

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
Meeting of 10 June 2001 (first session of the CPF meeting during UNFF 1)
United Nations Secretariat, New York

Summary Report

Participants:

Hosny El-Lakany, FAO (Chair)
Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, CBD Secretariat
David Kaimowitz, CIFOR
Jag Maini, DESA/UNFF Secretariat
Susan Braatz, FAO
Amha Bin Buang, ITTO
Peter Matlon, UNDP
Christian Mersmann, UNDP
Jaime Hurtubia, UNEP
Per Björkman, World Bank
Tiina Vähänen, UNFF Secretariat (Secretary)

Agenda: see attached (Annex 1)

1. Opening remarks

Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO and Chair of the CPF, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. He pointed out the tradition of the ITFF meeting immediately prior to IPF/IFF/UNFF sessions and encouraged continuing in the similar manner with the CPF meetings. He summarised the activities that had taken place since the inaugural meeting of the CPF (4-5 April 2001, Rome), including: finalisation, translation and dissemination of the CPF Policy Document; invitations by Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO and Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, DESA, sent to three institutions (FCCC, CCD and GEF) to join the CPF; planning of the CPF-NGO meeting to be held during UNFF 1; and preparation of the CPF concept paper on monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF. He also reiterated the importance of CPF members to participate in UNFF 1 to demonstrate their commitment to support the UNFF.

2. CPF membership

At the Rome meeting, the CPF members had agreed to invite the Secretariats of the CCD, FCCC and GEF to join the CPF. Joint FAO/DESA invitations had been sent on 18 May 2001 to the executive heads of these three institutions. By the time of the CPF meeting, GEF had officially accepted the invitation. Hosny El-Lakany and Jag Maini informed the members that the two other invitees are also considering positively the invitations to join the CPF.

Jag Maini informed that the UNFF Bureau had expressed satisfaction of the establishment of the CPF as well as its composition and expected slight expansion.

The members continued the discussion initiated at the Rome meeting on the possibility of inviting some other members to join the CPF. It was noted also that the membership question should be considered in the light of recommendations of ECOSOC and UNFF; the work that CPF would have to undertake to support the UNFF multi-year programme of work and the plan of action; and the establishment of the CPF Network in which many organizations, including NGOs, that wish to contribute to the CPF work could participate.

The members agreed that there is a need to clarify the criteria for membership as well as further develop the concept of the CPF Network by the next meeting. It was decided that the UNFF Secretariat would prepare a paper on the **CPF membership**, including the membership **criteria**, as well as further elaborate the **concept for the CPF Network**, including the functions and roles of its members, and circulate the paper to CPF members before discussion at the next CPF meeting.

3. Statement by the CPF at UNFF 1

A draft Statement by the CPF to UNFF 1 was circulated to the members before the meeting. After a few minor amendments, the members accepted the statement for presentation by the Chair on behalf of all CPF members. (See Annex 2)

4. UNFF 1

4.1 UNFF 1 agenda items: MYPOW; POA; Initiation of the UNFF's work with the CPF (introduction)

Jag Maini informed the members of the regional briefings held for delegations (Permanent Missions in NY) in the previous three weeks. He highlighted the importance for UNFF to take decisions e.g. on the ministerial segments of the UNFF, including dialogue between ministers and heads of the CPF member organizations; possible contribution of the UNFF to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); criteria for monitoring progress; and organisation of multi-stakeholder dialogues in the future UNFF sessions. Crucial decisions would also be taken as regards to UNFF plan of action, in which CPF is expected to play a major role.

It was noted that the members would need to inform and prepare their executive heads well in advance for their dialogue with ministers. The expectations from the CPF for this dialogue will need to be discussed among the members.

4.2 CPF Concept Paper on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting in the UNFF

CPF had agreed, at its meeting in Rome in April, to prepare and table an informal paper on a preliminary conceptual approach for monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF. FAO was assigned a leading role to prepare the paper, in close collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat. The draft paper was circulated twice for members' comments. Members fine tuned the concept paper and agreed to table it as a working draft that could facilitate UNFF's discussion on this subject.

4.3 Role of the CPF members during UNFF 1

The important role of the members in participating UNFF 1 was emphasised, including to demonstrate their commitment to UNFF and being available as resource persons for the UNFF, as needed. Members welcomed the opportunity for making individual brief Statements during UNFF 1 and noted that all members will present a Statement on behalf of their organizations.

Christian Mersmann offered the members and the UNFF Secretariat use of the UNDP/PROFOR office facilities during UNFF 1.

4.4 Side-events organised during UNFF 1 by the CPF members (for information)

The following side events, sponsored or co-sponsored by the CPF members would be held during UNFF 1:

- UNEP/WCMC: Sharing information on donor activities affecting forests;
- FAO, World Bank and partners present the joint initiatives: The National Forest Programme Facility (NFPF) and the Programme on Forests (PROFOR).
- Workshop of Experts on Financing Sustainable Forest management (Oslo Workshop) (CIFOR)

5. CPF-NGO meeting (Wed. 13 June during lunch break)

Hosny El-Lakany informed that he had sent, through the UNFF Secretariat, the invitation for NGOs to participate in the CPF-NGO meeting during UNFF 1. NGOs had proposed the agenda for the CPF-NGO meeting that was also circulated to CPF members for their comments before sending the agenda to the NGO/IPO focal points and to the CPF members on 22 May 2001. The members emphasised the importance of this meeting that provides an opportunity to exchange information and views on cooperation between CPF and NGOs, implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action, and support to UNFF.

The members also agreed that it would be useful to expand the scope of the CPF-NGO meetings in the future, to cover a wider range of interested parties, and that the future meetings could thus be organised as "CPF Network meetings".

6. Next meeting

The CPF agreed to hold the second part of its current meeting at the end of the first week of the UNFF. The meeting is tentatively scheduled on Saturday 16 June at 9:00 AM.

7. Other matters

Jag Maini informed the members of the current situation of UNFF Secretariat vis-à-vis the preparation of the UN regular budget for 2002-03 and noted that this matter will likely be taken up by UNFF 1 as one of its priorities.

Agenda

**Meeting of the
Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**
10 June 2001, United Nations Secretariat, New York
DC-2 building, 12th Floor, Conference Room, at 3:00 PM

1. Opening of the meeting
2. CPF membership
3. Statement by the CPF at UNFF 1 (circulated before the meeting)
4. UNFF 1
 - 4.1 UNFF 1 agenda items: MYPOW; POA; Initiation of the UNFF's work with the CPF (introduction)
 - 4.2 CPF Concept Note on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting in the UNFF
 - 4.3 Role of the CPF members during UNFF 1
 - 4.4 Side-events organised during UNFF 1 by the CPF members (for information)
5. CPF-NGO meeting (Wed. 13 June during lunch break)
6. Next meeting
7. Other matters

**First substantive session of the UNFF
11-22 June 2001**

Statement by the CPF

Presented by

M. Hosny El-Lakany
Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO
Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting me to address this first substantive session of the UNFF, on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). I agree strongly with the view just expressed by Mr. Desai, Under Secretary-General, that this session is of major importance as it sets the course for the next five years for the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations and, more importantly, for action. Since Rio, there has been a great number of recommendations and proposals for action towards sustainable management of all types of forests. The CPF members cannot but reiterate those many calls to move from dialogue to real, substantive action. The main aim of all of us who have agreed to form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests – the CPF – is to assist in putting into effect these resolutions and recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, you may recall that four months ago, at the organizational meeting of the UNFF, I reaffirmed the intent of the ITFF members to establish the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in response to the invitation by ECOSOC, and to do so in time for the first substantive session of the UNFF. On behalf of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, I have the pleasure to inform you that the CPF was established in April 2001, at its inaugural meeting held in Rome, and that it has already initiated a number of activities in support of the UNFF.

The CPF was founded by the eight original members of the high-level, informal Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF), namely: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (DESA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank. But we agreed that, in order to achieve our objectives, we should expand our membership slightly, in line with recommendations of ECOSOC and the Organizational meeting of the UNFF.

Three new institutions have been invited to join the CPF. These include the Secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Their membership will not only broaden and strengthen the CPF's support to the UNFF, but will also enrich interagency collaboration as well as expertise on forests in the CPF. Mr. Chairman, I have the pleasure to inform you that we have just received confirmation from GEF that it will join the CPF.

Mr. Chairman, through several meetings and intensive consultations, the CPF members have agreed upon terms of reference, including the objectives, functions and basic working modalities of the CPF. Furthermore, the CPF has outlined its activities in support of the UNFF. These are all recorded in the CPF Policy Document that has already been widely distributed and is now available in all six official UN languages.

The CPF will operate in an open, transparent and flexible manner. We have initiated the establishment of a CPF Network to facilitate interaction with a wide range of other international and regional organizations, including NGOs, private sector entities and other forest-related stakeholders. Recognizing the enormity of the task before us, we hope that this interaction will lead to collaboration in many activities.

Mr. Chairman, the CPF is committed to support the work of the UNFF. We shall endeavour to enhance cooperation and coordination among our organizations as well as to support countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the UNFF. We will accomplish this by providing our best possible expertise and by mobilising and catalysing actions at the national, regional and global levels. Many programmes and activities relevant to UNFF are already underway in our organizations. What we will need to do now is to focus our on-going activities and implement new ones towards the objectives of the UNFF and to seek further opportunities to strengthen joint activities, both among our organizations and with members of the CPF Network. The UNFF will hear Statements from CPF members on their own policies and commitments to support the UNFF tomorrow afternoon.

The CPF sees two major tasks for the near future: The first is to implement those IPF/IFF proposals for action that were specifically targeted to its members, as well as to assist countries in national implementation, in particular through the development and implementation of their national forest programmes.

The second major task is to assist the UNFF in monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards its objectives. The CPF has prepared a concept paper in which it elaborates ideas on a possible system for monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF. We hope that this concept paper will facilitate your discussions on this matter later in the week.

Although the CPF has already initiated some tasks, its actual substantive work will, however, depend on the UNFF's programme of work (MYPOW) and its plan of action (POA). The CPF will therefore develop its detailed **work plan** following the decisions made by the UNFF during the next two weeks. We very much look forward to a fruitful discussion with the UNFF participants on how the CPF could best contribute to UNFF's work.

Mr. Chairman, we are determined that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will play a significant role in the international arrangement on forests, both through activities carried out individually by the partners and, in particular, those carried out collaboratively. On behalf of the CPF members, I reaffirm our commitment to support the work of the UNFF. We also look forward to the policy dialogues of our executive heads with ministers during the high-level segments of the UNFF to further strengthen the political commitment towards the objective of sustainable management of all types of forests, as well as to mobilize resources to achieve this goal.

On behalf of all CPF members, I wish you and the distinguished representatives a successful initiation of the UNFF's substantive work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.