

## **Summary Report of the CPF Network Meeting 10 April 2002, The Hague, Netherlands**

The second meeting of the CPF Network was held on 10 March from 13:15-14:45 in the Congress Centre of the Hague, Netherlands. It was held in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was convened in the Hague from 7 to 19 April 2002.

The meeting was co-chaired by Jo Mulongoy, Principal Technical Officer, Secretariat of the CBD, and Susan Braatz, Senior Forest Policy Advisor, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Sixteen people attended the meeting, including representatives from six member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests - CPF (CBD Secretariat, DESA, FAO, ITTO, UNEP and the World Bank), one sub-regional organization (CILSS), five countries (Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Slovak Republic), three NGOs (FERN, Greenpeace, and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Mulongoy welcomed all participants to the meeting, highlighting that the CPF Network had been established to facilitate cooperation and communication among a wide range of partners that are supporting the work of the UNFF and other instruments with shared objectives. The co-chairs introduced themselves and the representatives of the CPF member organizations present, and the other participants introduced themselves. Mr. Mulongoy presented the objectives of the meeting, namely: 1) to inform interested parties about the existence of the CPF Network and extend an invitation to them to join; and 2) to discuss the Network's objectives, functions and, in particular, its working modalities. The agenda was adopted.

### **2. Overview of the UNFF, CPF and the CPF Network**

Ms. Braatz provided an overview of the UNFF, CPF and the CPF Network.

### **3. CPF Network Concept Paper**

Ms. Braatz presented the draft CPF Network Concept Paper, which was distributed at the meeting and is available on the UNFF website in English, French and Spanish. She explained the process used to prepare the paper, and highlighted the contents, including participation, objectives, functions and proposed working modalities of the CPF Network. She informed participants that the UNFF Secretariat would welcome additional comments on the paper by the end of April, after which time the paper will be finalized.

Regarding participation in the Network, the question was posed whether representatives from national governments could participate in the CPF Network. It was explained that the CPF Network is open to all interested individuals and organizations. While the UNFF itself provides the mechanism for country

participation in international policy deliberations on forests, members of governments are certainly welcome to become participants of the CPF Network.

In regard to working modalities, the focal agency system adopted by the CPF member organizations can be used to facilitate communication and cooperation among CPF Network members. Network participants were encouraged to refer to the “CPF’s Framework to Support the Work of UNFF”, copies of which were distributed at COP-6 and are available on the CPF website. The CPF Framework provides the list of the focal agencies for the 16 UNFF elements, or areas of work, and highlights major initiatives by the CPF in support of the UNFF.

#### **4. Report of the first informal meeting of the CPF Network**

The results of the first meeting were presented. A hard copy of the summary report was made available to the participants.

#### **5. CPF Network’s contribution to support the work of the UNFF**

Several contributions that the CPF Network could make were mentioned, including to:

- Support implementation of UNFF work at the national level, through, *inter alia*, national forest programmes and other national policy frameworks related to forests
- Enhance the contribution of the CPF to the work of UNFF
- Facilitate the involvement of a wider stakeholder group in UNFF’s intersessional work
- Facilitate a two-way flow of information, related to CPF’s work, between the international and national levels.

There was considerable discussion about the role that the CPF Network could play to enhance coordination and cooperation at the national level among CPF Network participants, including among CPF members and other organizations.

The Network’s role in bringing the messages about CPF members’ work to the national (and local level) was stressed. The importance of the Network in facilitating the flow of information in the other direction, i.e., between the national and international level (and including between the CPF Network and UNFF’s multi-stakeholder dialogue) was also highlighted.

Several participants saw a critical role of the CPF Network in assisting countries in efforts to implement their commitments to the Rio conventions. Two examples were given:

- CILSS informed the meeting of its initiative to help ECOWAS member countries identify common areas of work between the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD. It stressed the role that sub-regional organizations can play in assisting countries to develop their positions related to international policy negotiations in the framework of the Rio conventions and related instruments, and to achieve synergies in the implementation of their related international commitments.

- FERN indicated that it too was supporting national-level coordination in the implementation of international environmental commitments. In this regard, it mentioned its study of implementation of the Rio conventions in 21 countries.

Greenpeace foresaw a role for the CPF Network in dispelling misconceptions about CPF members' individual work programmes and the relationships between them.

## **6. Means of communication and information sharing within the CPF Network**

The proposed means of communication and dissemination of information – through e-mail, the CPF website and UNFF Newsletter – were discussed. UNEP mentioned that its electronic network, which provides a range of environmental information and links to related websites, also contributes to information dissemination.

Although the internet was seen as efficient means of communicating, one participant urged that the Network not rely solely on electronic means of communication, indicating that this would limit access of information to many people in developing countries that do not have easy access to the internet.

## **7. Next CPF Network meeting**

No proposals for the date or venue for the next CPF Network meeting were made.

## **8. Other matters**

Participants suggested that the promotion and sustainability of the Network would be enhanced by the initiation of collaboration among CPF Network participants in specific areas. In this regard, it was suggested that upcoming Network meetings and initiatives might be focused, for example, on UNFF elements that will be addressed in the third session of UNFF 3 or on particularly activities seen as being of key importance.

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**INFORMAL CPF NETWORK MEETING**

13:15-14:45, 10 April 2002  
Escher 2 Room, Congress Centre, The Hague

1. Opening of the meeting by Jo Mulongoy, Principal Officer, CBD Secretariat
2. Overview of the UNFF, CPF and the CPF Network (UNFF Secretariat)
3. CPF Network Concept Paper (UNFF Secretariat)
4. Report of the first informal meeting of the CPF Network (CBD Secretariat)
5. CPF Network's contribution to support the work of the UNFF (discussion)
6. Means of communication and information sharing within the CPF Network (discussion)
7. Next CPF Network meeting
8. Other matters