



Designation: D7480 – 21

Standard Guide for Evaluating the Attributes of a Forest Management Plan¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7480; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide provides a list of criteria and indicators that have been shown to be useful in achieving the goals of a sustainable forest management plan. This guide lists a set of criteria considered to be important for the following tasks:

1.1.1 To describe, assess, and evaluate progress toward sustainability of forest management at the national, regional, or individual forest level.

1.1.2 To inform the policy debate at regional, national, and international levels.

1.1.3 To evaluate the attributes of a forest management certification or evaluation system with a specific combination of forest management principles, practices, or adaptations, where such practices are evaluated against a set of prescribed standards. Although this guide provides a qualitative list of criteria for evaluation of forest conditions, it does not purport to recommend any specific forest management certification or evaluation system or subset of overall attributes. The guide does not replace forest certification or verification standards.

1.2 This guide will require compilation of information from multiple sources across various governmental and nongovernmental agencies. For this guide to be useful, it is recommended that the information collected is in alignment with that which is already collected for other purposes; otherwise these indicators may be too great an effort to combine in a timely fashion.

NOTE 1—Although this document provides general guidance applicable to forests and forest products from many countries, its initial application is expected to focus on North America.

1.3 This guide cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment such as that provided by foresters, forest scientists, and wood technologists.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.08 on Forests.

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1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D9 *Terminology Relating to Wood and Wood-Based Products*

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Standard definitions of wood terms are given in Terminology D9.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Related to the Field of Forestry*:

3.2.1 *criterion, n*—category of conditions or processes by which sustainable forest management may be assessed.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—A criterion is characterized by a set of related indicators which are monitored periodically to assess change.

Montréal Process³

3.2.2 *ecosystem, n*—dynamic system of plants, animals, and other organisms, together with the non-living components of the environment functioning as an independent unit. **Montréal Process**³

3.2.3 *forest management, n*—branch of forestry concerned with the overall administrative, economic, legal and social aspects and with the essentially scientific and technical aspects, especially silviculture, protection and forest regulation. **Natural Resources Canada**⁴

3.2.4 *forest type, n*—category of forest defined by its vegetation, particularly composition, and/or locality, as categorized by each country in a system suitable to its situation. **Montréal Process**³

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ *Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators*, Fifth Ed., Sept. 2015, Online: <https://bit.ly/3s8kozZ>.

⁴ Forestry Glossary of Natural Resources Canada, Dec. 8, 2020, Online: <https://bit.ly/3mG2zHp>.