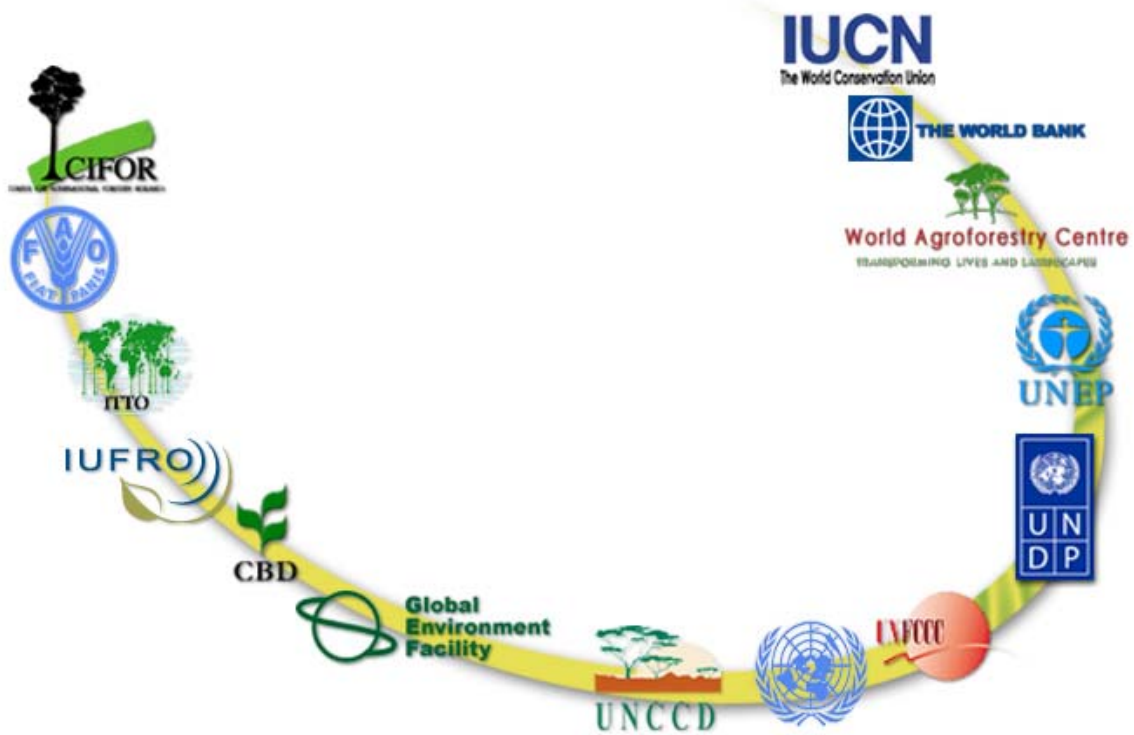


# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF)

## POLICY DOCUMENT



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests that was established in April 2001 in response to an invitation issued in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) that established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The Partnership is comprised of fourteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests. The objectives of the CPF are to support the UNFF and its member countries and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues. CPF members facilitate the work of UNFF by supporting the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and by providing expertise and advisory services to UNFF. They enhance cooperation and coordination on forests by carrying out joint initiatives, collaborating in many activities, and sharing information in order to capitalize on synergies and avoid duplication of effort. Also a CPF Network has been established to help facilitate interaction with a wide range of other interested parties involved in forests, including NGOs, private sector entities and other major groups.

## **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES**

### **Establishment**

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership that fosters increased cooperation and coordination on forests. It was established in April 2001, in response to an invitation issued in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) that established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in October 2000. The CPF is modeled after the informal, high-level Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF), which was set up in 1995 to support the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

### **Membership**

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests consists of fourteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats, hereafter referred to as “CPF members”, that have substantial programmes on forests (see Box 1). The CPF members have considerable capacity and resources to support the work of UNFF. It is widely recognized that no single body or organization has the capacity or mandate to respond to the multiple demands of forests in a comprehensive manner. Collectively, CPF members, building on their comparative advantages, support the implementation of sustainable forest management worldwide.

#### **Box 1. Members of CPF.**

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) World Bank World Conservation Union (IUCN)
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### **Mission**

The mission of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests is to promote sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are to support the work of UNFF and its member countries and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues.

## **Functions**

The CPF supports the work of UNFF by:

- ❖ Supporting implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action through:
  - Providing information and technical assistance to countries;
  - Facilitating regional and international initiatives;
  - Identifying and mobilizing financial resources;
  - Strengthening political support for sustainable forest management.
  
- ❖ Providing expertise and advisory services to UNFF through:
  - Preparing documentation for UNFF sessions;
  - Supporting intersessional activities;
  - Seconding senior staff to the UNFF Secretariat.

The Partnership enhances cooperation and coordination on forests by:

- Facilitating communication among members and with other interested parties;
- Undertaking joint initiatives and collaborative activities;
- Streamlining and harmonizing forest-related reporting to international organizations and instruments and fostering a common understanding of forest-related terms and definitions;
- Identifying potential links and synergies between the work of the UNFF and other agreements, international conventions and instruments;
- Submitting coordinated proposals to their respective Governing Bodies;
- Facilitating cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels.

## **CPF Network: working with other stakeholders**

CPF aims to interact with a wide range of partners and stakeholders that are fostering sustainable management of all types of forests.

The CPF Network has been established to facilitate collaboration and communication between the Partnership and other interested parties. It provides an informal mechanism for international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous

peoples' organizations, private sector entities and other major groups to channel their support to the work of UNFF and to enhance cooperation. The CPF Network brings together a broad range of expertise, resources and perspectives that enrich the dialogue and enhance collaborative action to promote sustainable forest management.

## **WORKING MODALITIES**

### **Focal agencies**

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests has designated focal agencies for the elements addressed by UNFF, following a principle of shared responsibility (see table 1). This division of responsibility is based on the mandate, competence, resources and comparative advantage of each member.

The role of each focal agency is to strengthen collaboration among members, as well as with other partners, in order to mobilize resources and expertise, avoid duplication of effort and maximize efficiencies and synergies in support of the work of UNFF. Key tasks of focal agencies include:

- Facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action;
- Providing documentation for UNFF sessions, including drafting reports of the Secretary-General;
- Supporting country- and organization-led initiatives of UNFF;
- Channeling requests for information and assistance to the appropriate sources.

CPF has also identified supporting agencies that work closely with focal agencies.

### **Approach**

In carrying out its functions, the CPF:

- Operates in an open, transparent and flexible manner;
- Shares information on policies, programmes and activities among its members;
- Develops and maintains close communication and collaboration between its members and other partners, including participants in the CPF Network;
- Regularly holds meetings that are organized in conjunction with other forest-related meetings, to the extent possible;
- Encourages senior-level participation of its members in CPF meetings and UNFF sessions in order to demonstrate commitment and facilitate rapid decision-making.

**Table 1.** CPF focal agencies.

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Focal agencies</b>	<b>Indicative list of Supporting agencies (alphabetically)</b>
Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes	FAO	All CPF members
Promoting public participation	UNFF (international) UNDP (national)	FAO, GEF, ICRAF, World Bank
Combating deforestation and forest degradation	UNEP	CIFOR, FAO, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, World Bank
Traditional forest related knowledge (TFRK)	CBD	CIFOR, GEF, UNCCD
Forest-related scientific knowledge	CIFOR, IUFRO, ICRAF	CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFCCC,
Forest health and productivity	FAO	CIFOR, ITTO, IUFRO, CBD, UNFCCC,
Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management	FAO, ITTO	CIFOR, IUFRO, CBD, UNEP
Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests (Economic aspects of forests) (Social and cultural aspects of forests)	World Bank CIFOR	All CPF members FAO, ITTO, CBD, UNDP, UNEP, ICRAF, World Bank, IUCN
Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems	UNEP	FAO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, World Bank, IUCN
Monitoring, assessment and reporting; and concepts, terminology and definitions	FAO	All CPF members
Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover	UNEP	FAO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, IUCN
Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests	FAO, UNCCD, ICRAF	All CPF members
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs	UNFF	All CPF members
Financial resources	GEF, World Bank	All CPF members
International trade and sustainable forest management	ITTO	FAO, World Bank
International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technologies for the support of sustainable forest management	FAO	ITTO, CBD, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank
Forest biological diversity <sup>1</sup>	CBD	All CPF members

<sup>1</sup> “Forest biological diversity” cuts across several of the other elements. The focal agency for forest biological diversity will liaise with other CPF members and take their input into account when drafting documents for UNFF sessions and carrying out other functions of the Partnership.

## **Reporting to UNFF**

The CPF reports annually to the UNFF on its activities in a document entitled *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests' Framework*. This annual report represents both the Partnership's work plan and progress report. It is prepared as a collaborative effort by all CPF members and is compiled with the support of the UNFF Secretariat. The CPF Framework highlights major initiatives carried out jointly, provides an update on individual and collaborative activities of CPF members in support of UNFF, reports on actions taken in response to guidance given by UNFF, and records its efforts to enhance cooperation on forest issues.

## **Chairmanship of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

CPF members have agreed that FAO chairs the Partnership. The tasks of the Chair include: facilitating cooperation among all CPF members; planning and chairing meetings; participating, on behalf of CPF members, in UNFF Bureau meetings; and representing the CPF at UNFF sessions and other international meetings. The Chair can ask another CPF member to co-chair a meeting or to chair a meeting in his/her absence.

## **Secretariat**

The UNFF Secretariat supports the Collaborative Partnership on Forests by: facilitating the Partnership's joint activities; liaising with members; coordinating the CPF's contributions to UNFF sessions, including session documents; participating in technical meetings and governing bodies' sessions of members; acting as a focal point for information dissemination and communication among members; assisting the Chair in planning and supporting meetings of the Partnership and the CPF Network; preparing background documents for CPF activities; maintaining the CPF website and a calendar of meetings/events; and managing other CPF outreach activities. In addition, the Secretariat also helps prepare the CPF Framework, and undertakes appropriate follow up.

CPF members have agreed to make every effort to second staff or otherwise contribute to the staffing and work of the UNFF Secretariat, both to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat and to enhance its interagency character.

For further information on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its Network, please visit the CPF web site: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf> and/or contact the Secretariat:

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