



International Seminar on  
**“Soils as the foundation for resilient forests  
in a changing environment”**

- viewed through the lens of Criteria and Indicators -



## Background and objectives

### 1. Forest and soil:

- a. Forests, which are primary “mother” of soils on Earth, provide multiple functions such as conservation of water resources, land conservation, conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of global warming as well as timber and non-timber forest productions and fuels.
- b. Forests directly affect the livelihoods of 20 percent of the world’s population. Forested catchments supply 75 percent of the world’s freshwater. Forests are home to 80 percent of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity. Energy from wood is our single most important source of renewable energy, representing 9 percent of the total primary energy supply worldwide.



## Background and objectives

### 1. Forest and soil:

- c. Soil is a key for sustaining life on Earth but in danger because of the pressure of a growing population, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management, and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the sustainability of food production and ecosystem services to meet the needs of future generations.
- d. Therefore the 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS) to promote sustainable management of soils for ensuring a food-secure world and stable and sustainably used ecosystems on Earth.



## Background and objectives

### 2. Montréal Process:

- a. The Montréal Process was launched by non-European temperate and boreal forested countries to develop a common set of Criteria and Indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of their forests in 1994.
- b. Today, the Montréal Process 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 83% of the world's temperate and boreal forests or 49% of the world's forests, 45% of the world's wood products, and 33% of the world's population.



## Background and objectives

### 2. Montréal Process:

- c. A recent achievement of the MP has been an initiative to formulate and coordinate a Joint Statement of MP, ITTO, Forest Europe, FAO to streamline forest data reporting through FRA2015 in 2012. Voluntary partnership and collaboration among MP, FAO, ITTO, UNECE, FE and OFAC has functioned effectively and constructively through sharing responsibilities and ownership of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaires in FRA2015.
- d. The data jointly collected in FRA2015 are now under analysis and report review stage and will be made publicly available at the 14<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress in September 2015 by FAO and other partners including MP. This week, members of MP are here in Tokyo to review and discuss the data of 12 member countries to prepare their 3<sup>rd</sup> overview report which will also be announced at the World Forestry Congress.



## Background and objectives

### 3. Soil and water in MP C&I:

- a. Following the development and application of several regional C&I initiatives, UNFF decided a common set of seven thematic elements for SFM in 2007. The set includes:
  - I. Extent of forest resources,
  - II. Biological diversity,
  - III. Forest health and vitality,
  - IV. Productive functions of forest resources,
  - V. Protective functions of forest resources,
  - VI. Socio-economic functions, and
  - VII. Legal, policy and institutional framework.

## Background and objectives

### 3. Soil and water in MP C&I:

- b. The seven Criteria of MP are slightly different from the one of UNFF elements, however, all elements of UNFF are covered the MP Criteria, i.e.
  - I. Conservation of biological diversity,
  - II. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems,
  - III. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality,
  - IV. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources,
  - V. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles,
  - VI. Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies, and
  - VII. Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management.



## Background and objectives

### 3. Soil and water in MP C&I:

- c. One unique feature of MP's Criteria formulation is found in its protective function's element. MP clearly states that protective function will be primarily explained by specifying the roles and functions of soil and water resources.
- d. Among such functions, the function in risk reduction/mitigation against natural disasters (e.g. huge typhoons, intensive rainfall and tsunami associated with earthquakes) is once again recognized seriously in Japan which is a natural disaster vulnerable country.
- e. The risk reduction/mitigation function, i.e. resilience of forests against water-induced natural disasters brings benefits in our livelihood security, food security and biological diversity through conservation of soils and regulated water flow in forests.



## Background and objectives

### 4. Scope and objectives:

- a. Today's Open Seminar, as a kick-off event of 2015 International Year of Soils in Japan, will provide
  - I. the recent analysis on mechanism of soil and other functions of forests,
  - II. new monitoring methodologies and measures to improve functions of soils and associated output, and
  - III. the interactions of soils and society,through the lens of Criteria and Indicators of the Montréal Process.

## Background and objectives

### 4. Scope and objectives:

- b. The co-facilitators will initiate discussions among the panelists (presenters plus Ms Claire Howell) with some inputs from the other members of the MP as well as the audience on:
  - I. how soil and water related functions are to be monitored, and
  - II. how C&I based monitoring can contribute to the global sustainable development agenda, such as:
    - ① The post-2015 UN development agenda (SDGs and associated targets and indicators),
    - ② The post-2015 International Arrangement on Forests (including future UNFF), and
    - ③ The World Forestry Congress.