



CPF

Promoting
the sustainable
management
of all types of forests



CPF

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS



What is the CPF?

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats¹ that have substantial programmes on forests.

HOW WAS IT FORMED?

The CPF was established in April 2001 in response to an invitation issued in the same Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) resolution² that established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). This resolution invited the executive heads of relevant organizations of the UN system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to form a collaborative partnership on forests.

OBJECTIVES

As part of the International Arrangement of Forests, the CPF's overarching objective is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The CPF was created to:

- support the work of the UNFF and its member states; and
- enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF member organizations.

¹ See page 7 for the list of CPF member organizations.

² UN ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35.



Over the years, member organizations of the CPF have called on their governing bodies and executive heads to support the activities of the partnership to achieve the goals of the UNFF.

CARRYING OUT ITS WORK

An important function of the CPF is to improve the sharing of information about the activities of member organizations and to discuss opportunities for further collaboration. Member organizations collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. They are also forming valuable strategic joint initiatives on specific issues, benefiting from shared expertise and pooled resources.

The CPF usually convenes in conjunction with major events to discuss strategic areas of coordination between CPF member organizations and to work towards greater coherence between countries. Strategic meetings are held after sessions of the UNFF to prepare the CPF's joint work plan. *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework Paper*³, produced biennially, sets out the CPF's work plan and provides a progress report over a two-year period. The CPF is chaired by FAO and supported by the UNFF Secretariat, both members of the CPF.

WHAT MAKES THE CPF EFFECTIVE?

One of the keys to the CPF's success is its informal and voluntary nature. The relatively small size of the group keeps it focused.

Another key is the support provided by the memberships of the various partners. Almost all the governing bodies to which individual CPF member organizations report have endorsed and encouraged participation in the partnership, signalling their commitment to making the CPF work. The UNFF provides direction to the partnership and encourages even more coordination among CPF member organizations.

³ www.cpfweb.org/73055/en/



SUPPORTING THE UNFF

CPF member organizations provide input to sessions of the UNFF and related expert meetings. They prepare joint statements, make presentations on issues relevant to the international forest policy dialogue, and co-sponsor organization-led initiatives in support of the work of the UNFF. Several members – CIFOR, FAO, ITTO, UNDP and UNEP – have supported the UNFF Secretariat by seconding staff to it. FAO currently has a seconded staff member in place there.

CPF member organizations contribute to the International Arrangement on Forests by implementing their own forest work programmes, engaging in joint initiatives and mobilizing resources to assist countries to better understand and implement the Non Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (the Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (Box 1).

4

1 GLOBAL OBJECTIVES ON FORESTS

At the sixth session of the UNFF in 2006, member states set four Global Objectives on Forests in support of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable forest management (SFM).

Global Objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation

Global Objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Global Objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Global Objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM

Summarized from ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49

INTERACTING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The CPF member organizations are committed to transparency and continue to seek ways of keeping stakeholders informed about, and involved in, the CPF and the individual work of the partners. At UNFF sessions, the CPF engages in dialogue with UNFF major group focal points to ensure the flow of information between the CPF and forest stakeholders and to take advantage of a broader range of views, expertise and experiences.

2 EXAMPLES OF ISSUES ON WHICH CPF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE

- Combating deforestation and forest degradation
- Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests
- Financing SFM
- Forest biological diversity
- Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems
- Forest-related scientific and traditional knowledge
- International trade of forest products
- Livelihoods and forest services for forest-dependent people
- Promoting SFM
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting (including definitions)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, including REDD+
- Forest landscape restoration
- Forest protection, including payment for ecosystem services
- Dryland forest issues
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded landscapes and forests



CPF members

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

www.cifor.org

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat

www.cbd.int

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

www.fao.org/forestry

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat

www.thegef.org

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

www.itto.int

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

www.iucn.org

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

www.iufro.org

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat

www.unccd.int

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

www.undp.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

www.unep.org

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat

www.un.org/esa/forests

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

www.unfccc.int

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org

World Bank

www.worldbank.org/forests

The work of the CPF in 2011 and 2012

FOREST FINANCE

At the 9th session of the UNFF (UNFF9) in 2011, the CPF member organizations were invited to report to the UNFF's 10th session (UNFF10) in 2013 on their ongoing work and future actions on forest finance and to deepen and broaden their work in support of actions to finance SFM. The CPF was invited to convene an organization-led initiative (OLI) on forest financing in support of the work of the UNFF and to support the implementation of all functions of the UNFF Facilitative Process. The CPF Advisory Group on Finance (CPF-AGF) was also invited to carry out work between UNFF9 and UNFF10, in particular to update and expand the 2008 CPF-AGF study on forest financing. The CPF-AGF, coordinated by the UNFF Secretariat, is composed of 12 CPF member organizations: the CBD Secretariat, CIFOR, FAO, the GEF Secretariat, ICRAF, ITTO, IUCN, the UNCCD Secretariat/Global Mechanism, UNEP, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the UNFF Secretariat and the World Bank.

The 2012 CPF-AGF study on forest financing⁴ served as the basis for discussions at the CPF OLI, which was held in September 2012 at FAO headquarters, and also informed the second meeting of the UNFF Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing, held in January 2013 in Vienna, Austria⁵. The CPF OLI co-chairs' summary report contains key findings and recommendations on forest financing based on the experiences of, and lessons learned from, numerous stakeholders. In the course of 2011–2012, several CPF member organizations also provided input and support to the UNFF Facilitative Process workshops on Small Island Developing States and Low Forest Cover Countries.

STREAMLINING REPORTING

Mindful of reporting requests from UNFF9 and other governing bodies of CPF member organizations, the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest Related Reporting met at FAO headquarters in April 2012⁴. At this meeting, Task Force members (ITTO, FAO, UNEP and the secretariats of the CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNFF) were informed of the progress that had been made towards joint data collection through the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), which is being developed by FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment and regional data collection partners. Task Force members discussed the potential for the CFRQ to streamline forest-related reporting and further engage intergovernmental processes, including the UNFF, to support joint data collection and analysis. Task Force members also shared information on their plans to harmonize country reporting requirements, including with regard to variables and timing, in their respective governing bodies.

Regional workshops were organized in 2011 and 2012 by the UNFF Secretariat and FAO, in consultation with other CPF member organizations, to strengthen reporting capacities in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition (Box 3). In an effort to improve data collection and analysis, the UNFF Secretariat presented guidelines and measures for implementation, forest-related definitions, and monitoring, reporting and assessment tools. Following these workshops, a streamlined reporting format was developed, leading to the submission of 58 national reports to UNFF10.

⁴ www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/AGF_Study_July_2012.pdf

⁵ www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html

⁶ www.cpfweb.org/73035/en/

3 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS HELPED BUILD GREATER AWARENESS OF THE FOREST INSTRUMENT, resulting in new interest from seven countries to implement the instrument with support from FAO. The initial four FAO pilot projects on the implementation of the Forest Instrument (Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines) are also continuing their work, with support from the governments of Germany and Japan.

ADVANCING A COMMON MESSAGE ON SFM

For many years, a variety of stakeholders have sought clarity on the concept of SFM. In response, the CPF formed the Working Group on Advancing a Common Message on SFM. This Working Group, which has representation from all CPF member organizations, drafted documents reflecting common understanding among CPF member organizations on a range of issues. In June 2012, the CPF, led by the CBD Secretariat and ITTO, released a set of eight fact sheets on SFM in English, French and Spanish. The fact sheets provide information on the following aspects of SFM: the multiple functions of forests; primary forests; food security and livelihoods; indigenous peoples; REDD+; biodiversity; gender; and adaptation to climate change. The CPF has started to identify additional SFM fact sheets for preparation and dissemination in the 2013–2014 biennium.

FOREST DEGRADATION INITIATIVE

Forest degradation fuels carbon emissions and climate change, eliminates habitats, results in soil erosion and the siltation of rivers and streams, and often destroys the livelihoods of poor, forest-dependent people. Given information gaps on degradation, members of the CPF, led by FAO, prepared studies on forest degradation to identify potential parameters and best practices for assessing them. Released in 2011, the brochure *Measuring Forest Degradation* describes challenges in this field and provides recommendations for measuring degradation that could lead to forest restoration and the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands. In addition, an FAO working paper, *Assessing Forest Degradation: Towards the Development of Globally Applicable Guidelines*, provides stakeholders with detailed information on measuring forest degradation.

PROMOTING LANDSCAPE APPROACHES

CPF member organizations recognize the importance of landscape approaches because of the wide range of ecosystem services and benefits derived from landscapes to support sustainable livelihoods and development. Landscape approaches embrace all the many landscape functions, such as the provision of clean water; flood prevention; erosion control; biodiversity conservation; and agricultural and forest production. Landscape approaches also seek to work across sectors to manage land at the range of scales necessary to ensure sustainable development.

The CPF joint policy submission to the Rio+20 conference promoted intersectoral landscape approaches to help conserve forests, increase the number of useful trees in landscapes, restore degraded lands, support sustainable agricultural productivity and food security, conserve biodiversity, contribute to poverty eradication, mitigate the effects of climate change and promote a greener economy. The submission noted that the importance of these functions varied according to context and local needs and aspirations.

The CPF published its joint policy submission as an e-booklet, *Rio+20 and Forests*, and presented it at the Rio+20 conference during a CPF side-event that included current and former heads of state, ministers and other high-level representatives of government, and the executive heads of several CPF member organizations. In light of the implications of some Rio+20 outcomes for forests, the CPF is engaged in ongoing debates on the post-Rio+20 and post-2015 UN development agendas.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The CPF's outreach and awareness-raising campaign in the International Year of Forests 2011 was a major collaborative effort that drew significant attention to a suite of forest issues around the world. The CPF Communicator's Group, led by CIFOR, FAO and the UNFF Secretariat, met throughout the year to discuss approaches to CPF outreach, including through joint videos and events. In addition to promoting country-level activities, CPF member organizations identified 24 forest-related thematic issues that were featured in CPF press releases.

In 2011, the CPF Communicator's Group worked to re-brand the CPF, resulting in a new CPF logo and a redesigned CPF website, and IUFRO's Global Forest Information System boosted the functionality and availability of information on the CPF website. The CPF Communicator's Group also created the CPF Wangari Maathai Award, the first of which was presented to Nepalese community forestry advocate, Narayan Kaji Shrestha. CIFOR, FAO, ICRAF, ITTO, IUFRO, UNEP and the UNFF Secretariat contributed to the financing of the award in 2012.

In late 2012, the UN General Assembly designated 21 March as the permanent International Day of Forests, an achievement that was made possible in part by the support provided by the UNFF Secretariat, FAO and other members of the CPF Communicator's Group. A number of CPF member organizations prepared activities for the first International Day of Forests and will continue to work together to create coordinated campaign efforts.

FOREST DAY-LANDSCAPE DAY

The CPF's Forest Day, led by CIFOR, has become an important event for discussion and networking on forests. At Forest Day 5, in 2011, participants agreed to inform the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties on ways to implement REDD+ and paid special attention to issues related to gender and sub-Saharan Africa. Forest Day 6, in 2012, acknowledged the need for landscape-based approaches that focus on synergies and tradeoffs at the landscape level. The CPF agreed that CIFOR, on behalf of the CPF partners, would join forces with the CGIAR



Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, acting on behalf of the sponsors of Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day, to create a new, combined event, to be known as Landscape Day, at UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties, with the aim of integrating forests and the wider development agenda.

GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

The Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative, led and coordinated by IUFRO within the framework of the CPF, assesses scientific information and produces reports on forest-related issues of major concern. The GFEP released a full assessment report in 2012 titled *Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives* as a contribution to intergovernmental discussions on climate change and biodiversity conservation.

GLOBAL FOREST INFORMATION SERVICE

The Global Forest Information Service, another CPF initiative led by IUFRO, brings forest-related information from a network of partners to stakeholders in a single web gateway – www.gfis.net. Users of the service can easily navigate, follow and access relevant forest and tree-related information, such as news, events, publications and job vacancies. The Global Forest Information Service encompasses information supplied by over 400 partner institutions around the world, and the number of providers continues to grow. The CPF uses the Global Forest Information Service gateway on its own website.

Funding for a stronger CPF

The CPF is a low-cost addition to the International Arrangement on Forests, but more funding would increase the scope and continuity of its work at various levels. In the past, member states have provided CPF member organizations with funds to undertake specific tasks and joint initiatives and to secure expert staff to carry out the work. There is potential to boost this approach, improving resource efficiency and strategic planning among CPF member organizations.

The growth in policy initiatives at the international level must be complemented by an intensification of work at the field level. With more support, the CPF and its member organizations can strengthen joint approaches to regional and country-level activities that help improve the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

For more information on the CPF, go to the CPF website or contact:



CPF Secretariat @ The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
One UN Plaza, DC1-1252, New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel 1-212-963 3401 Fax 1-917-367 3186
Email cpf@un.org Web www.cpfweb.org

This brochure sets out the purpose of the CPF, lists its member organizations, and describes the CPF's activities and achievements in 2011 and 2012.



CPF

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS

