

Indicator 62. Capacity To Measure and Monitor Changes in the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests, Including Compatibility with Other Countries in Measuring, Monitoring, and Reporting on Indicators

Member countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, United States of America, and Uruguay

What Is the Indicator and Why Is It Important?

This indicator conveys information about the compatibility of measurement and reporting protocols among countries. Compatible protocols facilitate global and regional assessments, and they facilitate global dialog.

What Does the Indicator Show?

During the Montreal Process leading up to the Santiago Declaration, criteria and indicators were negotiated with enough ambiguity to enable countries to use their existing data. This flexibility works against the use of common protocols in data reporting. The lack of common protocols became apparent at a

capacity-building workshop in Portland, OR (http://www.mpci.org/meetings/meetings_e.html). At this workshop, representatives of the Montreal Process countries worked to understand each other's protocols for reporting data for the following seven indicators: (1) extent of area by forest type relative to total forest area; (10) area of forest land and net area of forest land available for timber production; (19) area and percent of forest land, managed primarily for protective functions; (26) total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool; (44) direct and indirect employment in the forest sector and the forest sector employment as a proportion of total employment; and (61) scope, frequency, and statistical reliability of forest inventories, assessment, monitoring, and other relevant information. Findings of the workshop indicate that protocols among the 12 countries are generally not compatible for the 7 indicators. Findings from this case study suggest that much work would be involved in developing common protocols for all 67 indicators.