



Joint Statement Collaborative Partnership on Forests

UNFF10 Opening Session - 8 April 2013
Istanbul, Turkey

*[H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey]
Chairman Mario Ruales,
Minister Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forests and Water Affairs, Turkey,
Ambassador Osorio Londoño, President of the Economic and Social Council of the UN,
Ambassador Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General of the UN for Economic and Social
Affairs,
UNFF Director Jan McAlpine,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), I wish to thank the Government of Turkey for hosting us and for their unwavering support to forest issues. It is indeed a privilege for the CPF to address the Forum at this historic 10th session.

This session comes at an opportune moment. The outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, the Forum's recommendations on forest financing and economic development, as well as other events related to the MDGs, a climate agreement in 2015 and the UN development agenda beyond 2015, all have implications for our work. More specifically, these will set the path for the review of the International Arrangement on Forests, of which the CPF is part.

Responding to these processes in the context of forest policy is critical and should also include decisions taken by the governing bodies of CPF member organizations.

The decisions and mandates of our member organizations have helped us to take an integrated approach on forests to address the trade-offs and synergies across the key sectors operating at the landscape level. For CPF this means demonstrating the full value of forests through a cross-sectoral approach to sustainable forest management.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The term sustainability has been with us for 300 years. Coined by Hans Carl von Carlowitz in 1713 to explain sustained yields in forestry, the term has become an ever-present aphorism, influencing nearly every aspect of life.

In fact, research trends show that the contributions of forests and forestry to green growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development are recognized more than ever. However, the challenges in curbing deforestation and forest degradation remain.

The agenda of UNFF10 is well-designed to address the cross-sectoral nature and functions of forests, along with their critical economic contributions. In this context, CPF's role in providing technical and strategic input to identify cross-sectoral solutions continues to be emphasised.

In preparation for UNFF10, and as requested by the Forum, CPF delivered a number of outputs. Among them the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) 2012 Study on Forest Financing; an Organizational-Led Initiative on forest financing in support of the UNFF, and an e-booklet on “Rio+20 and Forests”. Coupled with this, CPF produced a scientific assessment on the relationship between biodiversity, carbon, forests and people, which underlined the usefulness of an integrated landscape approach.

Through other joint initiatives, members have been focusing on ways to strengthen joint data collection and streamline forest-related reporting to achieve sustainable forest management.

Our support to Forest Days and its evolution into a Landscape Forum at the UNFCCC COPs also underscores our collaborative work across sectors. As you may know, Forest Days have led to the incorporation of forest issues into the UNFCCC negotiation process. Having achieved this objective, CPF will be supporting a Landscape Forum at the next UNFCCC COP, in collaboration with the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Program of the CGIAR. As part of these efforts, the CPF is also striving to meet the Bonn Challenge to promote restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forests and other lands.

Tomorrow, during the CPF High Level Dialogue with Ministers, you will hear more about our work in meeting the calls and needs of several international processes and taking an integrated approach to sustainable forest management.

Distinguished Colleagues,

A host of CPF messages were delivered during the International Year of Forests reaching the public through, joint press releases, videos, events and other forms, including the CPF fact sheets on sustainable forest management.

Drawing from the success of the Year of Forests, the first CPF Wangari Maathai Award was presented last September, to two outstanding individuals for their diligence in spearheading actions to conserve, manage and restore forests and their resources.

By reinforcing our common objectives through communication and outreach efforts, members also contributed to the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on the International Day of Forests. This has led to the start of a yearly celebration paying homage to the world's forests every 21st of March.

While a more comprehensive report on our activities and achievements will be presented on Wednesday under item 8, let me take this opportunity to commend my fellow CPF members for their commitment and cooperation.

On behalf of all CPF Members, I wish to recognize Ms. Jan McAlpine, for her dedication to forest issues. Her vision and proactive approach, in strategically linking different components of the same landscape, are commendable. While this may be your last session as Director of the UNFF, your legacy with the Forum and the CPF will endure.

The CPF will continue to support the Forum and its Member States, taking an integrated approach to sustainable forest management to deal with forests more profoundly across sectors.

I thank you for your attention.