

In Attendance

FAO:	Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair) Peter Csoka	UNFCCC:	Jenny Wong (via Skype)
CIFOR:	Peter Holmgren John Colmery	UNFFS:	Manoel Sobral Filho Hossein Moeini –Meybodi Mita Sen
GEF:	Ulrich Apel		Ryo Nakamura
IUFRO:	Alexander Buck Michael Wingfield		Tomasz Juszczak
IUCN:	Patrick Wylie	WB:	Carole Megevand (via Skype)
UNCBD:	Braulio F. de Souza Dias Catalina Santamaria	Regrets	ICRAF ITTO UNEP
UNCCD:	Sven Walter		
UNDP:	Charles McNeill		

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met in New York, USA on 3 May 2015.

1. Welcome and approval of previous meeting minutes

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting held on the margins of the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF11). The minutes of the CPF Meeting held on 31 March 2015 via teleconference and the proposed agenda for the meeting were adopted.

2. CPF at UNFF11

a) Joint Statement by the CPF on 4 May

Members discussed the draft of the statement that had been circulated. CIFOR and CBD provided some suggestions for revision to the text, which were duly noted.

b) Update on UNFF11 preparations

Manoel Sobral Filho, UNFFS Director, briefed members on preparations for the UNFF11 including in particular the extensive intersessional activities including the independent assessment of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), country-led initiatives (CLIs), ad hoc expert group meetings (AHEGs) and 9 Bureau meetings. He highlighted that around 30 ministers were expected to participate in the UNFF11 High Level Segment. Sobral stressed that the main focus on the UNFF session was on negotiations and that the organisation of work aimed to maximise time allocation for the Working Group deliberations.

c) CPF Framework presentation on 4 May

Members noted that a copy of the proposed PowerPoint presentation had been received via email.

d) High Level Dialogue on 14 May

Members discussed preparations for the CPF High Level Dialogue. It was noted that CIFOR and UNFCCC may not be present, but could provide written statements as their input to this session. Several members noted the need to highlight the strengths and diversity of the CPF, while at the same time managing expectations on which requests could be met by the CPF as a whole, as opposed to individual members.

e) UNFF11 side events by CPF members

Members noted that a wide range of side events were being held during UNFF11, which involved active participation of CPF members. In particular, out of 23 side events at UNFF11, 12 involved CPF members. Members agreed that efforts should be made to support and elevate these events.

f) Coordination during UNFF11

Members had a general discussion on how best they could coordinate their positions and statements during the UNFF11 session, and in this regard, it was proposed that daily informal coordination meetings could be held to take stock of developments related to the CPF. Members agreed that the practice of regular coordination meetings during UNFF11 would help to internalize progress in the negotiations and consider joint statements from the CPF, as and when needed.

3. Future of CPF

a) Future options for CPF ‘think piece’ commissioned by the World Bank

Members discussed the draft paper prepared by the consultant and voiced their appreciation to the World Bank for commissioning the ‘think piece’. While many members voiced the need for more time to carefully review the paper, prior to its circulation, all agreed that the paper would serve as useful input to the CPF’s internal review process.

b) CPF side event on CPF’s role in the IAF on 5 May

Based on the discussions on the change in the proposed programme of the side event, members agreed that the CPF Chair would now include the future options from the CPF input to AHEG2 in his opening remarks at the side event. It was further agreed that the CPF Vice Chair would use the headings of the CPF input to pose questions during the discussion segment of the side event.

c) Possible CPF Working group on the future working modalities

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR Director General, proposed that a small working group of CPF members should work on preparing an analysis of the future modalities options put forth by UNFF11 and actions that would need to be taken by the CPF. He proposed that this working group could conclude its work prior to the next CPF meeting taking place on 6 September 2015 in Durban, on the sidelines of the World Forestry Congress. Members discussed this proposal, and concerns were raised that there would be insufficient time to fully discuss this issue at the September meeting. An alternate suggestion was raised to schedule the discussion on the outcome of the working group analysis at the next CPF retreat. Members agreed to this proposal, and it was further suggested that the World Bank could be invited to take the lead on coordinating this Working Group.

Next Steps: Members were requested to send their nominations for the Working Group to the CPF Secretary.

4. CPF at the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC)

The CPF Chair briefed members on preparations for the WFC, highlighting the participation of the President of South Africa, Mr. Zuma; the launch of FRA 2015 and that over 2000 paper submissions had been received for consideration as official Congress voluntary papers. Regarding the CPF’s participation, he noted that a roundtable of Heads of CPF member organizations was planned, along with the participation by CPF members as

keynote speakers and in side events. He also noted that the CPF 2015 Wangari Maathai “Forest Champions” award ceremony would take place on 10 September.

5. Tour de table

The **UNCCD** Secretariat updated members on preparations for the twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Ankara, Turkey, 12-23 October 2015. COP 12 discussions will focus on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). Side events on the issue of the forests and landscape restoration are under consideration, and the UNCCD is collaborating on a paper with FAO on this subject. Members were also updated on the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) fund, which is intended to be a coordination platform to leverage investments for land degradation neutrality.

UNDP updated members on preparations for the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda in UNHQ, NY from 25 -27 September 2015 and the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21), noting the focus on forest issues in both processes. In particular, members were briefed on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, which is a joint undertaking of the Peruvian and French COP presidencies, the Office of the Secretary-General of the UN and the UNFCCC Secretariat. Through this action agenda, initiatives launched during the Climate summit in September 2014, are being taken forward. The Peruvian government is taking the lead on the forests “focal area” as part of the action agenda, and UNDP has been requested to provide support on this issue. In this regard, UNDP is working in close collaboration with stakeholder organisations including indigenous community groups.

The **CBD Secretariat** updated members on ongoing activities related to climate change, including notifications that were sent to CBD national focal points as a reminder of the guidelines adopted by CBD on interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. The SCBD is currently gathering data on these interlinkages. The CBD Secretariat also briefed members on preparations for the CBD COP13 taking place in Cancun, Mexico, 4 - 17 December 2016. COP13 will focus on issues related to mainstreaming biodiversity in forests, fisheries and tourism. With reference to the CPF, the SCBD highlighted its project on mapping contributions by CPF members to the implementation of forest biodiversity targets, which is being funded by the government of Norway. The recent launch of the SCBD/WHO publication of “Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health” was also highlighted.

IUFRO updated members on the launch of the GFEP global assessment report and Policy Brief on "Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition" on 6 May 2015 at a UNFF11 lunchtime side event. It was noted that the expert panel report constitutes a comprehensive assessment of scientific knowledge about the role of forests and trees for food security and nutrition, while the policy brief highlights four key messages, and features a foreword by Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs at DESA. In addition to the launch event at UNFF11, media activities were planned including press releases, and a press conference at UN Headquarters in New York.

The **GEF Secretariat** briefing members on progress related to the Sixth Replenishment, noting that accessibility has been simplified and improved with the current replenishment, and a quicker and higher rate of response has been observed. In particular, it is estimated that 20% of funds of GEF-6 have already been disbursed.

CIFOR updated members on recent developments related to CGIAR, noting that the CGIAR Consortium is going to reform its internal governance towards a more streamlined arrangement between members. The consortium has adopted a new Strategy and Results Framework 2016–2025, which is, structured around three global objectives: Reduce poverty, Improve food and nutrition security for health and Improve natural resource systems and ecosystem services. CIFOR highlighted that forests and ecosystems are now more prominent within the consortium’s priority areas. CIFOR also updated members on preparations for the London Global

Landscapes Forum taking place in June 2015, which is being held to promote knowledge exchange on financing for sustainable land use and will include meetings with investors. Lastly, CIFOR shared that preparations for GLF 2015 in Paris were going well, and that this GLF promises to be bigger than Lima.

FAO shared that preparations for the World Forestry Congress and the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA2015) are the main activities for the coming months. The recent publication on National forest funds (NFFs) was highlighted including aside event on this at UNFF11. FAO also briefed members on Expo Milano 2015 taking place from 1 May 1 - October 31, 2015 on the theme of “Feeding the planet: Energy for Life.” In this regard, the Austrian pavilion was highlighted for its innovative approach to promoting SFM; the wooden pavilion features a living forest.

6. Any other business

a) International Day of Forests (IDF) 2016

Members discussed the IDF 2016 proposed theme of “Forests and Water” which had come forth from discussions of the CPF communicators group, and agreed that this theme would serve multiple communication objectives. In particular, it was noted that the theme provided a tie-in with the proposed forest-related SDGs (SDG 6 and SDG 15); as well as to issues such as weather and floods. Members agreed to put forth the general theme of “Forests and Water” for IDF 2016, and noted that specific CPF messages on this theme could be further discussed at the next CPF meeting in September. As per past practice, it was agreed that a joint communique from FAO and UNFFS would be sent to Member States, to inform them of the proposed IDF theme.

b) CPF Policy Learning Initiative

IUFRO updated members on the Policy Learning initiative, highlighting the development of a “learning protocol” as well as an “action plan for stakeholders”. IUFRO emphasized that the focus of the initiative was on how to think better in creating durable policy processes, in examining the on-the-ground impacts of international initiatives. IUFRO reminded members that feedback and comments on the learning protocol were being sought until the end of May 2015. SCBD noted that this CPF initiative was very timely, and could help in promoting policy cohesion, as well as in implementation of the SDGs. The UNCCD Secretariat mentioned that their pilot project on land degradation neutrality and policy coherence was in the process of being expanded.

c) 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Paris, France, December 2015

Members discussed preparations for the UNFCCC COP21, and noted that political momentum was building towards a landmark agreement. FAO highlighted that in addition to focussing on GLF events, FAO was also collaborating with the French government on organizing side event at COP21. Similarly, the UNCCD Secretariat noted that they have many activities planned during COP21.

d) UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador, October 2016

Members discussed preparations the “Habitat III conference” which will focus on implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the 1996 Habitat Agenda of Istanbul. The SCBD noted that forests-related issues do not feature prominently in habitat discussions. The UNCCD Secretariat noted that the issues of land degradation, migration and conflict are interconnected, and is an area of interest for the UNCCD.

e) Forthcoming meetings

The CPF Chair proposed the next CPF meeting would take place on Sunday, 6 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. The timing of the CPF retreat was also discussed, and it was tentatively proposed that the CPF retreat could take place during the autumn, in Rome, Italy.