



Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting

Meeting report

5 October 2014, Salt Lake City, USA

In Attendance

FAO:	Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair)	UNEP:	Valerie Kapos
CIFOR:	Robert Nasi	UNFF:	Mita Sen
	Kamal Prawiranegara	WB:	Tuukka Castrén
GEF:	Ulrich Apel		
ICRAF:	Tony Simons	Regrets	IUCN
ITTO:	Steve Johnson		UNCCD
IUFRO:	Alexander Buck		UNDP
	Niels Eler Koch		UNFCCC
UNCBD:	Ian Thompson		

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at Salt Lake City, USA on 5 October 2014.

1. Welcome and approval of previous meeting minutes

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting held on the margins of the XXIV IUFRO World Congress. The minutes of the CPF Meeting held in June 2014 in Rome and the proposed agenda for the meeting were adopted.

2. Outcome of the UN-SG Climate Summit 2014 (UNDP, UNFFS, FAO)

Members discussed the recent 23 September 2014 Climate Summit in New York, and its outcomes. The Chair highlighted that the event had attracted high-level participation from Heads of State, Prime Ministers or other dignitaries. In this regard, the Summit had helped focus attention on forests as an “action area”; however, it was not clear to members how the commitments would be implemented, or monitored. While several members voiced their disappointment that the CPF was not consulted in the coordination of the forests action area and the “New York Declaration”, they also noted that CPF members could potentially contribute to follow-up activities.

3. Update on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda processes

The UNFF Secretariat briefed members on developments related to the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda. The positive developments at OWG13 were noted, which resulted in forests being addressed under SDG6 and SDG15. Reference to SFM is included in the title of SDG15, and two forest-specific targets on SFM are included in SDG 15, while the water supply function of forests is reflected in SDG16. Members were informed that the UN General Assembly had decided that the OWG proposal on 17 SDGs would be the main basis for integrating SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda. The next major development in this process will be the release of the Secretary-General’s synthesis report (end-November 2014) which will bring together the results of the different work streams on the post-2015 development agenda to facilitate further deliberations by the General Assembly. CPF members noted the strategic opportunities related to integrating forests in the SDGs, and the need for forest-related indicators to be developed, in this regard.

4. UNFF11 including the IAF intersessional activities

The UNFF Secretariat updated members on key meetings and deadlines related to UNFF11 and the ongoing review of the IAF. In this regard, the need for coordination on two major CPF written inputs was highlighted, namely, the preparation of a written input from the CPF to AHEG2 in January 2015, and the preparation of the CPF Framework, as an official document for UNFF11 in May 2015. Members were also reminded that UNFF11 will include a CPF Dialogue, and that members should plan for the participation of their heads of organization in the High-Level Segment of UNFF11. IUFRO also noted that the GFEP report was slated for release at UNFF11, and that this would be an important contribution from the CPF to UNFF11.

Members noted that the CPF Framework would include an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Partnership during 2013 & 2014, as well the CPF's views on the future vision for the Partnership beyond 2015. With reference to activities to be included in the report, the Chair proposed that it would be useful for the report to include collaborative activities that involve participation by a subset of the CPF member organisations. The Chair also proposed that the Partnership might consider publishing the CPF Framework in a "publication" format in addition to the standard UN official document format. The Secretariat noted that the outline for the document would be circulated to members following the 5 October meeting.

Key actions:

- Members agreed to provide their input to the CPF Framework document in November 2014, to enable timely submission for translation and processing by end-December 2014.
- Members agreed collaborative activities carried out by a subset of CPF members (3-7 members) or a majority of members (8-13 members) could be included in the Framework document.

5. Contribution of the CPF to the IAF Review

The Chair noted the recent release of the independent assessment report on the IAF review, and invited members to share their views on the IAF review. It was noted that at UNFF10, members had decided not to take part in the first round of inputs to the IAF review. However, given that the UNFF11 Bureau and Member States at AHEG1 had expressed interest in receiving views from the CPF, the timing was now right for the CPF and/or its members to present their future vision for the Partnership.

Cognizant of the December 2014 deadline for input to AHEG2, the Chair proposed that a working meeting could be held in November, to prepare a first draft of the CPF's written input to AHEG2. ITTO proposed that one option would be to hold the meeting in the margins of the upcoming ITTC meeting; however, it was unclear whether a sufficient number of CPF members would be present in Yokohama. As an alternative, the Chair offered to host the working meeting at FAO HQ at the end of November. ITTO also suggested that written input should be collected from members prior to the November meeting.

ICRAF proposed that the input should focus on what the future holds for the Partnership and how the members see future visioning for forests, and that it should be a "light document" of no more than 2-4 pages.

Noting the importance of having a CPF written input to AHEG2, UNFFS also emphasized the importance of having strong participation by CPF members at the AHEG2 meeting. In this regard, many members confirmed their intent to participate in AHEG2.

Key actions

- Members agreed that options would be explored to convene a working meeting, to discuss the CPF's input to the review of the IAF at AHEG2. The working meeting outcome would be a first draft of this contribution, which would be circulated for consideration by the Partnership prior to the 8 Dec. meeting in Lima.

6. XIV World Forestry Congress 2015

The Chair briefed members on preparations for the World Forestry Congress taking place 7-11 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. He shared that the overall focus of discussions would be on investing in the enabling environment, human capital, knowledge and assets. The three main themes for the Congress will be: Forests for Socio-Economic Development and Food Security - Putting People at the Centre; Building Resilience with Forests - Forests as Buffers against Environmental Change, and Integrating Forests and Other Land Uses - The Role of Forests in Sustaining Landscapes. The Chair informed members that the call for contributions was open, and encouraged them to circulate this information to their networks. IUFRO shared that they had circulated the WFC call for abstracts to their network. ICRAF suggested that, given the timing of the WFC, the discussions should also be linked to the SDGs and climate change.

7. Global Landscapes Forum 2014

CIFOR briefed members on preparations for the Global Landscapes Forum on 6-7 December. High-level participation was expected, at the ministerial level and higher. It was noted that the agenda was in the process of being finalised, and information was shared regarding deadlines for requests for exhibits. Various communication campaigns are being organised, including infographic and photo competitions and social media boot camps. It was noted that all design files related to media and outreach for the GLF were available online.

Key Action

- Members agreed to add the GLF logo and website link to their websites, to help promote the event.

8. CPF Wangari Maathai Award (WMA)

The Chair expressed his appreciation to CPF members, and in particular IUFRO, for the excellent cooperation in support of the 2014 Wangari Maathai award. ICRAF proposed that the WMA be renamed the “Wangari Maathai Forest Award” to better communicate the forest connection to the award. He highlighted that the WMA winner, Ms. Martha Isabel Ruiz Corzo, was an inspiring forest leader. She is the head of an NGO in Mexico’s Sierra Madre region, where she has spearheaded projects in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation to benefit local communities. The Chair noted that, in addition to awarding Ms. Ruiz Corzo, the Jury had also recommended a "special posthumous mention" for another nominee, Mr. Chut Wutty, for his heroic contributions to forests in Cambodia. In this regard, he sought feedback on the issue of “honourable mentions” for future WMAs. Following discussion, it was agreed that honourable mentions would be limited to one per award year. In addition, members also discussed how to address situations where the nominees are deceased.

The issue of financial contributions towards funding the \$20,000 award and travel costs for the winner was addressed. Members indicated the following: IUFRO would cover the registration and air travel costs; UNFFS would contribute towards the DSA; CBD and ITTO indicated that they could contribute \$2,000, and CIFOR and ICRAF indicated that they could contribute \$3,000, while FAO and UNEP indicated they could contribute \$5,000.

Lastly, it was noted that members would have an opportunity to meet the winner, during lunch following the conclusion of the CPF meeting.

Key Action

- Members indicated financial contributions of varying amounts toward funding the \$20,000 award and travel costs.
- Members agreed to the proposal that the next WMA would be held in conjunction with the World Forestry Congress, in September 2015.

9. International Day of Forests - outcome of the CPF Communicator's meeting in June 2014

Members noted the report of the CPF Communicator's meeting in June, and agreed to the proposal that the proposed theme for the 2015 International Day of Forests (IDF) would be on forests and climate change.

Key Action

- The 2015 IDF proposed theme will be communicated to Member States and relevant organizations and stakeholders by UNFFS and FAO.

10. Any other business

Under this agenda item, members provided updates on various ongoing initiatives.

- The Chair drew the attention of members to the COFO22 outcome document, and the specific text that is addressed to the CPF and its members. He also shared that FAO was working on a new project on "Strengthening C&I for SFM and their use in policy and practice." In this regard, IUFRO also shared that a new Working Party had been created within IUFRO on C&I.
- CIFOR informed members that they had been approached by the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance to provide input related to financing for forests, and REDD+.
- IUFRO briefed members on the programme of activities for the XXIV IUFRO World Congress. The active participation of CPF members throughout the IUFRO World Congress was noted, from the high-level opening ceremony, to the "IUFRO President's Discussion" session on emerging issues, to various technical sessions.

11. Date and place of the next meeting

The CPF Chair proposed the next CPF meeting to take place on Monday, 8 December in Lima, Peru.

It was noted that the timing of the meeting would need to be determined, to avoid a schedule conflict with other activities on that day, including a meeting on coordination of support for REDD+ implementation of REDD+ activities, which was being organised by the UNFCCC Secretariat, as well as the scheduled CEB event on UNREDD.