

Summary Report:
20th Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
15 April 2007, New York

In Attendance:

CBD:	Regrets	UNCCD:	Ruhombe Kamugisha
CIFOR:	Doris Capistrano	UNDP:	Regrets
FAO:	Jan Heino (Chair) Tiina Vähänen Marguerite France- Lanord	UNEP:	Barbara Ruis
ICRAF:	Regrets	UNFCCC:	Regrets
IUCN:	Regrets	UNFFS:	Pekka Patosaari Peter Csoka Ghazal Badiozamani (Secretary)
ITTO:	Amha bin Buang	World Bank:	Gregor Wolf
IUFRO:	Peter Mayer		

1. Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of FAO and Chair of the CPF, welcomed members to the meeting. He stated that this meeting provides a good opportunity to coordinate the work of the CPF in advance of the session and to explore opportunities to be more visible during the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests.

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director of the UNFF Secretariat also welcomed participants and encouraged them to play an active role throughout the forthcoming session.

2. Finalization of Joint CPF Statement

In discussing the proposed joint CPF Statement, members expressed the importance of emphasizing action, the unrealized potential of the CPF, the need for resources to sustain joint activities, and to support the work of UNFF. The reference to climate change in the statement was discussed, with the World Bank stating that the CPF should highlight the need to address forests and climate change with a perspective that includes countries that are not forest-rich and with an emphasis on livelihoods. CIFOR highlighted the complexity of the priority issues mentioned in the statement. Some concrete language changes were recommended and adopted.

3. CPF Related Events throughout the UNFF Session

The UNFF secretariat shared with members the draft presentation of the CPF Framework Report 2007. Adjustments and additions were recommended. It was agreed that the PROFOR paper on Means of Implementation should be referred to in the presentation as a Collaborative Activity rather than as a joint CPF initiative due to the time constraints which limited the possibility of CPF member input to the paper.

The panel discussion of heads of CPF member governing bodies to be held on Wednesday 18 April 2007 as part of the plenary discussions of the session was discussed. Members asked the UNFF secretariat questions regarding the scope of the discussion and how it would be organized. Members emphasized the importance of dialogue and proposed that in future, there could be interactive discussions between CPF members and governments, including between Heads of secretariats of CPF member organizations and Ministers, as held during the high-level segment of UNFF-5.

Members briefly discussed forthcoming side-events to be hosted by CPF members including: IUFRO on the Science and Technology Initiative; UNFFS on the launch of a publication entitled "Enabling Sustainable Forest Management"; PROFOR on the Means of Implementation paper; World Bank and the FAO on the Forest Sourcebook; and UNFFS on the discussions of deforestation under the UNFCCC.

4. Progress on Joint Initiatives

4.1 Science and Technology Initiative – IUFRO

IUFRO reported that it will hold a side event on this initiative on Monday 16 April during UNFF7 to present the initiative to member States and as a means of consultation with participants regarding possible topics which the initiative could take up. IUFRO also invited interested CPF members who have not already done so to join the steering committee.

4.2 Means of Implementation Paper – World Bank

An initiative spearheaded by PROFOR and supported by the UNFF secretariat resulted in a paper which presents the use of a portfolio approach to forest financing. Hard copies were distributed at the meeting. The paper will be presented formally at the UNFF session itself as well as during a side event.

4.3 Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) – IUFRO

GFIS has a new website that includes four categories of forest-related information: Latest News, Upcoming Events, Recent Publications and Job Vacancies. Those members of the CPF that have not already done so are invited to become information providers to ensure that GFIS provides up to date and complete information.

4.4 Financing Sourcebook - FAO

FAO reported that the database of possible financing for sustainable forest management is growing with over 700 funds currently listed. The system is well used in countries with reliable internet access. A number of additions will be made to further meet the needs of its users including more systematic and detailed information on how to access funds and tips on developing project proposals.

5. Other Matters

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, housed in IFAD, presented a concept note on a new initiative: A Forest Management Affirmative Action Programme. It was agreed that the note be circulated to member along with the report of the CPF meeting for information and comments.

6. Future Meetings

It was decided that those CPF members present would gather informally on Friday 20 April at 9:00 am to assess CPF relevant matters during the session.

It was also agreed that an extended working meeting / retreat of the CPF may be needed after the conclusion of the session to assess how the CPF can best contribute to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the UNFF multi-year programme of work.