

A VITAL
PROCESS FOR
ADDRESSING
GLOBAL
FOREST
CHALLENGES

THE
MONTREAL
PROCESS
2009

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ISBN 0-478-11029-4

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Temperate and Boreal Forests – The Montréal Process.



DIVERSE COUNTRIES
WORKING TOGETHER

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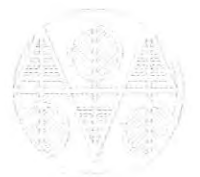
A VITAL PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING GLOBAL FOREST CHALLENGES – THE MONTRÉAL PROCESS

This report highlights how the Montréal Process has played a vital role helping member countries respond to the challenges and opportunities for our forests from four global issues.

These issues are climate change, biodiversity, bioenergy and water, all of which are critical to present and future generations.

Forests play an important and multi-faceted role in these issues as massive carbon sinks, housing the majority of terrestrial species, and as a primary source of fresh water and biomass.

Solutions to the challenges posed by these four issues therefore require concerted and collaborative actions related to sustainable forest management at international, national, and operational levels.

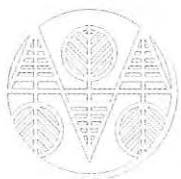
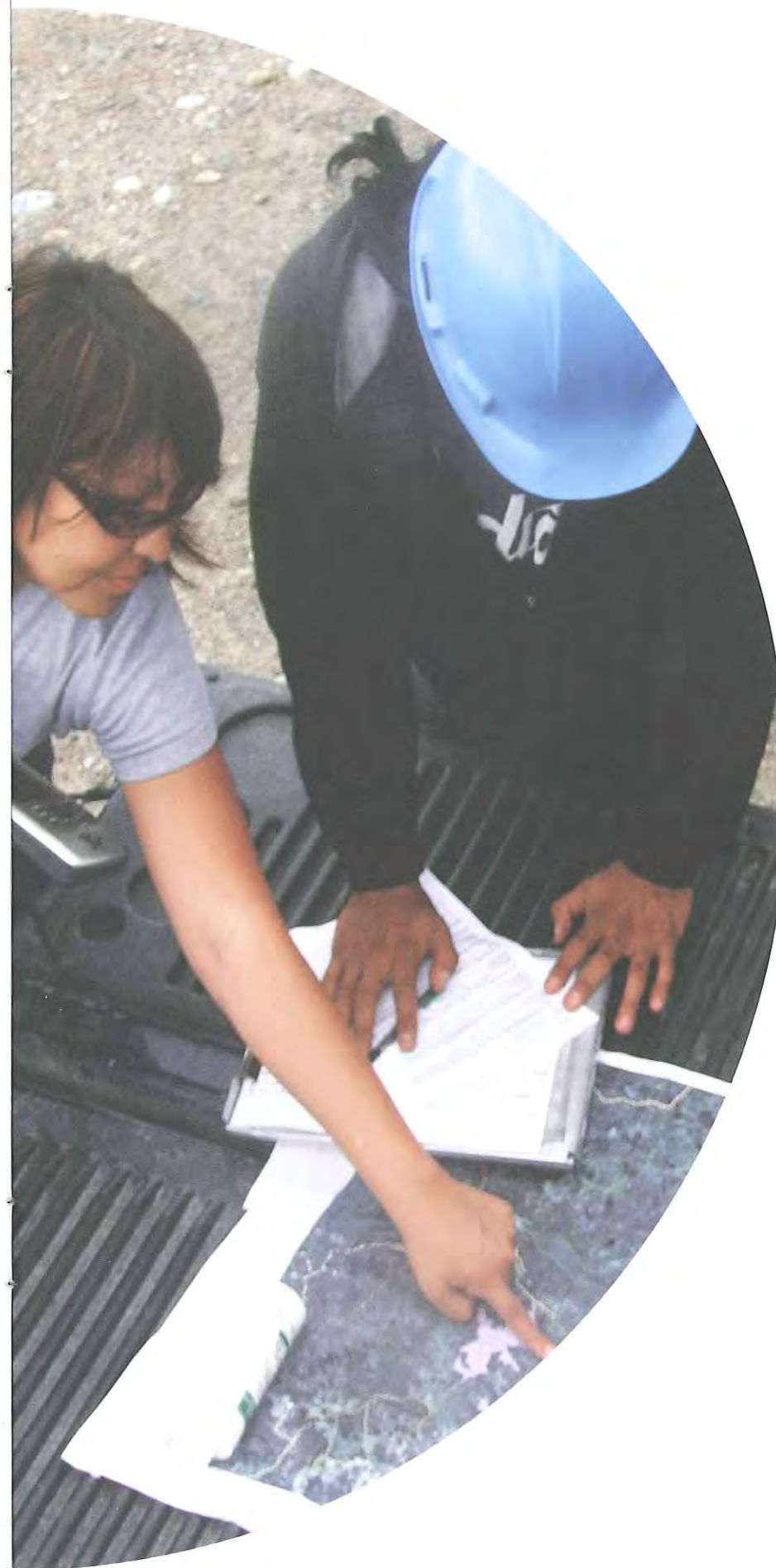


DID YOU KNOW?

The Montréal Process Working Group was formed in 1994 as a bold, inter-governmental response to the pressing need for sustainable forest management. One of its first tasks was to develop and implement internationally agreed-upon criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests.

The Montréal Process countries are Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, and Uruguay. These member countries contain 83% of the world's temperate and boreal forests, 49% of the world's forests, 33% of the world's population, and are the source of 40% of the world's wood production.

Through the Montréal Process, member countries continue to make a voluntary commitment to work alongside each other to further the sustainable management of their forests and to create a pathway for collaboration and capacity building.





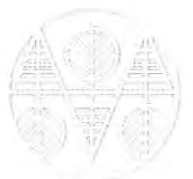
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF CHANGE

The forests of the world perform **critical roles** as the lungs of our planet, protector of our soils, filter of our waterways, home to countless species, and **creators of wealth**. The wise utilisation and protection of these forests are matters of global necessity.

The Montréal Process, through its Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management provides its member countries with:

- An internationally agreed, locally supported tool to integrate issues as they apply to forests;
- A common ground on which stakeholders, public agencies and countries can work out shared objectives and collaborative actions toward sustainable forest management;
- A common framework to monitor, assess, and report on trends in forest conditions with respect to the **full range** of forest values and, **in turn**, on the progress toward sustainable forest management;
- A network and forum for exchanging knowledge and experience, **deliberating** policy tools, maintaining awareness of the important role of forests, and fostering collaboration among countries with diverse natural, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds.

One of the most notable and valuable achievements of the Montréal Process has been the establishment of mutual trust and confidence which has encouraged the 12 member countries to develop a “network of knowledge”. Through discussion, research, cooperation, communication, and capacity-building between countries, this network has enabled member countries to make **individual and collective** progress in tackling the four critical issues, as demonstrated in the case studies that follow.



WATER

The Montréal Process provides a network and forum to promote awareness of the important role of forests in conserving water. This enables sharing of knowledge and best practices to preserve water quality and quantity in forests.

Water protection and the role of forests in **water regulation** may also be influenced by forestry operations which can **regulate the flows** and improve the quality of water. These practices, which help address the critical issues surrounding the quality and quantity of water, are critical elements of sustainable forest management.

The Montréal Process gives us a mechanism to monitor, assess and report on the effectiveness of best management practises, guidelines, **codes**, policies and areas protected for water resources on a national basis.

There is a growing concern in the face of unstable climate conditions regarding the maintenance of the water quality and quantity necessary for our wellbeing. The development of criteria and indicators has helped promote awareness in member countries of the important role of forests in conserving water and raised commitment to the sustainable management of forests.

A number of member countries, including Argentina, Australia, Russia, Uruguay, Chile and the United States of America, have introduced best management practices, guidelines, **codes of conduct**, etc., into their policies. Other countries including Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, the United States, and Uruguay have maintained, improved and expanded forests whose designation or land management focus is the protection of water resources. Mexico has promoted reforestation in order to improve the conditions of forests and water quality in watersheds.

Research focused on the potential impacts of forestry activities on water indicates that timing, frequency, scale, and geographic spacing of timber harvesting and thinning likely affect the yield and quality of water. In Australia, recent research has led to the development of new guidelines for the improved protection of headwater streams based on five graded prescriptions according to erosion risk. Argentinean manuals include results of research and experience obtained during the last five years related to criteria and indicators. Its guidelines consider ecological and socio-economic aspects, and can be updated as a result of development of new knowledge.

The United States, through the use of criteria and indicators, especially Criterion 4 - soil and water, grouped various sources of **impairment** of rivers and streams and classified the states into eight broad impairment source categories. They found that, of these eight broad sources of impairment, forestry-related activities impair the fewest miles of rivers and streams.

