



27th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting

Nelson, New Zealand

13-17 November 2017

THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

BACKGROUND

1. Forests are essential to the long-term well-being of local populations, national economies and the earth's biosphere. They are home to 70% of the world's terrestrial plants and animals and provide food, fuel, shelter, clean water and air, medicine, livelihood and employment for people around the world. When managed sustainably, forests can provide a wide range of essential economic, social and environmental goods and services for the benefit of current and future generations.
2. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to sustainable development when it adopted the "Rio Forest Principles" and Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests. This agreement is commonly referred to as the Forest Principles. Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 establishes a goal of attaining sustainable management of forests by the year 2000.
3. The Montréal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests —"The Montréal Process" — was launched in 1994 to advance the development of internationally agreed criteria and indicators and establish a common understanding of what constitutes forest conservation and sustainable management in the temperate and boreal region.
4. Today, the Montréal Process Working Group has 12 member countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America and Uruguay. These countries account for 80% of the world's temperate and boreal forests, 50% of all forests, 45% of international trade in timber and timber products, and 35% of the world's population.
5. The purpose of the Montréal Process Working Group is to advance the development and refinement of internationally agreed criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests.
6. The Montréal Process Working Group fosters consensus among its members on a common understanding, language and definition of what constitutes conservation and sustainable management of those forests with the intention of wider application of the Montréal Process Working Group criteria and indicators framework and of working with other criteria and indicators processes and global forestry forums, and including through:

- the participation of, and national reporting by, the Montréal Process Working Group members who represent countries with temperate and boreal forests
- considering approaches for membership of the Montréal Process Working Group from prospective member countries
- voluntary and inclusive membership of such countries, including prospective new members
- directing the work of and considering the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee
- establishing, as needed, sub-groups of the Montréal Process Working Group to undertake Montréal Process Working Group-assigned tasks during Montréal Process Working Group inter-sessional periods
- liaison with other regional criteria and indicators processes and international forestry forums, and
- promoting the Groups views through the Montréal Process website and other information managed by the Liaison Office.

MONTRÉAL PROCESS STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

7. The Montréal Process is supported by a suite of strategic documents that offer direction to the Montréal Process Working Group, the Liaison Office, the Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee Convenor.
8. These are the:
 - Montréal Process declarations
 - Strategic Directions of the Montréal Process
 - Montréal Process Value Proposition
 - Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process Working Group
 - Terms of Reference for the Liaison Office for the Montréal Process
 - Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montréal Process
 - Terms of Reference for the Convenor of the Technical Advisory Committee
 - Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process website
 - Montréal Process Strategic Action Plan
 - Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators
9. In support of the Strategic Directions of the Montréal Process, a Strategic Action Plan 2016- 2025 – implementation plan outlines the activities that the Montréal Process Working Group is proposing to undertake in support of the Montréal Process.

THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS DECLARATIONS

10. In 1995 the Santiago Declaration was agreed by Montréal Process Members countries and it was endorsed in Santiago, Chile in February 1995 (Annex 1).
11. In September 2003, the Montréal Process Working Group recommitted to the process with the Quebec Declaration ([Annex 2](#)) and adopted a vision for the process.
12. The most recent declaration, the Yanji Declaration (Annex 3) was agreed in 2016 and presented at the United Nations Forum on Forestry in New York on 5 May 2017.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS

13. At the 25th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting the Montréal Process Strategic Directions were adopted ([Annex 4](#)).
14. No priority or order is implied in the listing of the Strategic Directions or their associated elements.
15. Please note that the Montréal Process Strategic Directions are proposed for update in a separate agenda item at the 26th MPWG meeting.

THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS VALUE PROPOSITION

16. The Working Group considered a need to develop a Montréal Process value proposition in order to clearly demonstrate and communicate the benefits of the Montréal Process to both domestic and international clientele.
17. At the 25th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2015 a Value Proposition for the Montréal Process ([Annex 5](#)) was adopted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS WORKING GROUP

18. At its inaugural meeting in July 1994, the Montréal Process Working Group members supported a flexible, transparent and informal, but mutually supportive approach to its work. This posed a relatively light burden and commitment on member countries while enabling their efforts to be directed to the protracted and difficult task of developing and agreeing to a technically complex and often politically challenging criteria and indicator framework.
19. The meeting noted that:

“The Working Group will be informal in nature and will pursue its work on an ad hoc basis as agreed by participants. Therefore, only minimum support will be needed to handle logistical arrangements. ... The Chair will be decided on a meeting by meeting basis. To further facilitate its work, the Working Group will seek to meet in conjunction with already scheduled international forest meetings. When the group decides to have a written result of its meeting, the text will be agreed by participants at the close of the meeting. Participants agree to distribute the results of the group's

deliberations to interested countries, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations. The guiding principles of the group will be transparency and flexibility. “

20. At the 21st Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2010 the Montréal Process Working Group Rules of Procedure were adopted.
21. At the 27th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2017, the Montréal Process Working Group Rules of Procedure were replaced by the Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process Working Group (Annex 6).
22. The Montréal Process Working Group has established and agreed separate Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process Liaison Office, the Montréal Process Technical Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee Convenor.
23. Each of these offices operates in accordance with these Terms of Reference but under direction as required from the Montréal Process Working Group.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS

24. At the 21st Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2010 the Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process Liaison Office (Annex 7) were adopted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS

25. At the eighth meeting of the Montréal Process Working Group, an ad hoc and informal Technical Advisory Committee was created. The Technical Advisory Committee was designed to be task-oriented and worked to reach agreement on definitions of terms and approaches to data collection. At the ninth meeting of the Montréal Process, held in July 1997 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, it was decided that the Technical Advisory Committee should be maintained in an on-going role in support of the Montréal Process.
26. At the 21st Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2010 the Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montréal Process (Annex 8) were adopted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONVENOR OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27. At the 21st Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2010 the Terms of Reference for the Convenor of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montréal Process Working Group (Annex 9) were adopted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS WEB SITE

28. At the 27th Montréal Process Working Group Meeting in 2010 the Terms of Reference for the Convenor of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montréal Process Working Group (Annex 10) were adopted.

MONTRÉAL PROCESS STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2016 – 2025

29. The Montréal Process Strategic Action Plan 2017–2026 – Implementation Schedule provides direction for Montréal Process activities for the period 2017-2026 (Annex 11) and is based on the five Strategic Directions.

30. It serves as the Montréal Process Working Group’s overall guiding documents and road map through until 2025 for the implementation of initiatives and is a tool for measuring the communicating and monitoring achievements against Montréal Process objectives and priorities to stakeholders within member countries, other governments, other criterion and indicator processes and relevant regional and international organizations.

31. The Strategic Action Plan identifies specific actions that the Montréal Process will undertake in its operations to advance these Strategic Directions.

MONTRÉAL PROCESS IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

32. The Strategic Action Plan- Implementation Schedule (Annex 12) will be reviewed and updated on the agenda for each Montréal Process Working Group Meeting.

THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

33. In November 2007, the Montréal Process Working Group reaffirmed that the following seven criteria constitute the essential components of sustainable forest management.

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
3. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
4. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
5. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles
6. Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies
7. Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management.

34. The Working Group conducted a comprehensive review of country experiences in preparing 2003 forest reports. As a result of this review, the Working Group adopted a new set of 54 indicators for the seven Montréal Process criteria. These criteria and indicators are contained in Annex 12.

Annexes

- Annex 1: The Santiago Declaration
- Annex 1: The Québec Declaration
- Annex 2: The Yanji Declaration
- Annex 4: Strategic Directions of the Montréal Process
- Annex 5: The Montréal Process Value Proposition
- Annex 6: Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process Working Group
- Annex 7: Terms of Reference for the Liaison Office for the Montréal Process
- Annex 8: Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montréal Process
- Annex 9: Terms of Reference for the Convenor of the Technical Advisory Committee
- Annex 10: Terms of Reference for the Montréal Process website

- Annex 11: Montréal Process Strategic Action Plan
(Sourced from the agenda for MPWG 27)

- Annex 12: Montréal Process Implementation Schedule
(Sourced from the agenda for MPWG 27)

- Annex 13: Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators