

**Summary, CPF –Major Group Meeting  
Wednesday 15 February 2006, 11:00 am, DC1-12<sup>th</sup> floor**

Focal points from organizations participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and representing Major Groups in UNFF met to discuss informally possible methods of improving communication and collaboration. Two facilitators were nominated to guide the discussions: Mr. Peter Mayer, IUFRO, on behalf of the CPF members and Mr. William Street, BWI, from the Major Groups side. Participants welcomed the initiative, which served as a continuation of a similar meeting between both groups held during UNFF5 in May 2005. The discussion provided an opportunity to better understand the joint working modalities of both the CPF and the Major Group focal points as well as explore concrete possibilities for collaboration.

All participants agreed that a strengthened international arrangement on forests should include increased joint efforts toward implementation of decisions, but the difficulty remains in assessing how this collaboration could be most effective. Within the CPF, for example, the most success has come from initiatives among smaller groupings of two, three or four members that are focused in their goals and scope. The Major Group focal points initially began engagement in the UNFF process with very different perspectives and expectations but regular meetings and interaction has gradually built a foundation of mutual understanding that allows the group to find areas of common interest and opportunities for joint action. Major Group focal points expressed an interest in beginning a similar engagement with CPF members.

When discussing the possibility of engaging in joint activities, it was suggested that the planning of joint inter-sessional activities would be a useful way of enhancing collaboration while contributing to the UNFF process. Many examples of such work were provided including the MCPFE process which provides a mandate to individual stakeholders for joint implementation of specific decisions. The joint planning and implementation of some Country-Led Initiatives including the Leticia meeting on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge and the joint NGO-UNEP meeting on Underlying Causes of Deforestation were cited as successful examples of collaboration that also made a substantial contribution to the inter-governmental process. Similar joint initiatives could be undertaken in the future, with expanded participation of both CPF members and Major Groups, once the MYPOW for UNFF is established. One such initiative could be the forthcoming meeting on Rights and Resources currently being organized by CIFOR, IUCN and Forest Trends. Interested parties were invited to contact CIFOR. Similar initiatives could also be considered for work at the regional level.

The challenges of effective communication were also discussed. It was stated that each of the CPF members have their own networks of organizations with which they work and their individual manner of engaging stakeholders. This diversity of method is further highlighted in the decentralized manner with which organizations work with their regional offices and processes. Major Group focal points sympathized with these logistic and organizational difficulties. They described the importance they placed on

coordination with other organizations working at both the regional and global levels, stating that maintaining an ongoing dialogue with such organizations and ensuring their participation in the UNFF Major Group networks was critical to presenting experience and lessons learned in the UNFF process. It was agreed that CPF members could actively help facilitate this improved interaction by sharing information about the organizations with which they are working or that are participating in their events by informing the respective major group focal point and to share contact information of UNFF Major Group focal points with organizations with which CPF members work.

In this context, it was recognized that each of the Major Groups active in the UNFF process are composed of diverse and far-reaching networks that could be tapped for expert advice for CPF or its members. The role of Major Group focal points as a low transaction cost resource for the identification of specific knowledge or experience was discussed and CPF members agreed that this could be valuable when seeking various forms of experience.

The request of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be included as a member of the CPF was also raised during the meeting.

Finally, the possibility of participation of Major Group representatives in CPF meetings was discussed. It was stated that the relatively high level of cohesion developing among the Major Group focal points would allow them to confidently send one representative to contribute to CPF meetings. This addition could provide the group with considerable value-added in terms of provision of unified perspectives from stakeholders.

Participants agreed that the meeting had provided a useful exchange of views and that similar meetings should be convened in the future.

In Attendance:

**CPF Focal Points:**

Mr. Michael Martin, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, CPF Chair  
Ms. Doris Capistrano, Center for International Forestry Research  
Mr. Conrod Hunte, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
Ms. Tiina Vähänen, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN  
Mr. Peter Mayer, International Union of Forest Research Organizations  
Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat  
Ms. Laura Ivers, World Bank

**Major Group Focal Points:**

Mr. Pierre Andipatin, Global Youth Action Network  
Ms. Inviolata Chinyangarara, Building-Woodworkers International  
Ms. Johanna Gleissner, International Forestry Students Association  
Ms. Jeannette Gurung, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Ms. Nathalie Hufnagal, Confederation of European Forest Owners  
Dr. Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests  
Mr. Balan Nair, Building and Woodworkers International  
Mr. Xavier Ndonga, Initiatives-Jeunes  
Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrangsri, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples  
of the Tropics  
Mr. William Street, Building and Woodworkers International  
Mr. Mathurin Tchatat, FORNESSA  
Mr. Pieter van Midwoud, International Forestry Students' Association

**UNFF Secretariat:**

Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani  
Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill