or examples, based on national experiences, of ways in which C&I have helped countries address global environmental and sustainable development issues
1000–1015	Break				
1015–1100	Visioning	<p>“Dream the Dream” — Imagine what could be done together in next 5 or 10 years (determine time).</p> <p><i>In a series of pairings, individuals exchange personal visions. Iterate 3–4 times and everyone takes the best they have heard from others to build a common vision for the group.</i></p> <p>(Goal)</p>	Facilitator and all participants	A shared understanding of how countries and/or C&I processes might collaborate in the area of C&I to more effectively contribute to or influence global environmental and sustainable development issues.	A collective vision for the participants
1100–1145	Common understanding of emerging/current environmental and sustainable development issues	<p>“Talk Show” and questions</p> <p><i>Key factors from FAO FRA September meeting in Finland</i></p> <p>(Reality)</p>	Facilitator and reps who attended the FRA meeting will meet and share pertinent information from the FRA meeting to the Joint Process meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A common understanding of current and expected/emerging global environmental and sustainable development issues Strengthened relationships among the processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commonly agreed to list of emerging issues A list of gaps in data capacity and policy A list of forest areas that lack C&I A list of opportunities for collaboration

TIME	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
1145–1200	(Continued) Common understanding of emerging/current environmental and sustainable development issues	Group activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator will collect input on current and emerging issues. Facilitator will use an illustration to promote group discussion and ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A common understanding of current and expected/emerging global environmental and sustainable development issues Strengthened relationships among the processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commonly agreed to list of emerging issues A list of gaps in data capacity and policy A list of forest areas that lack C&I A list of opportunities for collaboration
1200–1300	Lunch				
1300–1330	(Continued) Common understanding of emerging/current environmental and sustainable development issues				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commonly agreed to list of emerging issues A list of gaps in data capacity and policy A list of forest areas that lack C&I A list of opportunities for collaboration
1330–1415	Developing options to address emerging and current environmental and SD issues	Challenge wall — participants post ideas on a wall. The group clusters ideas to focus ideas and to allow more conversations on options during the field trip. <i>(Options)</i>	Facilitator and all participants	Increased understanding of the opportunities shared by countries/processes to streamline global reporting by using C&I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of options for consideration by individual processes A decision on whether to recommend further technical meetings for specific tasks prior to Rio+20
1415–1430	End of Day One	Wrap up Day One, logistics, info for the field trip, showcase and BBQ, and Day Two	Facilitator and host		
TRAVEL BY GROUP BUS TO THE CFS PACIFIC LAB FOR THE SHOWCASE (APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES)					

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

TIME	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
0830–0900	Recap Day One <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals, reality, options 	Check in	Facilitator	Everyone present and focused on the day's work	
0900–0930	Developing options to address emerging and current environmental and SD issues	Post any new ideas for options. The group will review options to “cluster” and agree on cluster themes.	Facilitator and group		
0930–1000	Prioritize options — keeping in mind Rio +20 and other events that are C&I-relevant	Discuss criteria to be used to help decide which of the above themes will be discussed further. “Dotmocracy” Individuals vote for their top two options.	Facilitator	List of options selected by the group	
1000–1015	Break				
1015–1200	Develop action plans for priority options	<p>Part A</p> <p>Group activity — Use discussion tables for each option — subgroups move from table to table — leave notes and move on after 10–15 minutes.</p> <p>Part B</p> <p>Work in small groups developing action plans based on notes.</p>	Facilitator-lead, everyone in groups	An increased understanding at Rio +20 and an increase in the general awareness of the C&I processes and the impact of C&I in addressing/advancing SFM and the value of the global perspectives gained through collaboration to local or national practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of possible ways in which the participating processes can collaboratively contribute to Rio+20 and other venues/activities to increase awareness of processes, their impacts and potential to address SD issues.
1200–1300	Lunch				

TIME	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
1300–1400	(Continued) Develop action plans for priority options	Working in small groups to test and enhance the action plans.		An increased understanding at Rio +20 and an increase in the general awareness of the C&I processes and the impact of C&I in addressing/advancing SFM and the value of the global perspectives gained through collaboration to local or national practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of possible ways in which the participating processes can collaboratively contribute to Rio+20 and other venues/activities to increase awareness of processes, their impacts and potential to address SD issues.
1400–1430	Summary and presentation of the action plans	Group activity — Have a spokesperson for each group present the action plan.	Facilitator lead		
1430–1445	Break	Assemble notes from the tables onto a laptop.			
1445–1600	Develop a roadmap for completing the workshop report and a proposed process for follow up on actions deemed necessary for Rio+20 and other venues and activities	Group, lead by a facilitator, will suggest steps.	Facilitator lead		A proposed action plan for consideration by the participating processes
1600–1645	Review the first draft of notes for the report from the workshop	Report drafting team will show the notes of the workshop and proposed activities.	Facilitator lead		
1645–1700	Wrap up and next steps	Each process rep will outline their next steps to follow up with their respective organization on the workshop report.	Reps from processes, with a facilitator	Timely confirmation from each process to commit to follow up on report ideas	A package of products that respond to the ideas and needs generated by the joint workshop and agreed to by participating processes

ANNEX B: Joint Workshop Participants

NAME	ORGANIZATION / COUNTRY	CONTACT
Andrea Wells	Facilitator — Natural Resources Canada	Andrea.Wells@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Berit H. Lindstad	FOREST EUROPE	berit.lindstad@foresteurope.org
Steven Johnson	ITTO	Johnson@itto.int
Maria Fernanda Alcobé	Montréal Process — Argentina	feralcobe@gmail.com
Mirta Rosa Larrieu	Montréal Process — Argentina	mirtalarrieu@yahoo.com.ar
Pablo Laclau	Montréal Process — Argentina	placlau@correo.inta.gov.ar
Andrew Wilson	Montréal Process — Australia	Andrew.wilson@daff.gov.au
Stuart West	Montréal Process — Australia	stuart.west@sa.gov.au
Kevin Ethier	Montréal Process — Canada	Kevin.Ethier@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Joanne Frappier	Montréal Process — Canada	Joanne.Frappier@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
John Hall	Montréal Process — Canada	John.Hall@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Simon Bridge	Montréal Process — Canada	Simon.Bridge@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Veronica Oyazun	Montréal Process — Chile	voyarzun@conaf.cl
Lei Jingpin	Montréal Process — China	leijingpin@hotmail.com
Xia Chaozong	Montréal Process — China	Xiachz1975@gmail.com
Xiao Wenfa	Montréal Process — China	xiaowenf@caf.ac.cn
Zhang Min	Montréal Process — China	Dcczhmn2k@vip.sina.com
Zhang Songdan	Montréal Process — China	songdan@forestry.gov.cn
Yuichi Sato	Montréal Process — Japan	yuuchi_satou@nm.maff.go.jp
Ichiro Nagame	Montréal Process — Japan	ichiro_nagame@nm.maff.go.jp
Tim Payn	Montréal Process — New Zealand	tim.payn@scionresearch.com
Alan Reid	Montréal Process — New Zealand	alan.reid@maf.govt.nz
Steven Cox	Montréal Process — New Zealand	Steven.Cox@maf.govt.nz
Se Kyung Chong	Montréal Process — Republic of Korea	skchong@forest.go.kr
Maria Palenova	Montréal Process — Russia	palenova@gmail.com
Catherine Karr-Colque	Montréal Process — USA	karr-colquecj@state.gov
Micheal Buck	Montréal Process — USA	mbuck@hawaii.rr.com
Peter Gaulke	Montréal Process — USA	pgaulke@fs.fed.us
Rich Guldin	Montréal Process — USA	rguldin@fs.fed.us
Jeff Dechka	Natural Resources Canada	Jeff.Dechka@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Kenneth MacDicken	UN-FAO	Kenneth.MacDicken@fao.org

ANNEX C:

Taking Stock — Identifying What Went Well and Common Challenges

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS EXAMPLES PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS OF WHERE AND HOW CRITERIA AND INDICATORS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AS WELL AS SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES THEY FACE.

SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in data; having comparable data across countries to allow reporting on trends • Seven thematic elements of the FRA are based on the three C&I processes. • Japan’s permanent grid of forest plots • C&I in forest law; legally required to report annually on Forest Sustainability Index • ITTO is now in a second round of reporting. There is a good level of funding. • Other sectors are now seeking forestry’s experience. • Forestry is held to a higher standard than other sectors. Gives us the opportunity to be leaders as a result. • Changing the focus from the sustainability definition to who has the authoritative data and what to do about it • Capacity building within countries • Stimulated conversations about forests • High-level, coherent, holistic picture; not judgemental • Information seen as accurate and credible; moved discussion forward to issues and values • Vehicle to speak to politicians • A “cold hard” look at our internal processes that has driven improvements • Provides a time-series perspective to track change • Sustained interest and engagement over time; through retirements • C&I brought the forestry community together under a common framework (various forest types including research, protected, production) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of necessarily slow progress of international processes • Need to collaborate more with fora outside of C&I (e.g., CBD) • Balance benefits of standardization with the need for flexibility/diversity • Honest reporting; fear of exposing yourself in reports • Carbon reporting; not good processes in place; Could C&I provide framework? • Continued relevance; messages are “stale” • Fighting for air time of politicians in a new era of many messages and “today’s problems and news” • Lack of understanding of C&I framework; also at regional and local levels • Short-term, near-term responses compete for time and energy • Access to good data collection programs; resources shrinking • Lack of awareness by decision makers at the political level • World change is accelerating. The C&I framework and reporting interval may not be keeping pace. • Educating university professors and students about the framework and data and their utility (next generation) • Personalization of C&I • Connect C&I to policy development • Communication (so what?) • What’s the story?

SUCSESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different C&I processes led to the same point • Helped promote SFM • C&I are transferable from local to international • Integrated forest-related sectors • Capacity building • Recognize the difference between native and plantation forest and the institutions that work together on all forests • Developed and enhanced dialogue around SFM • Use of C&I to measure regional agreements • Use of MP C&I to establish model forests • Designing indicators for the regional level were based on MP C&I • Role of our processes in international discussions; Discussions here can spill over to other fora. • Change in the direction of national policy as a result of SFM dialogue and MP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing demands • How to move on to the next phase • Interface with certification • Difficulty of acquiring data and responding to the questions being asked • Create value added from data • Challenge of prioritizing indicators; reduce the reporting burden • Applying C&I to small farmer woodlots

ANNEX D: Common Vision

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WERE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS AND ASKED TO DEVELOP VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE — THAT IS, AN IDEALISTIC DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN 5 TO 10 YEARS IF EVERYTHING GOES PERFECTLY.

The purpose of this exercise was to develop a shared understanding of what might be achieved by the criteria and indicator processes and the FAO as it relates to the objective of influencing global environmental and sustainable development issues. While four vision statements were created, two themes emerged and elements from each of the vision statements are grouped according to these themes below.

- 1) A universal capacity to report in an open and transparent way enabled by collaboration and streamlined reporting
 - Through pooling expertise, all countries are capable of reporting.
 - A forest indicator partnership exists to allow open and transparent access to data and methods of analysis for greater understanding of the sustainable forest management situation.
 - All processes have been able to report on core indicators.
 - Harmonization of reporting and understanding of data collection/limitations
 - One forest Web site
 - All countries have achieved a common understanding of language and the reporting framework for sustainable forest management.
- 2) Credible information on sustainable forest management that is broadly supported, widely used, and compels decision makers to act
 - All countries have the capacity to report on their forests in an open and transparent fashion.
 - Common reporting by all countries on sustainable forest management using criteria and indicators is achieved and brings a lot of investment into sustainable forest management activities.
 - Forestry leads other sectors that have adopted a comparable sustainable resource management approach.
 - Criteria and indicators messaging has convinced world leaders to implement new strategies to protect and increase the world's forest cover.
 - Criteria and indicators messaging has increased budgets for forest management and research institutions by 50 percent.
 - Better public understanding of sustainable forest management, trust in data, political support, and use of criteria and indicators by others
 - Through the use of music and song, money has poured in to plant new forests worldwide.
 - All forests of the world are being sustainably managed as assessed by criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

ANNEX E: Current and Emerging Issues

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID ARE THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT, BOTH POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY, THE ABILITY OF COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO CURRENT AND EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, AS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE JOINT WORKSHOP.

POSITIVE ISSUES	NEGATIVE ISSUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRA openness is increasing. • Improving tools (e.g. reporting, technical, etc.) • Public awareness on environmental issues is increasing. • Increasing awareness of the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation • Increasing awareness of environmental services of forests • Private sector awareness of environmental activities is increasing. • Lots of international activity around indicators • Easier access to information and data (to more people) • Private company compliance and governance • Emergence of green technologies • Community expectations for sustainability • Certification and market access for sustainably managed resources • Closer cooperation between C&I processes and United Nations organizations • Emergence of other C&I • Improving communication between and amongst countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deforestation • Increasing pressure on the forest land and increasing demands on forest products and services • Need to have immediate action and response to sustainability practices • Market failure in the forest products pricing • Increasing and conflicting demands • Increasing climate change consequences • Short and shifting attention spans of political leaders • Challenge in losing control of messages that go out • Lack of communication and marketing skills in the natural resources profession • How to translate sustainable forest management to people and government • More data can change the story • Satisfying all types of stakeholders • Getting mileage and telling stories from the data • Declining resources (budgets) • Increased public awareness of environmental issues • Growing appetite for more information on forests (out strips our ability) • How to influence other processes • Lack of ownership for others outside of C&I process • Political influence of forestry

ANNEX F:

Developing and Prioritizing Options

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF OPTIONS, GROUPED BY THEME, THAT PARTICIPANTS SAID COULD HELP THE CRITERIA AND INDICATOR (C&I) PROCESSES ACHIEVE THEIR SHARED VISION, AS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE JOINT WORKSHOP.

DEVELOPING AND PRIORITIZING OPTIONS

Communication

- Communicate between our groups explicitly.
- Disseminate C&I into society.
- Develop the 2nd implementation and communication strategy.
- Create common success stories on how C&I frameworks (data) have influenced management decisions.
- Better communicate our work to the broader community.
- Communication to implement common activity about sustainable forest management (SFM) to forestry
- One portal for SFM information
- Design/develop the forest Web site.
- All institutions sharing the information and concrete understanding of an unique strategic plan in order to have good policy makers and increasing awareness of C&I
- Focus improvement on the C&I that are the most important for story.
- Clearly understand who uses our products and what tasks they must accomplish with our products.
- Develop a value proposition of the indicators part.
- Establish who our end-users are.
- Work on links (communication) between conservation and production (to general audience).
- Write good stories.
- Communicate effectively.

Taking leadership

- Inform or be informed by CBD to understand the contribution of C&I.
- Enhance our influence on other forest fora.
- Inform or be informed by UNFCCC to understand the contribution of C&I.
- To support UNFF to LBI by common C&I of SFM
- Expand global leadership in forest reporting.

FRA 2015

- Agree on definitions.
- Use FRA 2015 to begin a road toward increased harmonization of indicators and data.
- Work toward the goal of having FRA 2015 have all our logos on it.
- The three processes collaborate in a joint messaging and communication strategy with FAO for 2015 FRA
- FRA 2015 as a platform (agreement? side meetings?)

Common reporting

- Prepare and provide a clear format for reporting of indicators.
- All processes and FRA reporting agree on thematic elements and criteria.
- Share our progress reporting with each other.
- To reduce the load of reporting by C&I report on SFM
- Harmonization of reporting; a joint questionnaire/ reporting format developed by “consortium of the willing”

Thematic reports

- Develop a theme report using a selection of indicators co-published by FAO, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, and Montréal Process.
- Thematic stories as the best way to communicate the value of C&I
- A short report by FAO, Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE on one question of interest to our publics (e.g., Are we over-harvesting our forests?) with information drawn from common indicators related to this question (release at RIO+20?)

Collaborative partnership on forests

- Work with CPF on streamlining reporting.
- Continued messages to CPF member organizations on the importance of streamlining reporting
- Streamlining to remove the reporting burden (e.g., grading the indicators, decreasing the number of indicators to be reported, develop guidelines for concise reporting)

Indicator improvements

- Develop better water indicator(s) for MPWG and FRA.
- Develop better “protective function” indicator(s) for MPWG and FRA.

Joint statement

- Common “message” for RIO+20 (short-term goal for improved cooperation)
- Create a joint statement that any new C&I for SFM developed ad hoc by countries be accountable, transparent and science-based, and developed with broad stakeholder input like the Montréal Process, FOREST EUROPE, and ITTO.
- Joint statement among C&I processes that highlights agreed upon data elements
- All C&I processes and FRA develop a communication piece on agreed thematic elements and criteria.
- Statement of cooperation at RIO+20

Montréal Process Web site

- Improve the Montréal Process Web site

Adding value

- Develop policy analysis tools based on C&I.
- Identify “hot spots” of different criteria in member countries.
- Serving new topics
- Move beyond reporting any C&I to setting standards and targets.

Securing resources

- Enhance secretariat services.
- Develop a relationship with private sector sponsors.
- Provision of support mechanism
- Financial resources seeking
- Integration of resources

Data management

- Establish a working group on a global forest database.
- Forest database (FIP)
- Develop procedures for analysis and joint publication of forest management data.
- Develop a framework for i) which data to include, ii) who will maintain it, and iii) access to it.
- Develop a "forest indicator data management system."
- Focus the improvement of C&I to those with the most comparability between processes.
- Agree on methods of data collection and elaboration.
- Agree on the methodology of how to estimate the indicators.
- Identify limits to data processes.

Common framework

- Develop a methodology to use C&I.
- Create a framework between C&I processes for research collaboration on the same directions (no money for research, just for management and travel to the meetings).
- Develop a single, common C&I set that is common to all three processes and FRA.
- Work with FRA to ensure the alignment of indicators among the processes and FRA.
- Develop a common approach for C&I processes to work individually and collaboratively.
- Improve our links to C&I for our national policy statements.
- Define the common ground with interested parties.

Capacity building and learning

- Choose one or two pilot projects to test ideas.
- Establish a workshop series to develop vision ideas.
- Capacity
 - case studies of how indicator data are measured and analysed
 - international workshop to share experiences
- Internships or secondment from less developed to more developed countries (developed in terms of C&I progress)
- Capacity building for all levels of foresters and government
- Capacity building on reporting SFM
- Work together on regional capacity building workshops.
- Reinforce capacities of countries to build reporting abilities.
- Short-term professional exchanges among processes to strength linkages and enhance capacity.
- Share experts between countries and within countries.
- Exchange researchers and policy users of C&I between nations and processes.

ANNEX G: Proposed Action Plans for Priority Options

THE FOLLOWING LIST IS PROPOSED ACTION PLANS THROUGH WHICH THE PRIORITY OPTIONS MAY BE ACHIEVED, AS WELL AS A JOINT STATEMENT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, AND FAO. THE PROPOSED ACTION PLANS WERE AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COOPERATING PARTNERS AND TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS.

1) 2015 GFRA AND COMMON REPORTING

Goal

The Global Forest Resources Assessment, conducted every five years by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is the most comprehensive assessment of forests and forestry — not only in terms of the number of countries and people involved, but also in terms of scope. It examines the current status and recent trends for about 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses, and values of forests and other wooded land, with the aim of assessing all benefits from forest resources. The Global Forest Resources Assessment results are presented according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicators processes, specifically the Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE.

Strategy

There has been an increasing call from many nations, including the members of the three criteria and indicator processes, to streamline reporting requirements and to use their national efforts in reporting on sustainable forest management as a basis for their international reporting requirements.

Actions

The Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE jointly agree to the following:

- Accept the FAO's invitation to work more closely with them in the delivery of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment, with associated recognition of the contribution of the Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE in the branding and promotion of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment;
- Identify similarities and differences among the three indicator processes to use as a core set of indicators for the 2015 GFRA;
- Develop joint data collection schedules and methodologies between the FAO and the three criteria and indicator processes;
- Collaborate in a joint messaging and communication strategy for the release of the 2015 GFRA; and
- Develop a joint timetable and meeting schedule to achieve these steps.

2) IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Goal

Improved communication across range of audiences

- maintain flow of stories (staying relevant); and
- monitor the impact of improved communications (communications group)

Strategy

- Short-term objective of using existing success stories and materials;
- Long-term objective of establishing a common language across a two-way street (we communicate and get feedback in an ongoing process)
- Long-term communication strategy to enhance and refine our story and keep it relevant with current events and issue to:
 - find out who our audience and end-users are;
 - gather existing stories, communication tools to make our stories resonate with important public issues (e.g., climate change);

Actions

Establish a joint communications group with representatives from each of the criteria and indicator processes (Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE)

Critical issue

Resourcing

3) WORKING TOGETHER

Goal

- Working together and establishing a “Forest Indicator Partnership”

Strategy

The “Forest Indicator Partnership” would include members of the Montréal Process, ITTO, and FOREST EUROPE, as well as other groups or processes with expertise in the development of criteria and indicators to deal with current and emerging sustainable forest management issues. A “Forest Indicator Partnership” would help create efficiency, promote sustainable forest management, and reduce redundancy.

Actions

- The processes aim to:
 - invite, attend and keep each other informed of meetings and relevant information and encourage other stakeholders to join in;

- make their experts and expertise available to build capacity in the development and use of criteria and indicators to promote sustainable forest management;
- identify relevant venues and activities and share the joint statement and intentions with others; and
- maintain and enhance the value of collaboration to participants of the partnership through future joint workshops.
- Proactively engage with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and others interested in developing criteria and indicators for forests to determine how the “Forest Indicator Partnership” can help to achieve their forest-related goals.

4) JOINT STATEMENT OF COLLABORATION

Looking after the world's forests and maintaining their services: Joint statement of the Montréal Process, International Tropical Timber Organization, FOREST EUROPE, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment

In the 20 years since the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, forests across the globe have continued to face pressures of many kinds, such as continued deforestation and increasing social demands for products and services. Simultaneously, forests are increasingly recognised for their important contributions in solving global environmental challenges, like climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. As reiterated during the 2011 International Year of Forests, forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

The UNCED Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests, the "Forest Principles", was an important motivation for improvements in tracking and reporting on forest conditions and trends.

Since UNCED, the Montréal Process, International Tropical Timber Organization, FOREST EUROPE, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment have utilized sophisticated criteria and indicator frameworks for reporting on forest related environmental, social, and economic aspects.

These four bodies continue to make significant progress by working together to promote sustainable forest management, as described by the United Nations Forum on Forests:

"Sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations."

The seven internationally recognized thematic elements of sustainable forest management (United Nations Forum on Forests 2004):

- 1) extent of forest resources
- 2) biological diversity
- 3) forest health and vitality
- 4) productive functions of forest resources
- 5) protective functions of forest resources
- 6) socio-economic functions
- 7) legal, policy, and institutional framework

are a basis for monitoring and reporting, and for revealing challenges, and demonstrating progress on forest conditions and sustainable forest management.

We are confident that our experiences and successes have relevance to other organizations and processes interested in tracking environmental changes and reporting on sustainable development.

We recognize the value of working with other processes and organizations to avoid the proliferation of monitoring requirements and associated reporting burdens.

We recognise that our knowledge and experience in tracking and reporting on forest conditions and trends is of value and relevance to emerging issues such as climate change, bioenergy and water.

We invite other entities interested in forest-related data, evaluation or expertise to work with us to further improve forest related data collection and reporting. We see this as the best way to address emerging issues and to ensure the greatest lasting contributions from sustainably managed forests to sustainable development worldwide.

The Montréal Process | International Tropical Timber Organization | FOREST EUROPE |
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

05 January 2012

ANNEX H: Upcoming Events

2011

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Subsidiary Body on Science and Technical Assistance (SBSTA) (November)

Society of American Foresters National Convention (November)

International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) (November)

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (November)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (December)

2012

Ispra I meeting on the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment (March)

Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (June)

COFO 2012, 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (September)

11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD (October)

2013

23rd Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

United Nations Planted Forests 3rd experts meeting

United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF-10 (May)

FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference (2013/14)

2014

Launch of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress (October)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report (2014/15)

2015

Montréal Process 20th Anniversary

2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment

End of the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work (2007–2015)

United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF-11

2015 World Forestry Congress

2017

Rio+25, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

2020

Convention of Biological Diversity Targets

2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment

Copenhagen Accord 2020 Country Emission Reduction Targets

FOREST EUROPE 2020 Targets



THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS | INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION |
FOREST EUROPE | FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

