

**Summary, CPF –Major Group Focal Point Meeting
Wednesday 18 May 2005, 8:30 am DC2-23rd floor**

Focal points from organizations participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and representing Major Groups in UNFF met to discuss informally possible methods of improving communication and collaboration. Participants welcomed the initiative and CPF Chair noted that CPF members have expressed their readiness to build stakeholder confidence in the CPF work and to collaborate with Major Groups within any future international arrangement on forests.

The CPF Network was discussed at the onset. CPF Chair and the UNFF Secretariat explained that the CPF Network had been established as a means of informing interested organizations and individuals of the work being done within the CPF. Many of the Major Group focal points stated that, although useful, this information was often too passive and did not invite active engagement or dialogue. Some participants expressed concerns that perhaps the size of the CPF Network (about 200 participants) might be an obstacle for real and meaningful interaction.

CPF Chair and the UNFF Secretariat also explained that CPF members have established their own networks or mechanisms to collaborate with stakeholders in various ways, including participation of the meetings of their governing bodies and working together with civil society groups in projects. Some pointed to the Civil Society Meeting organized by FAO in Rome prior to the 17th session of COFO as a positive experience, which had provided an opportunity for representatives of civil society groups provide their views on FAO programme of work on forestry.

Some representatives of the Major Groups expressed the need to open channels for advice and collaboration from CPF organizations to Major Group organizations and vice a versa. Major Group Focal Points explained that within each of the Major Groups, there is a wide consultation process among a broad network of relevant organizations in order to nominate the Focal Point, which could also provide a useful source for inviting stakeholder representatives to contribute to the work of CPF member organizations and participate in meetings that they organize.

The issue of a suggested advisory group composed of Major Group representatives for CPF was also discussed briefly. While the idea of collaboration between CPF and Major Groups within the future IAF was widely welcomed it was agreed that further thought could be given to the ways of collaboration.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with all participants agreeing to continue on the path toward further cross-input and collaboration, keeping in mind the outcomes of the UNFF negotiations.

In Attendance:

CPF Focal Points:

Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, CPF Chair

Ms. Elisa Peter, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN

Ms. Tiina Vähänen, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN

Mr. Peter Mayer, International Union of Forestry Research Organizations

Mr. Stewart Maginnis, World Conservation Union

Mr. Stephen Kelleher, World Conservation Union

Major Group Focal Points:

Ms. Mary Coloumbe, International Council of Forest Product Associations

Ms. Jeannette Gurung, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Ms. Anninina Kostilainen, International Forestry Students' Association

Dr. Andrie Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests

Mr. Richard Modley, International Forestry Students' Association

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropics

Mr. William V. Street Jr, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers

Dr. Atse M. Yapi, IUFRO-SPDC Regional Coordinator for Africa and FORNESSA Secretary

UNFF Secretariat:

Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani

Ms. Mia Söderlund