

## Summary Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

6 September 2004, New York

Chair:	Hosny El-Lakany (FAO)	David Henderson-Howat
CIFOR:	Regrets	Mia Söderlund (Secretary)
FAO:	Tiina Vähänen	UNFCCC: Regrets
ITTO:	Amha bin Buang	UNDP: Nina Roy
IUFRO:	Risto Seppälä	UNEP: Barbara Ruis
	Peter Mayer	ICRAF: Regrets
CBD/UNCCD:	Conrod Hunte	World Bank: David Cassells
GEF:	Mark Zimsky	IUCN: Regrets
UNFF:	Pekka Patosaari	
	Peter Csoka	
	Michel Laverdiere	

### 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 thirteenth meeting of the CPF.

CPF members approved the agenda.

### 2. Preparation for the third UNFF ad hoc expert group

The UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of the organization of work for the third ad hoc expert group (7 to 10 September, New York). CPF members had been invited to participate in the meeting in a resource capacity.

CPF members reiterated their strong commitment to support the UNFF process and to continue working together to assist countries in implementing sustainable forest management. CPF members adopted a CPF remark to be delivered by the Chair on behalf of all CPF members on the opening of the ad hoc expert group, see annex 1.

### 3. CPF members and the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

The UNFF Secretariat briefed participants on the preparations for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests to be carried out at the fifth session of the Forum in May 2005. In accordance with the UNFF resolution 4/4, a synthesis report will be prepared based on information submitted to the UNFF Secretariat from Member States, CPF members and other relevant organizations and forest-related processes and major groups. This report will be the basis for the Secretary-General report to facilitate the discussions at UNFF 5 on this matter.

CPF members discussed the most efficient and effective way of submitting the requested information by end of September. It was agreed that reporting on the implementation of the

IPF/IFF proposals for action would be done to great extent by referring to the annual progress reports of CPF (*CPF Framework*). These reports include extensive information on CPF members' efforts towards implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. As regards to the questionnaire, it was agreed that CPF members would respond jointly and focus the attention to the first part of the questionnaire, the narrative remarks part. The second part of the questionnaire, the assessment of the international arrangement on forests, could be left blank, since many participants felt that it is not appropriate for CPF members to assess the international arrangement on forests of which CPF is a part. However, CPF members agreed to make a progress assessment of CPF's work according to the success criteria developed in 2002 to be included in the CPF Framework 2005.

#### **4. CPF Framework 2005**

The UNFF Secretariat presented the draft outline of the CPF Framework 2005, which had been circulated for comments by CPF members. CPF members adopted the outline and the time table. Furthermore, CPF members agreed to provide input to the document, in particular the sections on collaborative initiatives, CPF's progress assessment and future actions by CPF.

#### **5. Preparations for the policy dialogue with ministers and heads of CPF organizations at UNFF 5**

The UNFF Secretariat informed participants on its preparation for the high-level segment at UNFF 5. The suggested format for the high-level segment is a two days high-level ministerial meeting that will include three parts: 1) plenary discussions on the role of forests in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; 2) round table discussion on a handful of topics; 3) plenary discussion on the review of the international arrangement on forests and future actions.

It was agreed that CPF will deliver a joint statement during the high-level segment and that heads of CPF member organizations would participate in the round table discussions and the role of forests in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. Furthermore, UNFF Secretariat agreed to consult with CPF members on the preparations of documentation for the high-level segment, including the Note by the Secretariat on the linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

#### **6. Update on on-going CPF joint initiatives and discussions on possible new ones**

##### *On-going initiatives*

FAO briefed CPF members on new developments in the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting. The briefing focused on the CPF Forest Reporting Information Framework, which was endorsed at the previous CPF meeting in May 2004. It was reported that a few donor countries had expressed interest to support the project.

The third expert meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders will be held from 17 to 19 January 2005 in Rome at FAO Headquarters. This meeting which is part of CPF's joint effort to harmonize and foster a common understanding of

terms and definitions, will focus on taking stock of developments in forest-related reporting processes since the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting harmonize definitions related to (a) biophysical constitutions of forest resources, and (b) human interventions to manage forests for various purposes.

FAO also informed participants that the on-line advice service is still available on the CPF Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management 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. CPF members were also encouraged to contribute information to the next update CPF Sourcebook that will take place next year.

UNFF Secretariat informed about a recent update of the CPF web site and encouraged members to support, either financial or in-kind to the translation of the web-site into French and Spanish. Furthermore, it was agreed that the UNFF Secretariat would look into the need for additional CPF outreach material, including additional flyers for new CPF joint initiatives.

### *New initiatives*

In May 2004, CPF agreed that the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS)<sup>1</sup> should become a joint CPF initiative. In response to the request of the CPF, IUFRO, in close collaboration with FAO and CIFOR, presented a proposal for the further development of GFIS as a joint CPF initiative. CPF members welcomed the proposal and agreed to provide feed-back by the end of September 2004. IUFRO was encouraged to provide a gap analysis of the different components of GFIS and approach directly appropriate CPF members to seek their contribution to those components that needs to be strengthened. It was also agreed that those CPF members that wish to be part of the steering committee should clearly indicate which of the components and tasks that they would like to contribute to and what kind of support they would be able to provide.

The fourth session of the UNFF in May 2004, requested the UNFF Secretariat in cooperation with CPF members and criteria and indicator processes to provide a global overview of progress towards sustainable forest management as a contribution to the discussions at the fifth session of the Forum (resolution 4/4). The UNFF Secretariat outlined the scope of this overview and its intention to prepare a synthesis report for UNFF 5 and a flagship publication in 2006. The UNFF Secretariat and other CPF members underlined the importance of avoiding duplication between this global overview of progress towards sustainable forest management and other efforts currently under way among CPF members, such as FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment (update in 2005) and ITTO's State of Sustainable Forest Management in Tropical Forests. It was agreed that UNFF Secretariat would prepare a concept note on the overview in order for CPF members to consider how to best cooperate with the UNFF Secretariat on this matter.

## **7. CPF Network**

The UNFF Secretariat presented the outcomes of the last CPF Network meeting held in conjunction with the fourth session of the Forum in May 2004. As a follow up to the meeting, CPF members agreed to provide UNFF Secretariat with information on collaborative projects in Africa which could be used for an upcoming *CPF Network Update*. CPF members also agreed that in preparing for UNFF 5, they would assess and analyze the CPF Network and suggest steps

---

<sup>1</sup> GFIS is an internet gateway that provides access to various types of information resources through partnerships with information providers. A GFIS metadata search facility allows the user to locate forest related information through a single entry point. GFIS currently holds more than 120,000 metadata records.

forward for how CPF members could more effectively engage and share information with organizations and individuals representing various stakeholder groups in the future.

#### **8. Brief agency reports on matters of interest to other CPF members**

See annex 2 below.

#### **9. Next CPF meeting**

It was agreed that the next regular CPF meeting will take place on Sunday 16 May 2005 in New York, in conjunction with the fifth session of the UNFF. It was also proposed that the CPF may organize a retreat on the weekend immediately after FAO's COFO from 20 to 21 March 2005. The retreat would provide an opportunity for CPF members to review its accomplishments and achievements and discuss areas for increased collaboration and cooperation in the future.

#### **10. Other matters**

CPF members said goodbye to three CPF focal points and welcomed three new ones. Mr. Mark Zimsky recently joined the GEF Secretariat and informed participants that he is replacing Ms. Kanta Kumari as the new GEF focal point on CPF matters. UNFCCC Secretariat informed participants about the retirement of Mr. Dennis Tirpak and that he will be replaced by Mr. Halldor Thorgeirsson, the new Coordinator for Methods, Inventories and Science Programme within the UNFCCC Secretariat. ICRAF informed participants that they have designated Mr. Mohamed Bakarr, Director of Strategic Initiatives as the organization's new CPF focal point. UNEP informed participants that Mr. Bai-Mass Taal has retired from UNEP and that a new CPF focal point from UNEP is to be announced.

Annex 1.

## CPF REMARK

### UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group 7-10 September, New York

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

Thank you, Co-Chair.

Distinguished experts, delegates and colleagues: Once again, it is a great pleasure to make some remarks on behalf of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Mr. Co-Chair, all CPF members **reaffirm their strong commitment** to support the UNFF process and to enhance collaboration and coordination on forest issues, especially to assist member countries in their endeavours to implement sustainable forest management. By the same token, I would like to thank countries once again for their foresight in calling for the establishment of this informal but effective arrangement of 14 forest-related international organizations, institutions and secretariats.

When this Ad Hoc Expert Group was established, CPF members were invited to provide information on existing regional and international instruments, processes and organizations relevant to forests; and on progress made in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action and UNFF decisions. Some of us provided material in writing, and, as you can see, most members are present here, **ready to provide technical support and respond to questions throughout this meeting.**

In our view, the informal CPF arrangement has enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest issues, especially through its focal agency system of shared responsibilities. We are actively working together to streamline forest reporting, in order to reduce the reporting burdens on countries, to provide information on forest funding as well as harmonize forest-related terms and definitions. I am pleased to announce that we have just endorsed the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) as a new joint CPF initiative. Awareness raising and capacity building to implement the commitments made in the international processes is an integral part of many of the members' activities. CPF members are ready to continue working together and with governments to achieve SFM worldwide.

Mr. Co-Chair, CPF members trust that the political decision that countries take regarding **future institutional arrangements will help to effectively and cost efficiently mobilize action towards sustainable forest management.** This decision will be influenced by your expert deliberations here. It is therefore extremely important that you reach meaningful conclusions and make clear recommendations. We, CPF members, are fully convinced that you will.

Mr. Co-Chair, we wish you every success with the meeting and look forward to fruitful outcomes. Thank you.

Annex 2.

## **Brief agency reports on matters of interest to other CPF members**

### **FAO**

- Three Regional Forestry Commissions are meeting in the fall of 2004.
- SOFO to be published in March 2005 in conjunction with COFO.
- COFO to be held 15-19 March. Ministerial meeting on forest on the 14 March 2005. The focus will be on FAO's role in combating forest fires and deforestation.

### **CBD Secretariat**

- Second meeting of the AHTEG on Review of Implementation of the forest work program-July 2005 in Germany. The forest work program will be reviewed at COP 9 (2008).
- Tenth meeting of SBSTTA. February 7 to 11, 2005. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating, the 2010 global biodiversity target; 19 - 22 October 2004 at SCBD in Montreal.

### **IUFRO**

- The IUFRO Task Force on the Forest Science/Policy Interface convened its fourth workshop in June 2004 in Birmensdorf, Switzerland.
- In June 2004, the International Symposium "The Evaluation of Forest Policies and Programmes" was organized by the European Forest Institute and IUFRO in Epinal, France. (more information at <http://www.efi.fi/events/2004/forestpolicies-epinal/>).
- As another activity carried out in June 2004, the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development" was held in Poiana Brasov, Romania. The 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium will be held in Belgrade (Serbia) in April 2005 (report of the 6<sup>th</sup> symposium available at <http://www.iufro.org/iufro/iufro/d6/wu61300/ev61300.htm>).
- The Second World Wide Symposium "Gender and Forestry: Challenges to Sustainable Livelihoods and Forestry Management" took place in August 2004 in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. (more information at <http://www.iufro.org/iufro/iufro/d6/hp61800.htm>).
- IUFRO's Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) will organize a forest policy seminar for practitioners and forest scientists on "International forest related-initiatives and agreements and their implementation in the context of national forest programmes – linking research and science with practice" in collaboration with GTZ-IWP on 27 September – 01 October 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia (more information at <http://www.iufro.org/iufro/spdc/meetings-future.htm>).
- The IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE) organised two international workshops during 2004 (in Helsinki, February 2004 and in Tokyo in May 2004). These workshops focused on the preparation of the articles contained in two publications that will be published in 2005: the book "Forests in the World Balance - Changing Paradigms" and the booklet "Policy Brief of IUFRO-WFSE". (more information at <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/wfse/>).

### **ITTO Secretariat**

- The 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council was held in Interlaken, Switzerland on 20-23 July 2004.
- The United Nations Conference for the Negotiation of A Successor Agreement to ITTA, 1994 convened at the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland on 26-30 July 2004. Negotiations will continue in February 2005.
- The 37<sup>th</sup> session of the ITTC will be held in Yokohama, Japan on 13-18 December 2004.

### **World Bank**

- Contribution from the European Commission to continue work on Forest Law Enforcement.
- PROFOR Steering Committee meeting to be held in Washington in January 2005.

### **UNFF Secretariat**

- Five Country- and Organization-led Initiative to take place before UNFF 5:
  - Second expert meeting on Lessons Learned on SFM in Africa to be held in Sweden in October 2004.
  - Expert meeting on women and SFM to be held in Uganda.
  - Expert meeting organized by Indigenous People Organizations in Costa Rica.
  - Global Implementation Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration to be held in early 2005 in Brazil.
  - Expert meeting on Financing SFM to be held in Costa Rica.

### **UNCCD Secretariat**

- Year 2006 will be the International Year of Desertification.

### **UNFCCC Secretariat**

- A Workshop on Harvested Wood Products was held in Lillehammer, Norway from 30 August to 1 September 2004.
- 21<sup>st</sup> SBSTA and 10<sup>th</sup> COP of the UNFCCC to be held in Argentina from 29 November to 10 December.