

Joint statement of The Montréal Process, International Tropical Timber Organization, FOREST EUROPE, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' 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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations' 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.”

LOOKING AFTER THE WORLD'S FORESTS AND MAINTAINING THEIR SERVICES

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.

