

CPF NETWORK CONCEPT PAPER

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I. Introduction

This concept paper outlines the objectives, functions, participants and working modalities of the CPF Network, and provides relevant background information on the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The CPF Network was established in March 2002 in conjunction with the second session of the UNFF, held in New York at UN Headquarters.

The concept paper was developed with the support of the UNFF Secretariat and with input from a wide range of stakeholders and the CPF members. The results of a questionnaire, disseminated to UNFF major group contacts, provided the basis for the draft of the concept paper. The draft was distributed widely through e-mail networks for review and comment, and was subsequently revised taking into consideration the comments received.

II. Background on the UNFF, CPF and CPF Network

About the UNFF and CPF

In February 2000, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) recommended the establishment of a new international arrangement on forests, composed of a policy forum and a collaborative partnership on forests. Subsequently, in October 2000, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution E/2000/35 establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body, and inviting the heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to form a collaborative partnership on forests to support the work of the UNFF and to enhance coordination among participants. The ECOSOC resolution also recommended that the collaborative partnership on forests build on the experience of the Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF), which was established in 1995 and worked for six years in support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and IFF.

In April 2001, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was formally established at its inaugural meeting held in Rome. The eight ITFF member organizations and agencies were the founding members.¹ Since the CPF's establishment, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); and , the World Conservation Union (IUCN) have accepted invitations to join

¹ The ITFF was comprised of: the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Bank.

the CPF. The CPF consists of these 13 international organizations, institutions and instruments which have the capacity, programmes and substantive resources to facilitate the UNFF process, in particular the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and other related internationally agreed actions on forests.

The CPF was established to: enhance coordination and collaboration among its members; and to support the work of the UNFF in the promotion of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and in the building of political will to this end. The objectives of the CPF in supporting the work of the UNFF are to: (i) support the work of the UNFF and its member countries; (ii) enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF members on forests issues. The CPF meets periodically and makes the summary report of its meetings available through the UNFF website (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>).

Towards the establishment of the CPF Network

Consistent with the ITFF model and governments' recommendations, the CPF's membership is limited to a small number to enable it to work informally and effectively in a flexible manner. The CPF's members, however, recognize that many other organizations, institutions, instruments and processes, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), indigenous peoples organizations (IPOs), the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders, are playing or can play an important role in supporting the work of the UNFF. These groups offer a wide range of experiences, resources and perspectives that have enriched the intergovernmental dialogue on forests and enhanced collaborative action on forests at the national, regional and global levels. Thus, the CPF, in its Policy Document², indicated that it was initiating the establishment of a CPF Network to facilitate cooperation, interface and communication with a wide range of other partners. The CPF Network will provide a mechanism to facilitate and enhance cooperation and communication between the CPF and other organizations, institutions, instruments and processes working on forest-related issues.

At UNFF 1, delegates discussed the initiation of work between the UNFF and CPF and adopted Resolution 1/3 addressing this topic. The decision, *inter alia*, expresses support for "the efforts of the CPF to facilitate, cooperate, interface and communicate with relevant stakeholders in the framework of an informal network." This was also the topic of discussion at a meeting of CPF members and representatives of NGOs and IPOs held at the margins of the UNFF 1. At this meeting, NGO and IPO representatives submitted a discussion paper noting the crucial role NGOs, IPOs and other major groups play in implementing existing forest-related commitments. They also stressed the need to improve collaboration between CPF members, not only at the international level, but also at the local and national levels. In response, the CPF indicated that it would further elaborate its ideas on the CPF Network in a concept paper, in which it would address aspects of participation, roles, functions and working modalities. It was agreed that a meeting of the CPF Network would be held in conjunction with UNFF 2 in March 2002.

² The CPF Policy Document (revised in September 2002) is available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/cfpolicy.pdf>

Establishment of the CPF Network

The CPF Network was established in March 2002 in conjunction with the second session of the UNFF, held in New York at UN Headquarters. About 60 persons attended the meeting, including representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (16), intergovernmental organizations (16), governments (17), private sector (6) and UNFF Secretariat (3). Following the first meeting CPF circulate an open invitation by using e-mail lists maintained by relevant organizations, institutions and instruments working on forest-related issues. The Directory of Forest-related Institutions, maintained by FAO, as well as UNFF mailing list served as starting points for distribution of the invitation.

The two first meeting, the second was held in the Hague in conjunction with the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, focused on reviewing the functions and the working modalities of the CPF Network.

III. CPF Network and UNFF Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

It should be noted that the CPF Network and the UNFF multi-stakeholder dialogue are two distinct processes (see figure 1):

- Multi-stakeholder dialogues are a provision of ECOSOC resolution E/2000/35 (paragraph 4j). They are designed to provide an opportunity for the UNFF to formally receive and consider input from representatives of major groups on topics being deliberated by the UNFF. The multi-stakeholder dialogues, which are to be held at each meeting of the UNFF, enable major groups to contribute their expertise, concerns and views to the *policy deliberations of the UNFF*.
- The CPF Network is envisioned as a mechanism to enable meaningful involvement of a wide range and large number of relevant organizations, institutions, instruments and processes in the work of the CPF. The CPF Network will not offer the opportunity for a dialogue with governments on matters relating to forest policy, but rather will help channel inputs to the CPF from a range of entities and processes *supporting the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action*.

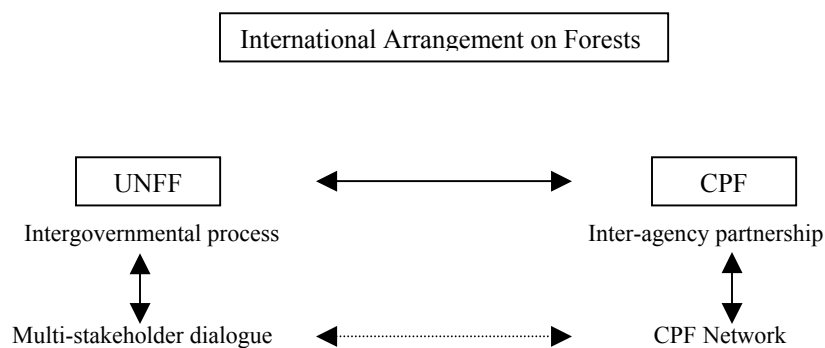


Figure 1. Relationship between the UNFF multi-stakeholder dialogue and the CPF Network.

IV. Objectives of the CPF Network

The CPF Network seek to involve a broad range of stakeholders to facilitate and enhance the work of the CPF in supporting implementation of the UNFF's multi-year programme of work and the UNFF's plan of action, in particular the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

To this end, the objectives of the CPF Network are to:

- (i) Facilitate stakeholders' involvement in CPF's work in support of the UNFF;
- (ii) Enhance communication among a wide range of stakeholders; and
- (iii) Further enhance collaboration and cooperation among organizations, institutions, instruments and processes working on forest-related matters.

V. Functions of the CPF Network

In order to attain the objectives listed above, the CPF Network and its participants may perform the following functions (grouped below by objective):

- (i) Facilitate stakeholders' involvement in CPF's work in support of the UNFF
 - Collaborate with the CPF in implementing or facilitating the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action at the international, regional and national levels;
 - Contribute, as appropriate, to the material prepared by CPF members for the UNFF so that input and feedback from major groups are included to the greatest extent possible;
 - Collaborate with the CPF in its support to monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF;
 - Participate, as appropriate, in intersessional activities organized or supported by the CPF and its member organizations; and
 - Provide inputs to the CPF Framework³.
- (ii) Enhance communication among a wide range of stakeholders
 - Facilitate communication, information dissemination and exchange of ideas among participants of the CPF Network;
 - Assist in the wide dissemination of information on the work of the UNFF, CPF and the CPF Network to NGOs, IPOs and other stakeholders; and
 - Inform various forest-related processes, policy programmes and instruments of each others' activities and events.

³ The CPF reports annually to the UNFF through its Framework for the Contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to the Work of the UNFF, also called the "CPF Framework".

- (iii) Further enhance collaboration and cooperation among organizations, institutions, instruments and processes working on forest-related matters
- Assist in the development of knowledge-sharing mechanisms related to implementation and monitoring activities carried out by the CPF;
 - Foster dialogue among CPF Network participants with the aim of identifying areas of cooperation among organizations, institutions and instruments; and
 - Identify and build on synergies of processes, programmes and instruments in a proactive manner.

VI. Participation in the CPF Network

The CPF Network include CPF members and other interested stakeholders. Participation in the CPF Network is open-ended and broad, in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution E/2000/35 on the international arrangement on forests, which calls for a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy development, coordination and implementation.

Participation in the CPF Network is open to all interested individuals and international, regional and national organizations, institutions, instruments and processes, such as regional processes, development banks, environmental and development NGOs, IPOs, the scientific community, private sector entities and other major groups. The level of participation in the CPF Network varies from organization to organization. Whereas some organizations (and individuals) have asked to simply receive CPF Network communications, others wish to provide substantive contributions to the CPF work (i.e. those that have capacity and resources to support the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action through their programmes, projects and other activities).

VII. Working Modalities of the CPF Network

The CPF Network entails diverse organizations, institutions, instruments and processes from around the world. Mechanisms would need to be set up for communication and collaboration to facilitate effective functioning of the CPF Network.

Mechanisms and measures to enable communication and collaboration among major groups and stakeholders:

- Disseminate information through the CPF website, including summary reports of CPF meetings and CPF Network meetings;
- Disseminate information related to UNFF activities by the CPF focal agencies;
- Devote a section of the *UNFF News* (distributed electronically monthly by the UNFF Secretariat) for contributions from CPF members and participants of the CPF Network;
- CPF Network meetings in conjunction with each UNFF session and at other times, as needed;

- Identify opportunities to collaborate, as deemed feasible, within the work of the CPF by sharing ideas and information on specific issues; and direct lines of communication between focal points of the UNFF multi-stakeholder dialogue and CPF Network participants to facilitate collaboration.

Possible methods for enhancing the involvement of CPF Network participants in CPF's work in support of the UNFF include:

- The exchange of policy notes and position papers; and
- Participation in intersessional meetings organized by CPF member organizations.

To enhance coordination and cooperation among CPF member organizations, the CPF has adopted a focal agency system, which is based on the UNFF elements and takes into consideration each member's mandate, competence, available resources and comparative advantage. The focal agency serves as the focal point for facilitating and coordinating CPF members' activities related to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action for a specific UNFF element, as well as provide support to the multi-year programme of work of the UNFF. The focal agency also draft reports and provide expertise and other support to facilitate the policy deliberations of the UNFF. The CPF focal agencies further play a key role in facilitating communication among CPF Network participants and soliciting their involvement in activities related to the UNFF elements.

Increased coordination and cooperation among CPF member organizations and with other partners would be beneficial at the national level as well as the global level. National forest programmes could provide a framework within which stakeholders' communication and collaboration could take place. Because national forest programmes are country driven, countries' policies and mechanisms will determine, to a great extent, how collaboration at the national and sub-national levels are best carried out. The National Forest Programme Facility (hosted by the FAO) and PROFOR (situated in the World Bank) could facilitate such collaboration. It should also be noted that the mechanisms for communication and collaboration at the national and sub-national levels may be best identified and agreed to at the national and sub-national level and thus is not the concern of this concept paper.

VIII. Support of the UNFF Secretariat to the CPF Network

The UNFF Secretariat, which services the UNFF as well as the CPF, would also provide support to the CPF Network. The Secretariat does this in the following ways: maintain e-mail and address lists of CPF Network participants; update information related to the CPF Network on the CPF website, such as posting summary reports of CPF Network meetings; include information about the work of the CPF Network in the *UNFF News*, a monthly newsletter distributed by the UNFF Secretariat; and service CPF Network meetings by assisting in the preparation and distribution of background documentation and in the drafting of summary reports of the meetings.