



Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting Report

1 December 2012, Doha, Qatar

In Attendance

CIFOR: Peter Holmgren

Peter Kanowski

John Colmey

FAO: Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair)

Susan Braatz

ICRAF: Tony Simons

Paul Stapleton

IUCN: Patrick Wylie

ITTO: Steve Johnson

IUFRO: Alexander Buck

John Parrotta

Christoph Wildburger (*for agenda item 4*)

UNEP: Tim Christophersen

World Bank: Peter DeWees

CBD: Sakhile Koketso

GEF: Ian Gray

UNCCD: Luc Gnacadja

Sergio Zelaya

Wagaki Mwangi

UNFF: Jan McAlpine

Hossein Moeini-Meybodi

Regrets: UNDP, UNFCCC

Summary, 1 December, 11:00-16:00

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 1 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar on the margins of the 18th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. Several issues were discussed at the meeting, including the future of Forest Day, joint initiatives of the CPF, participation of members of the Partnership at the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing (AHEG2, 14-18 January, 2013) and at UNFF10 (8-19 April, 2013).

At the meeting, the CPF decided to substitute Forest Day (FD) at UNFCCC COPs, with Landscape Day. CPF decided to discuss the FD Concept Note on the margins of UNFF10, in April 2013, and to take a decision on this at the next CPF Retreat in 2013. CPF also agreed to review CPF joint initiatives, particularly the criteria used for establishing and assessing joint initiatives. In addition, the CPF requested the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS), as the lead agency for the CPF on issues related to the sustainable development goals (SDG)/post-2015 UN Development Agenda, to prepare a concept note on a possible SDG on natural resources and on the cross-cutting elements of natural resources in other SDGs (see item 3), and to circulate for CPF comments and suggestions. The next CPF meeting will be held on Sunday, 7 April 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey. (*Moved to Wednesday, 10 April.*)

1. Opening and Welcome

The CPF Chair opened the meeting and welcomed CPF members. The minutes of the last CPF meeting (Rome, 18 September 2012) were adopted.

2. UNFF10 Preparations on Forests and Economic Development and Forest Financing

The UNFFS briefed members of the latest preparations for AHEG2 and UNFF10, highlighting among other, CPF's role at both meetings. Ms. McAlpine reported on the outcome of the CPF Organization Led Initiative (OLI) on Forest Financing, which was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, in September 2012. ICRAF noted that the 2012 CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) Study prepared for the OLI was an excellent source of information.

Ms. McAlpine noted that the second Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting on Forest Financing (AHEG2) will be held from 14-18 January 2013, Vienna. The tentative organization of work for AHEG2 was circulated. Among other reports, the UNFFS reported that the co-chair's summary of the OLI would be transmitted to AHEG2 and UNFF10, as a contribution to its discussion on forest finance.

Ms. McAlpine presented the overall theme of UNFF10 on forests and economic development, of which forest financing is a key component. She noted that the session would include a high-level segment, in which CPF members are urged to have high-level representation. Ms. McAlpine informed members that preparations for the CPF high-level panel are underway. Further details, including proposed issues and questions for the panel discussion will be circulated to members of the CPF, for feedback, in early 2013.

UNFFS further highlighted its joint work with a number of CPF members in identifying and addressing data gaps. On this subject, it is envisaged that CPF will announce specific funding proposals during UNFF10 to address such gaps. Moreover, UNFFS informed CPF members of forthcoming meetings, and other activities, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to explore approaches to increase financial support to Africa for forests. UNEP also noted the relevance of its work on forests in a green economy, while the UNCCD noted its work on the economics of land degradation and its relevance to the theme of UNFF10.

Decision:

- The next CPF meeting will be held on Sunday, 7 April 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey.

3. General Assembly and Second Committee discussions

UNFFS briefed CPF on the UN Task Team consultations concerning the post-2015 UN Development Agenda and follow-up to Rio+20, as well as the work led by DESA related to sustainable development goals, which are closely related processes. UNFFS highlighted current developments in these processes and proposed to develop a concept note on a possible goal on natural resources, which would include forests. The concept note would be circulated to CPF members for comments and suggestions. Such a goal would underscore the cross-cutting values and benefits of natural resources, like forests, to e.g. food security, poverty alleviation, peace and security. UNFFS will keep CPF members abreast of developments and share the draft note for comment.

Also mentioned was the agreement reached, on 20 November 2012, in the informal consultations of the General Assembly (GA) for the adoption of a resolution to establish 21 March as the International Day of Forests (IDF). Its purpose is to celebrate and raise awareness of the many values of forests and trees outside forests. The GA asked the UNFFS and FAO to work together to activate IDF in 2013 and to report back to the Assembly in 2015. Given the limited time to prepare before the first IDF, UNFFS and FAO foresaw a more extensive effort for 2014. They welcomed CPF members' involvement in identifying themes, as well as supporting the preparations and promoting the Day, both for 2013 but especially in 2014 and beyond.

Decision:

- UNFFS, as the lead agency for the CPF on the sustainable development goals (SDG)/post-2015 UN Development Agenda, will prepare a concept note/outline on a possible goal on natural resources and circulate it to the CPF for comments and suggestions.
- The CPF Chair indicated FAO's willingness to publish in hard copy the CPF Rio+ 20 booklet prepared for the Rio+20 Conference.
- CPF communicators' group will prepare a concept note for joint activities of the CPF for 2014 and beyond to be discussed at the next CPF meeting.

4. Other CPF strategic joint activities**4.1 SFM Fact Sheets**

The fact sheets on sustainable forest management have been finalized and translated into Spanish and French. Hard copies are currently available in English and Spanish. FAO offered to print the French version. Members voiced their interest in preparing facts sheets on additional topics. UNFFS will send an email to CPF members informing them of the additional topics proposed and soliciting their views on these and future topics.

Decision:

- CPF agreed to continue producing SFM fact sheets. UNFFS will inform members of the proposed additional fact sheet topics. At the 2013 CPF Strategy Retreat, a decision will be taken on the additional fact sheets that CPF would prepare, including who would take the lead on each one.

4.2 Streamlining forest-related reporting

The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) indicators for 2015 were circulated to all CPF members. Reporting indicators will be discussed at the CPF Strategy Retreat in 2013.

4.3 Degradation initiative

FAO informed members that no further work on the degradation initiative has been carried out since its last publication released in 2011. Data on some degradation indicators will be included in the FRA 2015.

4.4 Global Forest Experts Panel's study on REDD+ and biodiversity

Mr. Alexander Buck and Mr. John Parrotta, IUFRO, made a presentation on the publication on "REDD+, biodiversity and people: opportunities and risks", the outcome of the CPF Global Forest Experts Panel's work over the past year. They also informed of its release at Forest Day 6, on December 2nd 2012.

CPF members congratulated IUFRO and expressed their gratitude for the timely and useful product. UNFFS reported that it had asked that its logo not appear on the policy brief since it felt that the

brief, unlike the main report, did not achieve a balance between social, economic and environmental values. Had more time been available for review and final adjustments, the use of the veto option may have been avoided. The CPF Chair appealed to members to provide sufficient time for review of joint CPF products, by other CPF members, to address concerns and avoid such type of situation in the future.

4.5 Policy learning platforms

IUFRO reported on its efforts to facilitate civil society dialogue in CPF. It announced a forthcoming civil society meeting on illegal logging and legal verification to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 6-7 December 2012. It will report back at the next CPF meeting. IUFRO will circulate a revised policy note for the policy learning platforms in early 2013.

4.6 CPF Communicators' Group

Mr. John Colmey, CIFOR, reported on the CPF Communicators' Group meeting held in September 2012, and its proposed work. Major efforts were on the organization of Forest Day 6 (FD6). He mentioned the communication activities (e.g. press, blogging, etc) associated with FD6, but noted the potential for greater engagement by, and benefit of, CPF members in FD and other communications opportunities.

In January 2013, CIFOR will provide a list of CPF communication activities for CPF members' consideration and discussion at the next CPF meeting.

IUFRO urged CPF members to link their RSS feeds to the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). The CPF Chair mentioned that FAO had been working with GFIS to improve the functionality of the CPF website, and had placed an events calendar and job vacancy feed on the CPF website. However, he noted that GFIS and FAO recognized the small amount of CPF member RSS feeds available to provide information to both sites. Related to this, the Chair noted that he would shortly send out a letter requesting each CPF member to identify an IT focal point to follow up on this matter.

4.7 Wangari Maathai Award

The CPF Chair reported on the positive reception to the Wangari Maathai Award. He noted the need for greater outreach to African countries in order to increase the number of nominations from this region. He asked for CPF members' views on the optimal periodicity of the Award, i.e. annual or biennial. UNFFS felt that an annual award would be more effective, and suggested it could be awarded on the International Day of Forests, starting in 2014.

For 2013, it was envisaged that the Award ceremony would be held on Forest Day 7. FAO highlighted that the arrangements for financing the award were not expected to change.

Decision:

- FAO will review the Award Jury Terms of Reference, as well as the composition of the members of the Jury for the next Award and propose it for CPF's consideration.

5. Landscape Day – bridging Forest and Agriculture Days

5.1. Pre-meeting Update

The CPF Chair summarized the discussions of the pre-meeting involving some CPF members and the organizers of Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods (ALL) Day (formerly called Agriculture and Rural Development Day) to discuss the proposal to merge Forest Day and ALL Day, possibly retaining the title, "Living Landscapes Day". Given the agreement of CIFOR and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and generally positive reception of their partners in the proposal, an announcement would be made at both Forest Day 6 and ALL Day 5 of the merger of the two days. Among its objective would be to create the opportunity to reach across sectoral boundaries and to share views and experiences on integrated approaches for land and resource management.

The pre-meeting also proposed to organize a joint governance structure, including a Steering Committee, to plan for Landscape Day. (The Steering Committee would include CIFOR and CCAFS as the main organizers and three partner representatives of the two days. For CPF, UNFFS, FAO and one other member were suggested, the latter on a rotating basis). A proposal was made that a half day, immediately prior to "Living Landscape Day", could be dedicated to technical meetings or events (e.g. within a sector or particular community of interest). CIFOR indicated that it would likely be possible to secure space at the same venue as Landscape Day for use by those partners wishing to organize events or meetings.

Decision:

- CIFOR will amend the "Forest Day 2013 and Beyond" concept note to reflect the discussions and make it available in January 2013 for distribution and discussion by partners of the two days.

5.2 Discussion at the CPF meeting

Several CPF members reiterated their support for the merging of the two days, as expressed in the CPF conference call held on 12 November 2012. Some cautioned that care must be taken to ensure that forests and trees receive adequate visibility on the joint day and not be overwhelmed by solely agricultural issues. UNCCD suggested that Land Day could also be merged into the Landscape Day proposal. ICRAF suggested that Landscape Days could be organized in conjunction with other major events (e.g. IMF, WTO, etc.) to reach out to other constituencies. IUFRO, seconded by other CPF members, expressed the need to continue to have the opportunity to contribute to the planning and decision making of future Days.

The CPF Chair proposed that a dinner meeting of the partners be organized immediately following each Landscape Day to review the outcomes of the Day, along with other related issues.

5.3 Future of Forest Days

CIFOR, wishing that the Forest Day brand be retained, proposed continuation of Forest Day as an annual event, with a venue in a developing country. CIFOR is prepared to organize future Forest Days and, underlining the value of CPF's endorsement, invited CPF members to participate. It proposed that the next FD be in Nairobi in May 2013.

CPF members raised the question of the ownership of the Forest Day brand. It was recalled that, in 2007, CIFOR conceived of Forest Day and invited CPF members to join. The objective of future Forest Days once taken out of the UNFCCC context, and delinking it with the objective of clarifying issues and influencing climate change policy decisions related to forests, was discussed. Given that

there are already numerous forest-related meetings at the regional and global levels, both on a one-off and a regular basis, several CPF members felt that the value added of Forest Day should be clarified and designed accordingly. Some members expressed concern that the proposed May 2013 date would be too short a time horizon to allow for active involvement of CPF members. Later dates and alternative venues were proposed for a CPF-endorsed Forest Day in 2013 (e.g. Namibia or China in September in conjunction with UNCCD's COP). UNEP suggested that FD be held in 2014 and beyond on the 21st of March, the International Day of Forests.

The discussion on the future of Forest Day (as well as the earlier discussion concerning a CPF member's veto right in conjunction with the policy brief for "REDD+, biodiversity and people") prompted some CPF members to express the need for greater clarity on what constitutes a "CPF activity" and what could be labeled as such. Members indicated their understanding that an activity would be labeled a CPF event or product only when all members are participating or agree to be associated with it. It was proposed that a set of principles/criteria could be made available for discussion at the next CPF retreat.

Decision:

- Members agreed to organize "Landscape Days", as a substitute for FDs and the Rio Conventions Pavilion, at the UNFCCC COPs.
- FD's will continue to be organized and coordinated by CIFOR.
- CIFOR agreed to prepare and circulate a concept note on future FDs by 14 December, highlighting the nature of CPF's involvement in the post-2012 FDs, together with funding issues. The CPF Chair agreed to convene a conference call involving all CPF members the following week. Before 14 December, CPF members would transmit to CIFOR the dates and venues of major events that could be linked to the next Forest Day. (The tele-conference was moved to 9 January 2013.)
- At the next retreat, CPF will address the criteria for initiatives to be labeled "a CPF initiative".

6. Tour de table of other events and initiatives

CPF members reported on their upcoming events and initiatives. A summary is provided below in Annex 1.

7. CPF modalities

Agreement was reached that the Vice Chairmanship of CPF would rotate annually among CPF members, in alignment with major events of respective members. The upcoming Vice Chairs were agreed as follows:

- IUFRO – 2013 (N. Elers Koch)
- ICRAF- 2014 (T. Simons)
- UNCCD – 2015 (L. Gnacadja)

8. Other business and matters

UNFFS informed the CPF that the UN Secretary General announced a new UN policy on being "paper smart" (i.e. use of e-documents to replace paper copies) and raised the concern that this would limit access in some least developed countries. UNFFS proposed that CPF members consider

collaborating on the preparation of information and communication materials on sustainably produced forest products and the potential for the substitution of wood in place of less environmentally-friendly materials.

At the 2013 retreat CPF agreed to exchange views on how to improve its prioritization and planning efforts to ensure greater opportunities for collaboration in its 2013-2014 work plan. UNFFS agreed to recommend a date for the 2013 CPF retreat.

Annex 1.

Current and Upcoming Activities of CPF Members

CIFOR reported on the participation, speakers and final details concerning Forest Day 6.

The World Bank mentioned its current work on measures of wealth in national economic accounting systems. A forests and tree module is being developed as part of the household wealth survey.

ICRAF reported on the next World Agroforestry Congress in 2014, highlighting the launch of its new 2013 strategy. In conjunction with the strategy, ICRAF will be focusing on increasing its collaboration with the private sector.

The GEF Secretariat noted the GEF Council's work on the next replenishment package to be initiated in 2014. Forests/REDD+ will be considered. GEF Secretariat also reported on its 2020 mission on long-term financing that could operate alongside the 4-year replenishments.

ITTO reported on the outcomes of its Council meeting in November 2012. It noted that the Organization received funding to work with CPF, for the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire and for collaborative work on forest statistics. The next Council meeting will be held in Libreville in November 2013, and will include a Ministerial meeting of the Congo Basin Initiative.

IUFRO announced its regional meeting in Latin America scheduled in June 2013. The next IUFRO Congress will be held in 2014 in Utah, USA. IUFRO also mentioned work with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) on developing a mechanism for tracking and reviewing progress in meeting the Bonn Challenge.

The UNCCD Secretariat announced the Land for Life Award Winner Gala to take place on 6 December 2012 in Doha, immediately after Agriculture Day. A high-level meeting on national drought policies programmed for March 2013, in Geneva was also mentioned. The 2nd UNCCD Scientific Conference and the Committee on Science and Technology will be held from 9-12 April 2013, followed by the review of the implementation of the Convention, 15-19 April 2013, in Bonn. The UNCCD COP 11 will take place in September 2013.

The CBD Secretariat reported on the outcome of the Rio Conventions Pavillion and noted that a breakfast would be organized for the contributors, including CPF members. The Secretariat also reported on CBD COP11 decisions related to forests, including collaborative work on REDD+ and the establishment of a Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife. The Fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook report was also noted. CPF members were invited to collaborate in the development of the report, including its biodiversity indicators. The Secretariat also noted the vacant forest biodiversity position.

UNEP reported on the UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in October 2012 and plans for the review of the first 5 years of UN-REDD, to take place in 2013. Also noted was the UN-REDD's support to the production of the "Little Forest Finance Book", to provide information on mechanisms that could be tapped into, to scale up forest finance. UNEP also highlighted its involvement in an International Expert Group on Forests in the Global Economy and Mr. Mario Bocuzzi's recent appointment as the new Head of the UN-REDD Secretariat.

The UNFF Secretariat reported on a forthcoming meeting on forests in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to take place in Dakar, Senegal from 11-13 December 2012. The Secretariat also tabled a proposal to prepare a piece on CPF as a model for collaboration. The Secretariat reiterated that UNFF10 will take place in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2013.

FAO announced its plans for an International Conference on Forests and Food Security to take place at FAO Headquarters from 11-13 May 2013, highlighting several CPF members' involvement. The Regional Forestry Commission Meetings commencing in September 2013 and continuing through early-2014 were also mentioned. Also highlighted were preparations to celebrate the 300th year of the development of the concept of sustainability in forestry. In addition, the CPF Chair mentioned FAO's role in coordinating the UN's input to Expo 2015 (food, energy for life) to be held in Milan in 2015. CPF members were invited to share their potential input to FAO.