

Summary Report: Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 10 December 2006, New York

In Attendance:

CBD:	Robert Höft	IUFRO:	Peter Mayer
CIFOR:	Doris Capistrano	UNCCD:	Regrets
FAO:	Jan Heino (Chair) Tiina Vähänen Marguerite France- Lanord	UNDP:	Regrets
ICRAF:	Dennis Garrity Mohamed I. Bakarr Tony Simons	UNEP:	Barbara Ruis
IUCN:	Regrets	UNFCCC:	Regrets
ITTO:	Lauren Flejzor	UNFFS:	Pekka Patosaari Ghazal Badiozamani (Secretary)
		World Bank:	Gerhard Dieterle Laura Ivers

By invitation: Hans Hoogeveen, UNFF-7 Chair
Arvid Ozols, UNFF-7 Bureau member

1. Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the FAO opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He stated that such a gathering was timely and provided a good opportunity for CPF to continue to demonstrate its support for the work of the UN Forum on Forests and, in this particular juncture, for the development of a non-legally binding instrument to be adopted at UNFF-7. He also thanked the UNFF Secretariat for organizing the joint gathering over a lunch among the members of the UNFF-7 Bureau, CPF and Major Groups.

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat welcomed participants to New York, and expressed his thanks for the participation of CPF members in the forthcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting and noted that UNFF continues to look to CPF and its members for support.

2. Preparation of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting and UNFF-7

Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, Chair of the UNFF-7 Bureau and Mr Arvid Ozols, member of the Bureau, joined the CPF meeting to discuss the preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting as well as UNFF-7. Mr Hoogeveen noted that countries had set an ambitious

agenda for UNFF-7 and that this expert meeting was the first step in completing these tasks. CPF members agreed with Mr Hoogeveen that the Composite Draft Text provided a good basis for the discussion during the following week.

He described three areas where, in his view, the non-legally binding instrument would be most pertinent to the work of the CPF: UNFF support and guidance to CPF to specifically boost national-level action; CPF members' support to the UNFF Secretariat; and the importance of means of implementation. Related to the latter, he welcomed the World Bank/PROFOR paper and looked forward to other CPF members' inputs for creative outlooks on forest financing.

The CPF and Bureau members present concurred on the valuable contribution by CPF in creating joint initiatives and bringing difficult and emerging issues to the attention of UNFF. They also noted the continued readiness of CPF to respond to the requests of UNFF and, in this context, underscored the importance of securing adequate resources for the CPF work.

Referring to the upcoming Bali Country-Led Initiative, CIFOR will be contributing to the process by preparing a paper as an input to the discussions on the UNFF multi-year programme of work.

3. Finalization of the Joint CPF Remarks to be presented at the UNFF AHG

Participants finalized the joint statement (Annex 1).

4. Follow up to the decisions of the previous CPF meeting, including joint initiatives

4.1 Science and Technology Initiative

IUFRO reported that this joint CPF initiative had held its first Steering Committee meeting. Current members include IUFRO, CIFOR, ICRAF, FAO, CBDS and UNFFS. The initiative will offer scientific contribution to UNFF and other intergovernmental processes. It will bring together leading scientists from around the globe to provide validated and independent scientific information on key issues of political interest. Selected scientists will form Expert Panels to assess existing, peer-reviewed scientific information on selected topics and prepare reports. The Steering Committee will choose the topics upon requests of UNFF and other intergovernmental processes, and upon consultations with governments, major groups and CPF members, as appropriate. IUFRO will be responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the initiative.

UNFFS indicated that the reports that are fed into the UNFF process could potentially be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations.

IUFRO also reported that the next Steering Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Bali Country-Led Initiative in February, to discuss the subjects of

reports to be undertaken, including possibly “deforestation and its relation to climate change”.

CPF members welcomed the progress on this initiative and thanked IUFRO for its active role in leading it.

4.2 Background Paper on Alternative Means of Implementation

The World Bank presented draft terms of reference for a paper that will be prepared as an input to UNFF-7. It aims to provide an update on the current state of discussion on means of implementation and to highlight trends and emerging options likely to have a significant influence on forest sector finance. The paper would focus on practical issues, discussing new potential innovative solutions and the potential to strengthen existing funds. As background information, the paper would briefly discuss developments with ODA to the forest sector, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and donor identified priority sectors. The World Bank also informed the group that it had commissioned two experienced consultants to undertake the study: Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, former Assistant Director-General of FAO, and Mr. Michael Jenkins of Forest Trends.

Emphasizing the urgent need to advance the discussion on means of implementation, participants welcomed the initiative. Many expressed their interest in contributing to the paper. Later during the week, the World Bank presented the initiative to the UNFF AHEG meeting, which received this contribution positively.

4.3 National Forest Programme Facility

FAO reported on the future plans of the National Forest Programme Facility. The Steering Committee of the Facility is in the process of designing the second phase of this funding mechanism and information initiative. The committee is composed of representatives of donors and countries of the African, Asian and Latin America regions, international NGOs, research institutions, the private sector, foundations, the World Bank and FAO. Given the strong country driven demand for an expansion of the programme, the second phase of the Facility is expected to double the current efforts, expanding the direct financial support from forty to sixty countries and the budget from \$16 million to \$34 million over the next five years.

4.4 Other Follow-up: CIFOR

CIFOR informed members that their new Director-General, Frances Seymour, had taken office in November. CIFOR plans to undertake a strategy review over the next year to determine the changing role of the organization in the international forest community, including a review of its mission and goals and based on inputs from partners.

In addition to its continued collaboration on GFIS and with ICRAF on a biodiversity platform, CIFOR had also recently launched a new initiative entitled the “Rights and

Resources Initiative” in partnership with IUCN, ICRAF, and a number of NGOs. The initiative will consider tenure and market reform and the kinds of regulatory frameworks that would benefit small holders and community forest owners. This is linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially to reducing poverty. The initiative includes an exercise to synthesise existing information, a policy dialogue with countries, an advocacy component and projects aimed at capacity building at the local and national levels.

4.5 Other Follow-up: GFIS

IUFRO reported that the new interface of GFIS will be launched on 1 January 2007. It will enable searches on news, events, vacancy announcements and publications. There are three meetings planned for the coming year thus far: a training session for South-East Asian information providers to be held in China and two training sessions for Latin American information providers to be held in the spring of 2007.

4.6 Other Follow-up: World Bank

The World Bank reported on its major restructuring effective as of January 2007, including a consolidation of units and services into one Sustainable Development Network, containing 2000 staff members and responsible for 60% of the Bank’s lending. Units working with natural resources such as forests, fisheries, water and biodiversity would be grouped together to create greater synergies, including a closer link between the forest and the carbon finance groups.

The Bank is also considering the establishment of a global forests alliance to reduce forest loss and degradation and harness the potential of forests for sustainable development. This partnership framework aims at using \$50 million to leverage additional funding for capacity building and other activities in areas where the Bank has a comparative advantage such as developing markets, governance and supporting community forest groups. The Bank agreed that it will need to consider how this will link with CPF.

4.7 Other Follow-up: UNEP and ICRAF

UNEP and ICRAF reported that they had launched the Billion Tree Campaign during COP-12 of UNFCCC. 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai and Sovereign Prince Albert of Monaco are patrons of the campaign, which is intended as a public awareness opportunity to promote commitment to action. Many CPF members have already responded positively in support of the campaign and UNEP and ICRAF invited other CPF members to endorse it as well. For more information see <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/>

4.8 Other Follow-up: ITTO

ITTO reported that it has been working closely with the World Bank to develop a number of regional forest investment forums, including the World Bank's Regional Forest Investment Forum in South Africa in June 2006 and ITTO's Latin American Tropical Forest Investment Forum in Brazil in November 2006. The ITTO noted that two other regional tropical forest investment forums would be held in 2007. The first will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2007, and the second will be held in Ghana, in November 2007. With regard to the GFIS, ITTO mentioned it had allocated US\$40,000 in support of GFIS activities for 2006-2007. Additionally, ITTO explained that it continued its active collaboration with FAO, including by convening workshops on forest law enforcement, holding a conference on sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation, conducting workshops on statistical training, and preparing for an upcoming conference on wood-based bio-energy. Finally, ITTO reported that 2007 will be an important year for the organization as it will develop a new thematic work programme and a new strategic plan.

5. Preparation of the next CPF progress report

Participants reviewed the draft outline for the CPF progress report and agreed to submit text regarding projects and initiatives to be included in the document to the UNFF Secretariat by 22 December 2006.

On the Chair's proposal, members agreed that another type of report (a brochure) would be prepared in early 2007 that could be used by all members in their meetings to raise CPF's visibility and promote its activities. FAO offered to take the lead in preparing the draft.

6. Other Matters

FAO offered, and member agreed, to hold the next CPF meeting on Sunday 11 March 2007, in conjunction with the next COFO. FAO also invited CPF members to join the Bureau of the Regional Forestry Commissions for a working luncheon on the same day.

The proposal to organize a CPF retreat was also discussed, with participants agreeing that such an extended meeting could be useful to consider a strategic agenda for the CPF work and possibly address 2-3 topics of key interest in the current international agenda. Members noted that the best time for such an event would be after UNFF-7.

Finally, concurred by the members present, Jan Heino asked Peter Mayer/IUFRO and subsequently Barbara Ruis/UNEP to represent the CPF at the UNFF AHEG meeting in his absence during the last part of the week.

Annex 2

Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- ◆ 12-16 March 2007, Rome, Italy: Committee on Forests (COFO) with a meeting of the Bureaux of the Regional Forestry Commissions on 11 March 2007.

International Tropical Timber Organization

- ◆ April 2007, Investment Forum for Indonesia to focus on involving local communities, resolving land tenure issues, meeting plantation goals of the Indonesian government and restructuring forest processing industry
- ◆ 7-12 May 2007, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: 42nd Session of the Council
- ◆ 17-19 May 2007, Hanover, Germany: International Conference on Wood-Based Bio-Energy
- ◆ June 2007, Brazil, Community Based Forest Enterprises
- ◆ September 2007, China, International Conference to Promote Non-Timber Forest Products

UN Forum on Forests

- ◆ 13- 16 February 2007, Bali, Indonesia, Country-Led Initiative “Multi Year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015”
- ◆ 16-27 April 2007, New York, Seventh Session of the UN Forum on Forests