

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Meeting of 8-9 October 2001

New York, USA

Summary Report

Participants:

Hosny El-Lakany, FAO (Chair)
Jo Mulongoy, CBD Secretariat
Jagmohan Maini, DESA and CIFOR
Susan Braatz, FAO
Tiina Vähänen, FAO
Zoltan Rackonczay, FCCC Secretariat
Kanta Kumari, GEF
Christian Mersmann, UNDP
Jaime Hurtubia, UNEP
Jim Douglas, World Bank
Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat (Secretary)
Kyaw Kyaw Shane, UNFF Secretariat
Mahendra Joshi, UNFF Secretariat

1. Opening of the meeting

Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO and Chair of the CPF, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He noted the increased interest by NGOs and private sector entities, among others, in the work of the CPF and emphasized the challenging tasks ahead of the CPF, requiring strong commitment from all its members. The agenda was adopted (see Annex 1).

2. Confirmation of the responsibilities of the CPF focal agency

CPF members confirmed the suggested focal agency and collaborating agencies table that, prior to the meeting, had been circulated among CPF members for comments (see Annex 2). The focal agencies agreed to provide support to the MYPOW, including by drafting reports and providing support to sessions of the UNFF. Furthermore, each focal agency would also serve as the focal point for facilitating and coordinating CPF members' activities related to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action for the related UNFF elements. In this regard, CPF would in technical assistance and cooperation activities at the national level act upon requests from countries. It was pointed out that the focal agency system had been developed to enhance coordination and cooperation among CPF member organizations.

3. CPF membership

The possibility of expanding the CPF membership to include two other international organizations was discussed. The CPF would consider inviting these organizations to participate, as observers, at the CPF meeting to be held in conjunction with the second session of the UNFF, 4-15 March, Costa Rica.

4. Staffing of the UNFF Secretariat

The acute shortage of staff in the UNFF Secretariat was highlighted, currently it consists of only five professionals. UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of the envisaged interagency Secretariat, consisting of posts from both the UN regular budget and secondments from CPF member organizations, as well as posts funded by the UNFF Trust Fund.

The 6 proposed posts from the UN regular budget are currently being classified and as soon as this process is complete, the posts will be advertised with the disclaimer “subject to budget approval”. Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General of DESA accord high priority to the recruitment of a new Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat.

FAO confirmed its secondment of a senior staff member to the UNFF Secretariat, who is expected to be in place before the end of the year. Prior to the CPF meeting, UNEP and DESA had already made their commitment to continue their current senior secondment to the UNFF Secretariat. Furthermore, ITTO has agreed in principal to a secondment, however, contingent upon the receipt of trust funds to cover the costs. The World Bank will also consider the possibility of secondment. CPF members explored additional possibilities of other types of secondments, such as consultants funded by CPF member organizations’ trust funds and/or joint secondments, including on temporary basis.

Members were informed that in the near future Mr. Desai will write to all CPF member organizations and request information on their possible contributions in the form of a secondment to the UNFF Secretariat. Furthermore, Mr. Knut Oistad, the chairman of the UNFF 2 Bureau has also raised serious concerns regarding the shortage of staff in the UNFF Secretariat.

5. Preparations for UNFF 2

5.1 Critical issues for the ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations

The UNFF Secretariat introduced the item and made reference to a recent mission to Costa Rica, during which a representative of the Secretariat met with the Vice-President of Costa Rica, who is also the Minister of the Environment. The CPF members were informed that the Vice-President of Costa Rica will soon be sending invitations to the ministerial segment during UNFF 2 (13-14 March, 2002). CPF members were of the view that participation by ministers other than those responsible for forests (e.g., trade, finance, development) would broaden the scope of the discussions and enhance the visibility of the forest sector.

The current thinking on the ministerial dialogue at UNFF 2, is that it should be concrete, focus on a few key issues, and aim at a clear outcome, in order to attract the highest political attention. The importance of CPF members to participate in the dialogue at the highest level possible was stressed. The CPF members should confirm its representative(s), latest by January.

CPF members stressed that the dialogue between Ministers and heads of CPF member organizations would play a crucial role in enhancing the political commitment to the role and links of forests in overall sustainable development, as well as in poverty alleviation and human well-being. Furthermore, the dialogue would highlight the contribution of CPF member organizations to the UNFF and at the same time mobilize support from countries to CPF, in particular in their activities in assisting countries with their implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. The following critical issues were identified by the CPF:

- Financing SFM, including direct investments and private sector;
- Cross-sectoral harmonization at the national and global levels, including exploring synergies between forest-related instruments and organizations;
- Law enforcement and good governance;
- Forest use, conservation and protection;

It was agreed that the UNFF Secretariat would forward these suggested critical issues to the Vice-President of Costa Rica, as one input of the CPF to the organization of the dialogue. Furthermore, the Secretariat will prepare a very brief background document for each issue and circulate these among CPF members for comments.

CPF members also suggested that the structure of the dialogue could follow the practice of agency dialogues at ECOSOC sessions. Another suggestion was to organize a panel on the issues identified above.

5.2 Status report on the preparations of the official documentation for UNFF 2

The UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of all official documents for UNFF 2, listed in Annex 3. Focal agencies for UNFF 2 elements and common items are currently in the process of preparing the first drafts. All CPF members will have an opportunity to review and provide comments on these drafts at a later stage. Recently, the UNFF Secretariat, in an attempt to make the drafting process more open and participatory, circulated through UNFF News the contact information for the focal points within focal agencies and encouraged interested individuals to provide their inputs.

5.3 UNFF 2 Bureau meeting on 25 September, 2001, New York

It was agreed that the chairperson of the UNFF Bureau would be welcomed to attend the CPF meetings as an observer.

Ms. Patricia Chaves, Vice-Chairperson of the UNFF 2 Bureau, represented the chair of the Bureau, Knut Oistad, in the CPF meeting on this agenda item. In her presentation she conveyed the message that the Bureau welcomed the establishment of CPF and the strong commitment CPF member organizations have shown so far to the UNFF process, including convening several CPF meetings and their active involvement in the preparation of documentation for the up-coming UNFF 2 meeting. She stressed the importance of having a concrete outcome of the ministerial segment. Furthermore, she envisaged an active dialogue, rather than long statements.

The UNFF Secretariat informed CPF members that Knut Oistad of Norway was nominated as the chairman of the UNFF 2 and that the Bureau highlighted the importance of senior level participation at the UNFF 2 meeting, in particular during the high level ministerial segment. The CPF welcomed the nomination and expressed confidence that working with Mr. Oistad would be fruitful.

6. CPF Framework

CPF members continued the discussion from the previous meeting on the format and scope of the “Framework for the CPF’s Contribution to the Work of the UNFF” (“CPF Framework”). It was suggested that the main components of the document would be:

- Introduction — reference to UNFF decisions regarding CPF;
- Background — from ITFF to CPF and governing bodies;
- Objectives and working modalities — major overarching objectives with the CPF and how CPF work together collaboratively;
- CPF’s contribution to MYPOW;
- CPF’s contribution to implementation according to focus areas (i.e., nfps, C&I, deforestation, financing, etc.);
- Success criteria for the CPF.

It was decided that CPF member organizations should provide a short narrative listing their current activities according to the 16 elements identified by UNFF 1. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to provide a new outline and circulate it among CPF members for comments.

7. Update on intersessional activities (i.e., country- and organization-led initiatives) between UNFF 1 and UNFF 2

The following two planned initiatives, in support of the UNFF, were discussed:

- “International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress toward Sustainable Forest Management” 5-8 November, Yokohama organized by Japan. The main objectives of this initiative are monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) of progress toward SFM, and, in particular, the role of criteria and indicators (C&I) for this purpose. The meeting will also address issues related to MAR, in the context of progress in implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.
- “International Conference on Criteria and Indicators” (ICCI) scheduled for July 2002. This meeting, organized by FAO and ITTO and hosted by the Government of Guatemala, will address, among other things, the role of C&I in the UNFF.

8. FAO/UNDP proposal regarding national assessments and identification of action

UNDP presented a proposal by UNDP and FAO for consideration by the CPF as a possible joint initiative, to develop guidelines, or tools, which could assist countries in the assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in their national context.

Many CPF members welcomed, in principle, the proposal for joint action. It also recalled that CPF should act upon requests from countries. Furthermore, CPF acknowledged that there is a need to translate the IPF/IFF proposals for action into a more user friendly format, which could be used by countries setting their own priorities and empowering the forest sector. It was agreed that an annotated outline should be circulated by the end of October among CPF members and that it would be discussed at the next CPF meeting.

9. CPF Sourcebook

The development of a Sourcebook on Available Funds for Sustainable Forest Management is a joint CPF initiative, with FAO acting as the focal agency. FAO and UNFF Secretariat briefed CPF members on the latest development, including cataloguing institutions offering financial assistance and analytical studies describing country initiatives. The World Bank reported that a consultant is already preparing an inventory of potential contribution of the private sector towards SFM.

10. Brief agency report on matters of interest to other CPF members

CPF members briefed on upcoming events and initiatives:

- FAO reported that the Forest Resource Assessment 2000 is now available on the FAO website. Furthermore, the State of the World Forests 2001 was recently launched and is currently being translated.

- FAO, IPCC and CIFOR expert meeting 23-25 January 2002, in Rome, Italy, on forest-related definitions. CPF members agreed that there is a need to foster a common understanding of terms, definitions and concepts and to improve the compatibility and the consistency of definitions that are used in various different forest for a and organizations.
- CBD Secretariat: SBSTTA, to be held 12-16 November 2001 in Montreal, Canada. This meeting will discuss aspects relating to plants, animals and microorganisms and their interactions in all types of forests. All CPF members have been invited. CIFOR will make a keynote address and CBD Secretariat invited a statement from UNFF Secretariat/CPF during the meeting. CPF members were also encouraged to provide posters for the meeting.
- A workshop, tentatively scheduled for January 2002, will be held on promoting the development of principles and joint activities between CBD and UNFF, sponsored by the government of Netherlands.
- DESA: Andrey Vasilyev from the Secretariat of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) briefed CPF members on the preparations of the upcoming summit in September 2002. A series of regional and preparatory meetings are taking place prior to the summit. He further acknowledged that forests will be an important issue for the summit and that it is currently part of the draft Secretary-Generals report for the summit.
- UNEP: informed CPF members about its work on international environmental governance and the possible new character of UNEP after the WSSD. Furthermore, UNEP is contributing to several documents for the WSSD.
- GEF: In GEF's upcoming Council meeting (December 2001), CPF will be highlighted.
- UNDP/PROFOR is currently working on a document on financing SFM, summarizing the recommendations from various different initiative on this matter during IPF/IFF and UNFF.

The UNFF Secretariat requested the CPF members to send information on upcoming meetings to the Secretariat, so that it could be included in the Calendar of Events posted on the UNFF website.

11. Future activities for the CPF Network and other outreach activities

FAO demonstrated a proposal for CPF website, which was well received by all participants. It was suggested that the website should have direct links to the forest section of CPF member organizations as well as decisions from respective governing bodies.

CPF members considered hiring a consultant to draft a document on the possible activities of the CPF Network.

12. Next CPF meeting

The CPF members accepted the offer from ITTO to host the next CPF meeting, 9-10 November in Yokohama Japan. The Chairman of the CPF informed that he would be unable to attend the meeting and would therefore request Mr. Manoel Sobral, Executive Director of the ITTO to chair the meeting.

Annex 1

Provisional Agenda

(with annotations)

Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

8-9 October 2001

UN Headquarters, New York
Two UN Plaza, Conference room on the 12th Floor

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Confirmation of the responsibilities of CPF focal agency
3. CPF's membership
4. Staffing of the UNFF Secretariat
5. Preparations for UNFF 2
 - 5.1 Critical issues for the ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the CPF during UNFF 2
 - 5.2 Status report on the preparations of official documentation for UNFF 2
 - 5.3 UNFF 2 Bureau meeting on 25 September, 2001, New York
6. Report on progress on the Note by the Secretariat transmitting the framework for the CPF's contribution to the work of the UNFF
7. Update on intersessional activities (i.e., country- and organization-led initiatives) between UNFF 1 and UNFF 2
8. FAO/UNDP Proposal regarding national assessments and identification of action
9. CPF Sourcebook
10. Brief agency report on matters of interest to other CPF members
11. Future activities for the CPF Network and other outreach activities
12. Next CPF meeting
13. Other matters

Suggested CPF Focal Agency and Collaborating Agencies Roles

Based on the UNFF MYPOW and the lead-agency system during ITFF:

- IPF/IFF proposals for action categorized into 16 “elements” as tools for implementation as referred in UNFF POA (EI);
- Means of implementation (MI);
- Common items (CI)
- Other elements of UNFF MYPOW (E)

UNFF Elements		UNFF session	Proposed Focal agency	Collaborating Agencies (alphabetical order)
Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes (1)	EI, CI	All sessions	FAO	World Bank* and all other members
Promoting public participation (2)	CI	All sessions	DESA ^(international) UNDP ^(national)	FAO
Combating deforestation and forest degradation (3)	EI	UNFF 2	UNEP	CBD, CCD, FAO, FCCC, CIFOR, World Bank
Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK) (4)	EI	UNFF 4	CBD	CCD, CIFOR, GEF
Forest-related scientific knowledge (5)	EI	UNFF 4	CIFOR	CBD, CCD, FCCC, GEF
Forest health and productivity (6)	EI	UNFF 3	FAO	CIFOR, FCCC, ITTO, CBD
Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (7)	EI	UNFF 4	FAO/ITTO	CIFOR, UNEP, CBD
Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests (8) (Economic aspects of forests) (Social and cultural aspects of forests)	EI EI	UNFF 3 UNFF 4	World Bank CIFOR	all CPF members CBD, CIFOR, FAO, ITTO, UNDP, UNEP

* World Bank/PROFOR

UNFF Elements		UNFF session	Proposed Focal agency	Collaborating Agencies (alphabetical order)
Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems (9)	EI	UNFF 2	UNEP	CBD, CCD, FAO, GEF, World Bank
Monitoring, assessment and reporting; and concepts, terminology and definitions (10)	EI, CI EI	UNFF 2, 4 + All sessions	FAO	all CPF members
Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (11)	EI	UNFF 2	UNEP	CCD, FAO, GEF, CBD
Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests (12)	EI	UNFF 2	FAO	all CPF members
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs (13)	EI	UNFF 3	DESA	all CPF members
Financial resources (14)	EI, MI	All sessions	World Bank/ GEF	all CPF members
International trade and sustainable forest management (15)	EI, CI	All sessions	ITTO	FAO, World Bank
Enabling environment	CI	All sessions	ITTO/ WB/ GEF	UNDP. and other CPF members
International cooperation in capacity-building and access to, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support SFM (16)	EI, MI EI, MI	All sessions All sessions	FAO FAO	ITTO, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank*, CBD
Multi-stakeholder dialogue	CI	All sessions	DESA	All CPF members
Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination	CI	All sessions	CPF Chair	All CPF members

UNFF Elements		UNFF session	Proposed Focal agency	Collaborating Agencies (alphabetical order)
Country experiences and lessons learned	CI	All sessions	DESA	UNDP, other CPF members
Emerging issues relevant to implementation	CI	All sessions	DESA	All CPF members
Intersessional work	CI	All sessions	DESA	
Implementation of the Plan of Action	CI	All sessions	DESA	All CPF members
Review of the progress and consideration of future actions	E	UNFF 5	DESA	
...Consider...Parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests	E	UNFF 5	DESA	
Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests	E	UNFF 5	DESA	ALL CPF members