

Summary Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

2 and 7 May 2004, Geneva

Chair:	Hosny El-Lakany (FAO)	UNFF:	Pekka Patosaari
CIFOR:	Regrets		Susan Braatz
FAO:	Tiina Vähänen		Mia Söderlund (Secretary)
	Edward Kilawe		Peter Csoka
ITTO:	Amha bin Buang	UNFCCC:	Regrets
IUFRO:	Risto Seppälä	UNDP:	Tim Boyle
	Peter Mayer	UNEP:	Jorge Illueca
CBD:	Manuel Guariguata	ICRAF:	Tony Simons
	Gijs van Tol		August B. Temu
GEF:	Kanta Kumari	World Bank:	Jim Douglas
UNCCD:	Rui Zheng		David Cassells
		IUCN:	Carole Saint-Laurent

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO, and Chair, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), welcomed all participants to the twelfth meeting of the CPF and noted the good level of participation. Mr. El-Lakany highlighted the valuable contributions CPF members have provided to the UNFF process and to enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest issues over the last year as reflected in the CPF Framework 2004.

CPF members approved the agenda.

2. CPF's role at UNFF 4

The UNFF Secretariat gave an overview of the organization of work for UNFF 4 and highlighted the agenda items most relevant to the CPF and its members, including the CPF statement on the opening day of UNFF 4 and the presentation of CPF Framework 2004 during discussions on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, as well as the CPF side event on Thursday 6 May and CPF Network meeting on Friday 7 May.

CIFOR, FAO, ITTO, CBD Secretariat and IUFRO had drafted Secretary-General's report to UNFF-4 and would present them at the session. Many members were also organizing side-events either jointly or individually and welcomed other members' active participation.

Furthermore, ICRAF and FAO had been invited to specific Panel discussions on the role of forests in achieving broader development goals as well as Africa and SIDS days, which members considered as an excellent opportunity for enhancing participatory discussion.

Members reiterated their full support to the fourth session of UNFF.

3. CPF Statement

The CPF statement at the opening of the UNFF sessions on 3 May was approved with minor amendments. It was agreed that the Chair would deliver the statement on behalf of all CPF members.

4. Presentation of CPF Framework 2004

The presentation of the CPF Framework 2004 was briefly discussed and approved with minor amendments. It was agreed that the Chair would make the presentation on behalf of all CPF members.

5. Meeting of the CPF Network and future activities

CPF members discussed the meeting of the CPF Network, scheduled for Friday 7 May. It was agreed that Carole Saint-Laurent from IUCN would co-chair the meeting on behalf of CPF members. Natalie Hufnagl from Confederation of European Forest Owners had agreed to be the other co-chair. CPF members agreed that the main objective of the CPF Network was to share information and facilitate collaboration and communication between CPF and other partners. In this regard, the UNFF Secretariat was encouraged to continue to provide regular updates and facilitate information sharing and outreach to participants in the CPF Network. Furthermore, CPF members recalled that they had earlier agreed that CPF Network participants may be invited to attend CPF meetings when they can contribute to discussions on a particular topic on the meeting agenda.

6. Results of recent meetings and views submitted to UNFF on ecosystem approach and SFM

The UNFF Secretariat provided an overview of the views submitted to it on the issues of common interest between CBD and UNFF, including the relationship between the ecosystem approach and SFM. Several CPF members had submitted their views on this topic and actively participated in the meetings on this topic, including the CBD workshop on further elaboration and guidelines for implementation of ecosystem approach in July 2003 and the CBD SBSTTA and COP-7 in November 2003 and February 2004, respectively.

The World Bank and IUCN informed participants of a workshop scheduled for 12-14 May 2004 to explore synergies between the ecosystem approach and SFM at the landscape level.

Many members stressed the importance to work on the ground to help countries improve forest management, development and conservation and, in this context, consider the benefit from the close comparability of the two concepts.

7. CPF's work on streamlining forest-related reporting

CBD Secretariat and FAO jointly briefed CPF members on new developments in the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting. Since the last CPF meeting in September 2003, the CPF Task Force has met twice, on 20-21 November 2003 at FAO in Rome and 29-30 March 2004 at CBD Secretariat in Montreal; reviewed the existing forest-related reporting requirements and processes of major international bodies; continued to identify obstacles

and opportunities for reducing reporting burden; and further developed the CPF portal on forest reporting, including its translation into French and Spanish.

Most of the discussions were devoted to the proposal for the CPF forest reporting information framework, which would build upon the portal. Several participants made suggestions to improve the proposal, stressing that the beneficiaries of the framework would be both the international organizations and secretariats and, in particular, countries; that streamlining is a long term task; and that additional resources may be needed especially in order to work with countries in building capacity for monitoring assessment and reporting. With minor amendments, CPF members endorsed the proposal and encouraged the Task Force members to continue the development of the framework and mobilize financial resources to this end.

Members also agreed that the information framework would be presented at the CPF side-event later in the week, where it was well received by governments and other participants.

8. Update on other on-going CPF joint initiatives and discussions on possible new ones

FAO gave a brief update on recent developments concerning the CPF Sourcebook on Funding for SFM and harmonization of forest-related definitions. The on-line CPF Sourcebook has recently been translated into French and Spanish. The National Forest Programme Facility has also produced a CD-ROM of the CPF Sourcebook. In addition, an on-line advice service has recently been added to the Sourcebook site. The service offers a place for fund seekers and fund providers to interact, share information, and exchange ideas and experiences related to searching for funds. Members agreed to contribute information to the next update and disseminate the product through their networks, as appropriate.

Regarding CPF's efforts on definitions, participants were informed that a proposal on how to continue the harmonization work has been prepared by FAO and is currently under consideration by experts that were involved in the two expert meetings organized in 2002. A third expert meeting on harmonization of definitions is planned to be held at the end of 2004.

CPF members were encouraged to review the CPF website and provide comments on improving the site to the UNFF Secretariat, which is maintaining it. It was agreed that all CPF members would ensure that their individual websites have a link to the CPF website.

CPF members discussed possible new CPF joint initiatives. Several CPF members are already actively involved in the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and it was agreed that this initiative would become a joint initiative of CPF. It was decided that IUFRO, as focal point for the initiative, would develop, in collaboration with FAO and CIFOR, a proposal for the further development of GFIS as a joint CPF initiative for the consideration of CPF members at their next meeting.

IUCN informed participants that they are willing to further develop their proposal on an initiative for knowledge and information sharing on the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Furthermore, CPF members welcomed the increased attention that UNFF was giving to the role of forests in achieving broader development goals. Several CPF members expressed an interest to contribute to a report for UNFF 5 on this topic, as well as contribute to the annual submission of a forest story line related to the forest indicator for the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The role of CPF in the review process, third ad hoc expert group of UNFF

UNFF Secretariat informed participants about its preparations for the review process and the UNFF ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, the so called third ad hoc expert group. Pending a decision at UNFF 4 on the process for the review of the effectiveness at UNFF 5, anticipated input by CPF members to the review would include:

- (i) report with information related to the 21 criteria for the review;
- (ii) input to the baseline information compiled by the UNFF Secretariat.

It was agreed that the UNFF Secretariat would provide more detailed information on the review and expected input from CPF members soon after UNFF 4. Furthermore, the UNFF Secretariat will also send a letter to all CPF members inviting them to attend the meeting of the third ad hoc expert group of UNFF, which will take place from 7 to 10 September 2004 in New York.

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

See annex 1 below.

11. Next CPF meeting

It was agreed that the next CPF meeting will take place on Monday 6 September 2004 in New York in conjunction with the UNFF's third ad hoc expert group.

12. Other matters

ITTO informed participants that they will be seconding a senior staff member to UNFF Secretariat for one year. UNEP also informed that they will provide on a part-time basis to UNFF Secretariat a lawyer, who will assist in the preparation of a document on existing international instruments related to forests for the third ad hoc expert group. FAO's current secondment, Ms. Susan Braatz, informed that she will return to FAO in Rome in June 2004. UNFF Secretariat informed that Ms. Braatz's tasks at the UNFF Secretariat, as a Senior Manager of Forest Policy Coordination (including CPF), will be assumed by Mr. Peter Csoka by 1 June. FAO confirmed that it will continue to second a staff person at the UNFF Secretariat.

CPF members expressed great appreciation to Jim Douglas at the World Bank for his dedication and support to CPF over the past several years. Mr. Douglas is retiring within the next few months.

Annex 1.

Brief agency reports on matters of interest to other CPF members

FAO

- Six Regional Forestry Commissions are meeting in 2004. Two of them already held (Africa and the Asia-Pacific) included a specific workshop on the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action, and similar activities will be held during the other commissions. FAO expressed thanks to those CPF members that had participated in or otherwise contributed to these meetings and encouraged active participation in the future sessions.
- FAO, ITTO, UNEP-WCMC and a number of other organizations are preparing the 2nd edition of the World Atlas of Mangroves, which is expected to be published in 2005.
- FAO, in collaboration with UNFF Secretariat, had circulated to other members a draft story line to accompany the forest cover indicator in the process of monitoring progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. The story line provides an opportunity to highlight the multiple benefits and roles of forest and sustainable forest management.

CBD Secretariat

- Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD held in Kuala Lumpur from to had some forest-related decisions, including a request of another expert group meeting on review of implementation of the forest work programme. It will take place in Germany in July 2005. Decisions on the ecosystem approach and its relation to sustainable forest management were also adopted by the COP.
- A publication on climate change and biological diversity (land use, land use change and forestry activities) and protected areas have recently been published and is available on request.
- Development of a forest web portal to assist Parties and other users in the implementation of the activities of the CBD forest programme. It will revolve around the 27 objectives of the work programme and includes a monthly discussion forum for each objective. It was launched in May 2004. The portal can be accessed at: <http://intranet.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/portal/home.shtml> and is also linked to the CPF web site.
- CBD Secretariat co-organized with UNCCD and UNFCCC Secretariat the workshop on promoting synergies through forest ecosystems in Viterbo from 5 to 7 April 2004. The report will shortly be available on the UNCCD website www.unccd.int

IUFRO

- Since September 2003, 45 IUFRO meetings have been convened. Of particular relevance to the CPF are: the international symposium “Forestry Extension: Building Capacity through Collaboration” organized by IUFRO’s Extension Working Party; the meeting “PR Professionals in Forest Science” convened by IUFRO’s Task Force Public Relations in Forest Science; and the international conference “Woodlands – Cultural Heritage” organized by IUFRO’s Working Party “Forest history”.
- IUFRO’s Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) continued to develop new training modules for scientists in developing countries, including the use of

information and communication technology tools in forest research; capacity building for forest scientists in SFM criteria and indicators and forest certification; public relations in forest science; and the role of scientists in national forest programmes. In addition, building the Global Forest Information Service in Africa (GFIS Africa Project) remained one of the major activities of IUFRO-SPDC.

- IUFRO's SilvaVoc Terminology Project has compiled a multi-lingual glossary of carbon-related forest terminology that is available online at www.iufro.org/silva_voc/. It contains more than 250 terms and is operational in the four official IUFRO languages (English, French, Spanish, German).
- The results of the collaborative work in the development of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) were presented during the World Forestry Congress in Quebec. The GFIS Management Unit has been established at the IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna; a meeting of the GFIS Steering Committee as well as a GFIS Asia meeting were held.

ITTO Secretariat

- The Thirty-sixth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council will take place in Interlaken, Switzerland on 20-23 July 2004.
- The United Nations Conference for the Negotiation of A Successor Agreement to ITTA, 1994 will be convened at the United Nations Office, Geneva, Switzerland on 26-30 July 2004.