

Summary Report: 16th Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

13 February 2006, New York, USA

Chair: Michael Martin (FAO)
Secretariat (UNFF): Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Daniela Sinobad
CBD: Conrod Hunte
FAO: Tiina Vähänen
ICRAF/CIFOR: David Kaimowitz, Doris Capistrano
ITTO: Amha bin Buang
IUCN: Regrets
IUFRO: Peter Mayer
GEF: Mark Zimsky
UNCCD: Melchiade Bukuru
UNFCCC: Regrets
UNDP: Regrets
UNEP: Regrets
UNFF: Pekka Patosaari, Peter Csoka
World Bank: Gerhard Dieterle, Laura Ivers

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Michael Martin, Director, Forestry Policy and Information Division, Forestry Department, FAO, and Chair, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) opened the meeting.

CPF members approved the agenda.

2. Preparations for the Sixth Session of UNFF

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, presented an overview of the organization of work for the sixth session of the UNFF, from 13 to 24 February 2006, in New York at UN Headquarters. CPF members asked questions related to the meeting and made comments regarding their individual and collective contribution to the session.

3. CPF Statement

The joint CPF statement is attached to this report (Annex 1).

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

- IUFRO briefed participants on the latest developments in the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and provided CPF members with an Information Note, which is attached to this report as Annex 2. The system, launched at the XXII IUFRO World Congress (Brisbane, Australia, 8 - 13 August 2005), currently has 70 information

providers, among academic and research institutions, as well as several CPF members. Ongoing actions to be completed in 2006 were also presented.

- FAO informed members of the status of the CPF effort to streamline forest-related reporting and presented an Information Note, attached to this report as Annex 3. Based on the progress made and lessons learned, a proposal for the next phase in the CPF work on streamlining forest-related reporting was made (see paragraph 5 of Annex 3). CPF members approved the report and commented on the issue; the proposal for the next work phase, as it appears on the referred text, was endorsed by CPF members.

- FAO briefed members on the current stage of the CPF Sourcebook on Funding for SFM. An Information Note on the matter is attached as Annex 4. The planned activities for 2006 are listed in the document at hand. Comments and suggestions were made regarding, among other issues, a better filtering of the information available.

- CPF individual members reported on their latest forestry and CPF related developments:

- CBD informed of recent meetings with the FAO Forestry Department, as well as contacts with other partners regarding adaptation for climate change, as well as of the outcome of the 11 Session of the SBSTTA, which recommended to the COP the process for the review of implementation of the expanded forest work programme and continuing its collaborative work on issues related to forest law enforcement and cross sectoral integration. (Recommendation X1/10 and X1/11);
- CIFOR informed participants of the Rights and Resources Initiative, a newly established consortium consisting of CIFOR, IUCN, Forest Trends and RECOFT. The consortium focuses on issues related to policy and tenure reform in the forest sector. CIFOR also reported on the newly established CIFOR-ICRAF Biodiversity Platform. CIFOR also relayed ICRAF's offer to host the planned CPF workshop post-UNFF6.
- GEF informed of the study conducted to evaluate its activities related to forests and made it available to participants;
- ITTO briefed members on the recent approval of the new International Tropical Timber Agreement;
- UNCCD informed participants of results of the latest COP, which took place in Nairobi in October 2005, in particular regarding Decision 12 of COP 7, which asks the Secretariat to further cooperate with CPF partners; CPF members were also invited to actively engage into the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification for which the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD has been designated by the General Assembly as the Focal Point for the Year.
- UNFCCC forwarded a report entitled "Recent developments on forest-related issues at the UNFCCC", which is attached as Annex 5;
- World Bank informed participants of the latest developments in the FLEG process and offered suggestions on how CPF partners can help to integrate poverty alleviation into the promotion of SFM.

5. Promoting dialogue among CPF members

The UNFF Secretariat informed that facilities were available to hold any additional CPF meeting during UNFF6, if so is the wish of members.

The potential for a CPF retreat was discussed, but members felt that the decision on this matter depends on the results of UNFF6.

For the moment it is not clear when and where the next CPF meeting will take place.

6. CPF Interaction with Major Groups' Representatives

It was decided that CPF will hold an informal meeting with Major Groups' representatives during UNFF6.

7. Other matters

The life achievements and important contribution to the promotion of SFM, as well as to the success of the CPF, of Mr. Hosny El Lakany, former Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO, and first Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was recognized by the plenary of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, by the Chairperson of the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Judith Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, as well as by his CPF peers.