

Summary Report: 14th Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

19 March 2005, Rome, Italy

Chair:	Hosny El-Lakany (FAO)	UNFF:	Pekka Patosaari
Secretary:	Mia Söderlund (UNFF)		Peter Csoka
CIFOR/ICRAF:	David Kaimowitz	UNFCCC:	Regrets
FAO:	Tiina Vähänen	UNDP:	Regrets
ITTO:	Manoel Sobral	UNEP:	Regrets
IUFRO:	Risto Seppälä	World Bank:	David Cassells
	Peter Mayer		Laura Ivers
CBD:	Regrets		Robert Davis
GEF:	Regrets	IUCN:	Regrets
UNCCD:	Douglas Pattie		

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 fourteenth meeting of the CPF. Mr. El-Lakany also thanked CPF members for participating in the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests and the Committee on Forestry held from 14 to 19 March 2005 in Rome, Italy.

CPF members approved the agenda.

2. Preparation for the fifth session of UNFF

The UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of the organization of work for the fifth session of the UNFF to be held from 16 to 27 May 2005 in New York at UN Headquarters. The UNFF Secretariat thanked CPF members for providing inputs to the documentation for the upcoming session, in particular the CPF Framework 2005, S-G report on linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals and S-G Note on enhanced cooperation and programme and policy coordination.

CPF members present at the meeting discussed their participation in the upcoming UNFF session and focused on their expected involvement in the high-level segment. It was decided that the Chair would present the CPF Framework 2005 early in the session and that it would highlight CPF's key achievements over the last few years, focusing on joint initiatives and collaborative activities, as well as CPF members' commitment to strengthen the partnership to increase cooperation among members in the future. It was also decided that CPF would make a joint statement during the high-level segment on the issue of future actions. In addition, CPF members would make individual statements/interventions on some of the other topics of the high-level segment, including forests and MDGs, forest restoration and forests and conflicts and illegal activities. The UNFF Secretariat will communicate the procedure of the high-level segment to the members and requested them to inform as soon as possible their participant in the high-level segment and indicate which topic that their respective head would like to address.

3. Looking forward: how to strengthen CPF

Participants discussed how to strengthen the CPF in the future on the basis of the discussions at the UNFF country-led initiative in Mexico in January and a concept paper that the Chair had prepared. It was decided that the UNFF Secretariat would circulate the paper again and that the CPF members would send their comments in writing to the UNFF Secretariat, copied to the Chair and other members by mid April. On the UNFF Bureau's request, CPF members had met a few days earlier with the UNFF Bureau members to discuss the ways in which CPF activities could be further strengthened to support sustainable forest management.

All participants stressed the immense value of CPF as a partnership that has considerably increased cooperation and information sharing among its members. Furthermore, members expressed their sincere interest and commitment to continue working together as part of any future international arrangement on forests and to strengthen collaboration to better support countries in their effort to implement internationally agreed actions on forests. In this regard, it was suggested that CPF could develop a costed programme of work or action plan for its joint initiatives. Such plan could facilitate fund raising and focus CPF's work. Several participants stressed that in kind contributions for joint initiatives might not be sufficient to meet increasing expectations by countries for the CPF activities, pointing to the need for a possible CPF trust fund in the future. It was agreed that the Chair would send a letter to all CPF members to seek their reconfirmation for active involvement in the CPF in the future.

Several participants stressed the importance of increasing cooperation at the national level, particularly among implementing agencies with presence in the field. It was suggested that CPF could embark on a "pilot study" to examine collaboration on forest issues among CPF members in the field and identify ways in which such cooperation could be strengthened. Members also noted the potential of joint guidelines on priority topics on which two or more members are now working individually (for example related to poverty or forest fires). Furthermore, members noted that CPF should report on its activities more effectively.

Participants also discussed the membership of CPF and, recalling earlier discussions, stressed the importance to keep the size of the Partnership manageable in order to be able to work in an informal and flexible manner. However, a few participants believed that CPF could be strengthened by allowing one or more organizations to join the Partnership, provided that they have a clear forests mandate, global scope and capacity to contribute to the CPF activities. Furthermore, the participants agreed to strengthen efforts to build stakeholder confidence in the CPF work and discussed the potential benefits of participation of an observer(s) at CPF meetings (see more information under "CPF Network" below).

4. Update on on-going CPF joint initiatives and other collaborative activities

FAO briefed participants on new developments in the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting (FAO, ITTO, UNEP-WCMC and the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNFF). The briefing focused on the development of the CPF Information Framework for Forest Reporting and based on the outcomes of the Task Force meeting held in Rome on 16 January 2005. The summary report is available on the CPF website. FAO reported that a few countries had provided funds to initiate the project. CPF members agreed to continue the development of the information framework and expressed that they look forward for further results of the Task Force. In this context, the UNFF Secretariat will host a small expert consultation among the Task Force members and invited country focal points on 12-13 April, in

New York. The objectives of the consultation are to seek feedback on the current streamlining efforts, including the potential of the CPF information framework to improve access to forest-related information and help future reporting; and to identify ways forward to reduce reporting burdens to countries. FAO will provide travel support for participants from developing countries.

The third expert meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders had been 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, focused on definitions related to (a) biophysical constitutions of forest resources, and (b) human interventions to manage forests for various purposes. The meeting had recommended that CPF would serve as a custodian for the various forest-related terms and definitions used for reporting to international processes in order to facilitate their harmonization and consistent use. The summary report of the meeting is available on the CPF website. FAO also informed of the new CPF sub-site which provides links to forest terms and definitions that members use in their reports.

FAO also informed participants that the on-line CPF Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management is under a major review. The number of sources has increased significantly over the last few months, from 360 to 500. The revised version of the Sourcebook will be available at UNFF 5.

IUFRO informed participants about the latest developments of Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). A production version of GFIS is available on-line (www.gfis.net). It has been developed in close collaboration between IUFRO, FAO, CIFOR and CABI. Forest related information can be located by means of three different search options: metadata search, browsing and online resource search. The production version also provides a solid basis for the further development of partnership agreements with institutions related to forests.

The UNFF Secretariat informed participants about a recent update of the CPF web site and plans for a CPF side event during UNFF 5, which will demonstrate CPF joint initiatives. IUFRO invited CPF members to participate in a session on 9 August 2005 organized during the XXII IUFRO World Congress (to be held from 8 to 13 August 2005 in Brisbane, Australia) to inform congress participants about CPF and the future international arrangement on forests.

FAO also informed participants on a new collaborative activity on the follow-up to the Indian Ocean tsunami. A "Regional Coordination Workshop on Rehabilitation of Tsunami-affected Forest Ecosystems: Strategies and New Directions" had been held at the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok on 7-8 March. It had been attended by about 50 people from affected countries, donor countries, international and regional organizations and NGOs, and included several CPF members (FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ITTO, IUCN, ICRAF and the World Bank). The meeting had initiated the establishment a regional partnership for coordination, technical assistance and capacity building for forest-related tsunami rehabilitation efforts.

5. CPF Network

Participants discussed the CPF Network and CPF members' involvement with stakeholders in general. They agreed that the CPF Network had mainly been used for sharing information on CPF activities. It was suggested that one way of strengthening cooperation with civil society groups and increasing transparency could be to foster closer collaboration with UNFF major group focal points. This could include inviting Major Groups representative(s) to participate in the CPF meetings as observer(s) on a rotation basis. A modality would need to be agreed for such

arrangement. The UNFF Secretariat was requested to arrange for a meeting between CPF members and UNFF Major Group focal points during UNFF 5 to discuss ways forward to strengthen collaboration. In addition, members agreed to continue to share information to wide audience through *CPF Updates* that could be sent out twice a year, highlighting CPF's joint initiatives and collaborative activities.

6. Agency report

See annex 1 below.

7. Next CPF meeting

It was decided that the next CPF meeting would be held in the afternoon of Sunday 15 May 2005 in New York at UN Headquarters. A joint gathering between CPF and UNFF 5 Bureau would also be organized in conjunction with UNFF 5. In addition, CPF members may meet throughout the UNFF 5 session as necessary.

Annex 1. Brief agency reports on matters of interest to other CPF members

IUFRO

- IUFRO's Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) has completed the research *networking initiative* "Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned from Selected Case Studies" and published the scientific synthesis (<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/projects-and-activities/research-networking-in-africa/>). In addition, a training course "Communicating forest research – Making science work for policy and management" has been initiated in close cooperation with the IUFRO Task Force on Public Relations in Forest Science and Tropenbos International (The Netherlands). The course was successfully tested in a training event in Ghana in November 2004.
- The IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE) organized a workshop on 12-16 January 2005 in Victoria, Canada, to compose the Policy Brief "Forests for the New Millennium – Making Forests Work for People and Nature". The Policy Brief will be presented an IUFRO side event during the 5th session of UNFF. The book "Forests in the World Balance - Changing Paradigms" will be launched on the occasion of the IUFRO World Congress (more information about IUFRO-WFSE: <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/>).
- 31 international meetings have been (co-)organized by IUFRO Divisions and its Task Forces since September 2004 (full list of meetings www.iufro.org).

CIFOR/ICRAF

- Both CIFRO and ICRAF are currently being externally evaluated. This evaluation will result in documentation of the organizations cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, including CPF members.
- ICRAF held a Smallholder Timber Production Systems Workshop in Nairobi, November 2004.
- ICRAF with other partners held the Eco-agriculture Conference in Nairobi, September 2004.
- The World Congress of Agroforestry held in Orlando, Florida, June 2004. This was a milestone event that took stock of the 25 years of progress in the field of agroforestry, as well as to look ahead. The Congress adopted the Orlando Declaration, highlighting the contribution of agroforestry systems and technologies in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Congress also called upon the international community, including the UNFF, to endorse the role of, and enormous potential afforded by, agroforestry in accomplishing the targeted objectives and goals set in international commitments and agreements.

CBD

- The CBD will service the upcoming open ended working group on protected areas in Montecatini, Italy, from 13 to 17 June 2005. The meeting will explore options for mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of the CBD work programme on protected areas adopted at COP 7 in 2004, and will also consider the development of “tool kits” for the identification and management of national and regional protected area systems.
- Relevant CPF members have been invited to comment on the draft document on “conservation and use of wildlife-based resources: the “bushmeat crisis” in question, to be published in the CBD Technical Series later this year.
- An expert meeting was held in Montreal last March on the incorporation of outcome-oriented targets into the forest work programme. These will be discussed at the ninth meeting of CBD SBSTTA in November. In the interim, it will be posted at the CBD web site for wider comments and inputs.
- An expert group is being convened to work on biodiversity, adaptation, and climate change, from 5 to 8 September in Finland. An invitation was sent to all CPF members last March.