

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Meeting of 4-5 April 2001

FAO, Rome

Summary Report

Participants:

David Harcharik, FAO (Agenda Item 1)
Hosny El-Lakany, FAO (Chair)
Hamdallah Zedan, CBD Secretariat
Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, CBD Secretariat
Jag Maini, DESA/UNFF Secretariat and CIFOR
Amha Bin Buang, ITTO
Christian Mersmann, UNDP
Jaime Hurtubia, UNEP
Juergen Blaser, World Bank
Tiina Vähänen, UNFF Secretariat (Secretary)
Jim Ball, FAO (Secretary)
Susan Braatz, FAO (Secretary)

Agenda: see attached

1. Opening remarks

David Harcharik, ITFF Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the inaugural meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). He thanked them for their past involvement in the ITFF and he stressed the importance of the work of the CPF. Mr. Harcharik reviewed his own association with the ITFF and the lessons learned, including the benefits of maintaining informality, openness in discussion and a willingness to share the work of the CPF in partnership. In light of the demands of his new responsibilities, he turned the Chair over to Hosny El-Lakany.

Jag Maini thanked David Harcharik for fostering the ITFF's collegial atmosphere and for his able leadership of the ITFF over the past six years.

2. Launching of the CPF: issues requiring decisions

Discussion of this agenda item was related to the Secretariat Note *Draft Policy Document: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)* which had been previously circulated among the CPF members. The final document will be made available at UNFF 1 to support the agenda item on the initiation of the UNFF's work with the CPF.

2.1. Mission Statement

The following mission statement for the CPF was agreed:

The mission of CPF is 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 strengthening of political commitment to this end.

2.2. Terms of Reference (objectives, functions and modalities for collaboration)

Members discussed and agreed on the Terms of Reference for the CPF. Based on the decisions made, the UNFF Secretariat will revise the text and circulate it to members for final comments.

2.3. Membership

The ITFF had decided, at its meeting of 11 February 2001 in New York, to initiate the establishment of the CPF with the eight members of the ITFF but noted the need to strengthen the partnership through a slightly expanded membership. The current eight CPF members therefore agreed to invite the Secretariats of the CCD, FCCC and GEF to join the CPF. Joint FAO/DESA invitations will be issued to them prior to UNFF 1.

It was also agreed that before UNFF 1, two other organizations would be approached to enquire about their interest in membership and their possible contributions to the CPF, the UNFF Secretariat and the UNFF process.

2.4. Collaboration with other organisations and the establishment of a CPF Network

The CPF agreed that it would establish the CPF Network, consisting of a wide range of relevant and interested international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, including NGOs, private sector entities and other major groups. The Network participants could be invited to contribute to specific activities of the CPF, where their competencies would enrich its work.

Information and outreach activities in support of the CPF Network and for the information of a wider audience were discussed, including:

- Directory of Forest-related Organizations, which is being updated by FAO. FAO requested CPF members to validate their entries;
- Calendar of Events being maintained by the UNFF Secretariat on its website. The CPF stressed the need to keep the calendar updated. It agreed to provide the UNFF Secretariat with information on events, and to use the Calendar to plan and co-ordinate meetings;
- periodic CPF Newsletter, which would provide information on CPF activities;
- potential CPF website

Furthermore, the CPF decided that a brochure on the CPF should be issued in due course.

2.5. Lead-agency roles

CPF members discussed the scope of lead agency responsibilities. It was agreed in principle to retain the concept of the lead agency system similar to that used by the ITFF. The lead-agency roles as assigned during the IPF/IFF process will be maintained particularly with regard to facilitating and supporting the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. It was agreed, however, that eventually the workload would be shared among members, based upon the decisions reached at UNFF 1 on the Multi-Year Programme of Work and the Plan of Action. It was stressed that each CPF member should take lead responsibility on at least one programme element/programmatic component.

2.6. Approaches towards means and ways in which the CPF would support the UNFF

2.6.1. CPF's contribution to the development and implementation of the UNFF Plan of Action

The CPF agreed that it will need to develop and execute a concrete and co-ordinated approach to its contribution to the UNFF Plan of Action. CPF reiterated its willingness to contribute to the development and especially the implementation of the UNFF Plan of Action. It stressed the need, however, to have sufficient time for all to prepare inputs for the Plan.

2.6.2. CPF's support to the UNFF in monitoring, assessment and reporting of progress

The CPF welcomed the UNFF Secretariat/FAO draft outline for an informal CPF concept paper on monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF. It agreed that FAO would continue to elaborate the draft and send it for comments to the other CPF members. The concept paper would be available at

UNFF 1 as a means to stimulate discussion and to emphasise the importance of the function of monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF process.

2.6.3. Proposal for the revision of the Practitioner's Guide of the Six-Country Initiative

The CPF discussed the UNDP proposal tabled for the revision of the Practitioner's Guide. The ownership of the document, which was initiated by a group of six countries, was discussed. The members agreed to the principle of the CPF providing tools and information to facilitate the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, but noted that this must be initiated at the request of the UNFF or countries concerned. If requested by the UNFF this proposal may be reconsidered by the CPF in the future.

2.7. Establishment of the CPF

It was reiterated that the CPF was hereby formally established. The members noted that the Governing Bodies of the following CPF member organizations – CIFOR, FAO, ITTO and UNEP - had already endorsed their strong support to the UNFF and to the CPF. The process of similar endorsement has also been initiated within the other CPF member organizations.

2.8. Procedure for finalising the CPF policy document

It was agreed that the CPF policy document would be revised in the light of the discussion during the meeting. The UNFF Secretariat will distribute the revised draft for final comments in mid April. Participants emphasised the need to include a section on financing the work of the CPF. The policy document would be made available in all six official UN languages at UNFF 1 as an information document.

3. Secondment of staff by CPF members to the UNFF Secretariat

In addition to what was stated in the ECOSOC resolution (E/2000/35) on the establishment of the UNFF Secretariat, the CPF members stressed the importance of the interagency character of the Secretariat. The CPF members agreed on the benefits that could accrue to their organisations by seconding staff to the Secretariat. The necessity of securing the commitment of the CPF members to second staff or contribute otherwise to staffing was emphasized. Given the heavy work load expected in the near future, the CPF members highlighted the urgency of making secondments to the UNFF Secretariat as soon as possible.

CPF members noted the value of secondments to the IPF/IFF Secretariat by CIFOR, FAO, ITTO, UNDP and UNEP. CIFOR and UNEP currently have seconded staff in the Secretariat. UNEP and FAO indicated that they will continue to second staff to the Secretariat. The representative of UNEP informed, however, that his organization might cancel its secondment to the UNFF Secretariat if other CPF organizations do not confirm their secondments in the near future. The other CPF organizations will inform about their secondment soon after UNFF 1 (June 2001), taking into account the Multi-Year Programme of Work to be adopted at UNFF 1.

4. Preparations for UNFF 1

4.1. Official documentation for UNFF 1 (for information)

Jag Maini informed the CPF of the documents that had been prepared for UNFF 1: Secretary-General's Report: Multi-Year Programme of Work of the UNFF; Secretary-General's Report: Towards the Development of the UNFF Plan of Action; and Note from the Secretariat: Initiation of the UNFF's Work with the CPF. He thanked the CPF members for their very valuable inputs and support to the preparation of these reports.

4.2. Statement by the CPF for presentation at UNFF 1

It was agreed that a statement would be presented by the CPF at UNFF 1. The UNFF Secretariat will draft and circulate it for comments by CPF members. It will be finalised at the next CPF meeting immediately prior to UNFF 1.

4.3. Meeting with NGOs at UNFF 1

Recalling the discussion with representatives of some NGOs during the organizational meeting of the UNFF in February 2001, the CPF members agreed to organize a meeting with NGOs during UNFF 1. The members suggested Tuesday 12 June 2001 during the lunch break for the date and time for the NGO meeting. The Secretariat will contact the three NGO focal points previously nominated to the ITFF to inform them of the meeting and to remind them to propose an agenda, as had already been offered. Members emphasised the importance that they attached to having the active involvement of NGOs, private sector entities and other major groups in the CPF Network.

5. Next meeting (at UNFF 1) and the following meeting

The next meeting will be held immediately prior to UNFF 1, the exact date and time to be advised by the UNFF Secretariat. It was agreed that a second meeting would be held on Saturday 16 June 2001, after the first week of UNFF 1.

6. Other matters

6.1 Proposal from the Secretariat on a concept paper for a source book on financial resources for forestry

The CPF supported this initiative, highlighting its usefulness. The UNFF Secretariat will further elaborate the proposal following comments from the CPF members.

6.2 Inputs for the second part of the Task Manager's Report on Forests

Jim Ball requested inputs from CPF members to the second (policy-related) part of the Task Manager's Report on Forests.

6.3 Preparation of a CPF report for Rio+10

It was agreed that the CPF Policy Document would be updated and made available at the Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

6.4 Implementation of the World Bank Strategy in Forestry

Juergen Blaser informed members of the latest developments in the revised Forest Strategy for the World Bank Group. Comments were requested from CPF members on Chapter 3, which was distributed.

6.5 Brief on CBD activities related to forests

Hamdallah Zedan and Jo Mulongoy briefed members on two activities related to forests under the CBD: (i) preparations for the second meeting of the *ad hoc* technical expert group on forest biological diversity to be held in Edinburgh from 23 to 27 April 2001; and (ii) further development of a paper on linkages between climate change and biological diversity, including, in particular, an analysis of possible adverse effects on biological diversity of measures that might be taken or are being considered under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Hamdallah Zedan thanked members of the CPF for their active participation in these activities.

6.6 Brief on PROFOR activities

Christian Mersmann briefed members on latest developments in PROFOR.

Agenda
Meeting of the
Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
 4-5 April 2001, FAO, Rome,
 India Room, A-327, at 10:00

1. Opening remarks, ITFF Chair
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Initiation of the CPF activities: issues requiring decisions ¹
 - 3.1. Mission Statement
 - 3.2. Terms of Reference (objectives, functions and modalities for collaboration)
 - 3.3. Membership
 - 3.4. Collaboration with other organizations and establishment of a CPF Network
 - 3.5. Lead-agency roles
 - 3.6. Approaches towards means and ways in which the CPF would support the UNFF
 - 3.6.1. CPF's contribution to the development and implementation of the UNFF Plan of Action
 - 3.6.2. CPF's support to the UNFF in monitoring, assessment and reporting of progress
 - 3.6.3. Proposal for the revision of the Practitioner's Guide of the Six-Country Initiative
 - 3.7. Official establishment of the CPF
 - 3.8. Procedure for finalising the CPF policy document
4. Secondment of staff by CPF members to the UNFF Secretariat
5. Preparations for UNFF 1
 - 5.1. Official documentation for UNFF 1 (for information)
 - (i) Secretary-General's Report: Multi-Year Programme of Work of the UNFF;
 - (ii) Secretary-General's Report: Towards the Development of the UNFF Plan of Action;
 - (iii) Note from the Secretariat: Initiation of the UNFF's Work with the CPF
 - 5.2. Statement by the CPF for presentation at UNFF 1
 - 5.3. Meeting with NGOs at UNFF 1
6. Next meeting (at UNFF 1) and the following meeting
7. Other matters

¹ **Note.** The draft policy document on CPF circulated by the UNFF Secretariat on 21 March 2001 would provide basis for discussions and decisions