



## Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting Report 5 February 2014, New York, UNHQ

### In Attendance

<b>FAO:</b>	Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair) Lauren Flejzor Thomas Hofer	<b>UNFCCC:</b>	Wojtek Galinski* Dirk Nemitz*
<b>CIFOR:</b>	Lee Cando	<b>UNEP:</b>	Maryam Niamir-Fuller
<b>GEF:</b>	Ian Grey*	<b>UNFF:</b>	Hossein Moeini-Meybodi Mita Sen
<b>ICRAF:</b>	Tony Simons*		Tomasz Juszczak
<b>IUCN:</b>	Carole Saint-Laurent* Patrick Wylie*	<b>WB:</b>	Ryo Nakamura Tuukka Castrén
<b>IUFRO:</b>	Alexander Buck Benjamin Cashore	<b>Regrets</b>	
<b>UNCBD:</b>	Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias		ITTO
<b>UNCCD:</b>	Jasmin Metzler*		UNDP

\* via teleconference

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met in UNHQ, New York on 5 February 2014.

### 1. Opening and Welcome

Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting held on the margins of the 8th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG8). The minutes of the CPF Meeting held in November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, and the proposed agenda for the meeting were adopted.

### 2. IUFRO Policy Learning Initiative

Mr. Benjamin Cashore provided an overview of the IUFRO Policy Learning Initiative. He explained that the initiative would focus on generating collective knowledge on policy interventions using a problem-focused approach. The initiative aims to foster synergistic policy solutions, including through the development of a manual on policy learning. Specifically, he proposed the CPF could consider organizing policy learning forums on forest-related issues with global implications, such as food security, livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and climate. CPF members exchanged views on this initiative, and emphasized the importance of identifying key stakeholders in such as process. The idea of testing such policy learning forums in the side-lines of upcoming meetings and conferences was also raised.

#### Key Action:

- CPF members were requested to nominate focal points to establish a new CPF working group on policy learning.

### 3. Review and status of consultations of the OWG on the SDGs

(i) Follow-up to CPF side event, 3 February 2014

The CPF Chair shared the highlights of the CPF OWG8 side event on integrating forests in the SDGs held on 3 February 2014, which was held jointly with the government of Finland. The event was opened by H.E. Jarmo Viinanen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN, and the CPF Chair, who noted the importance of the interconnectedness of forests to other issues being discussed in the SDGs, including oceans, biodiversity and mountains, and the importance of linking existing forest-related goals and targets to the SDGs. Mr. Markku Simula presented the draft CPF paper on forest targets and indicators for integration in the SDGs.

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, former President of Guyana, and Mr. Peter DeMarsh, Chair of the International Family Forestry Alliance, presented individual perspectives on how forests could be integrated into the SDGs. Overall, the event was well attended, with high level of participation by Member States. Participants in the side event agreed on the importance of integrating forest issues in the SDGs, focusing initially on forest targets, and stressed to need to integrate means of implementation for SFM.

CPF members exchanged views on the OWG8 deliberations and noted the possibility of a natural resources/ecosystem SDG under which “forests” could be included. Members stressed the importance of focusing on potential forest-related targets in the SDGs, building on the existing forest related goals and targets.

(ii) Follow-up on the CPF draft document on forest targets and indicators for integration in the SDGs

CPF members exchanged views on the draft CPF document and its summary, “Forest Related Targets and Indicators for Integration in SDGs”. The CPF Chair underscored the need to move forward on the document before the OWG Co-Chairs circulated a focus areas document on 21 February 2014. It was noted that the OWG Co-Chairs had advised Member States to focus on targets and indicators rather than an overall architecture. In this regard, the Chair suggested that members focus on the 2-page summary document, rather than the longer document.

Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, UNFF Secretariat, stressed the importance of having forest-related targets readily available for the OWG negotiation sessions regardless of the possibility for a stand-alone SDG on forests. Some Member States had emphasized the need to connect the SDG process with the review process of the international arrangement on forests. The forest-related targets should be accompanied by a target timeline in line with the review of the Global Objectives on Forests.

Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, UNEP, noted that the OWG8 discussions centered on a “leave no one behind” approach with baseline social, environmental and economic rights. In addition the need to decouple natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth, as well as a focus on restoration had come up as key issues in OWG discussion.

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD emphasized that forest-related targets should be designed taking into account their linkages with other sectors, and should be quantifiable and adaptable to national circumstances.

Mr. Tony Simons, ICRAF noted that the CPF document essentially proposes ten targets. He pointed out that the issue of natural capital assets issue should be considered, as well as the issue of sub-national level of the SDGs.

Several members stressed the importance of integrating forests in the SDG goals and targets in a balanced and coherent manner. It was emphasized by many members that the forest-related targets should build on the existing goals and objectives such as the Global Objectives on Forests and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Members agreed that due to the fast-moving nature of OWG discussion and time constraints, the priority would be to agree on the 2 page summary document.

**Key Action:**

- FAO and UNFF will revise the 2 page summary document incorporating comments and suggestions provided at the meeting, and circulate the revised summary document to CPF member organizations for final review by 7 February 2014. The summary document would be finalized and circulated before the OWG Co-Chairs circulate a stock-taking document (14 February 2014) and the focus areas document (21 February 2014). The longer document on targets and indicators would be an evolving work-in-progress.

#### **4. Update on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) review (UNFF)**

Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, UNFF Secretariat, briefed members on the current status of the UNFF11 intersessional activities. To date, 46 views and proposals on IAF had been received from countries and relevant stakeholders. CPF member organizations were encouraged to submit their views and proposals as none had been received to date. The Independent Assessment Team had conducted meetings with various IAF stakeholders since October 2013, met briefly in January 2014 in New York, and were drafting an inception report containing information on the IAF, the methodology for their work, as well as a work plan. The IAF Team has already talked to a number of CPF member organizations and would continue this in Nairobi. The Ad-Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the IAF would review the inputs, and provide recommendations on the IAF to UNFF11 through two meetings: 24 to 28 February 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya (AHEG1), and a second meeting from 12 to 16 January 2015 in New York (AHEG2). He further encouraged CPF members to actively participate in the meeting in Nairobi and the whole IAF intersessional activities.

In the context of the IAF review, Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, UNEP, noted the growing importance of the role of civil society in environmental governance and decision-making processes. She suggested that the CPF consider a possibility of broadening the CPF membership to include civil society in its work.

#### **Key Action:**

- CPF members were encouraged to submit their views and proposals on the IAF, and were also encouraged to take part in the AHEG1 discussions to provide their inputs.

#### **5. Update on Joint activities**

##### **(i.) Next CPF Wangari Maathai Award (WMA) 2014 (IUFRO)**

Mr. Alexander Buck, IUFRO, provided an overview of the upcoming CPF Wangari Maathai Award 2014. The award ceremony will be held from 6:30 to 7pm on 6 October 2014 on the first day of the IUFRO World Congress 2014 to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. The detailed plan for a press conference and use of social media are yet to be decided. It was indicated that the award jury would be proposed by the end of February and selected in March. Regarding financial contributions to the award, the Chair proposed maintaining the same arrangement as previously used, and UNEP expressed their interest in contributing to the award along with other CPF member organizations.

##### **(ii) Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Food Security (IUFRO)**

Mr. Alexander Buck, IUFRO, provided an overview of the progress made on the work of GFEP on forests and food security. He briefed on the scope of work and its thematic focus on the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, and explained that 20 potential panel members have been short-listed, taking into account their interdisciplinary areas and gender balance. The GFEP will have its first meeting from 12 to 14 March 2014, at which the participants will discuss the work plan and the way forward. The final outcomes of the GFEP on Forests and Food Security will be presented at UNFF11 in May 2015.

#### **6. Tour-de-table**

Ms. Mita Sen, UNFF Secretariat shared that a half-day event on the occasion of the International Day of Forests (IDF) will be held in UNHQ on 21 March 2014 in New York. The event will focus on forests and sustainable development and will have a panel on women and forests due to the timing coinciding with the fifty-eighth session Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The event will also include forest film festival, art and photo exhibit, and will feature forest heroes. In addition, UNFF would be working on the message from the UN Secretary-General on the occasion of the IDF, as well as on a UN press release.

Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, UNEP briefed members on recent developments on the UN-REDD Programme and UNEP's support to Global Forest Watch 2.0, which will be launched on 20 February 2014. On the occasion of the IDF, UNEP will launch a new International Resource Panel report focusing on decoupling economic growth from escalating resource use and environmental degradation.

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD noted that they are organizing a series of capacity building workshops on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including in: Amman, Jordan, for West Asia and North Africa; Jambi, Indonesia, for Southeast Asia; and Linhares, Brazil, for South America. It was also noted that the upcoming CBD COP12 to be held in October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, will review the CBD's interactions with the sustainable development agenda.

Ms. Lee Cando, CIFOR informed that Forests Asia Summit 2014 will be held from 5 to 6 May 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia, with an overall theme on sustainable landscapes for green growth in Southeast Asia. On SDGs, CIFOR stressed the importance of integrating forests among different SDGs.

Mr. Alexander Buck, IUFRO provided an overview of the upcoming IUFRO World Congress 2014 and encouraged active participation of CPF member organizations in the discussions to be held under the overall theme "Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research".

Mr. Tuukka Castrén, WB shared that there were ongoing organizational changes at the Bank through which it was decided that forest issues would be part of a global practice on environment and natural resources. It is expected that the work on the 'Forests and Trees in Sustainable Landscapes' action plan will be continued under the new Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice under the new organizational structure (to be launched July 1, 2015). This document will guide Bank Groups forest work in the medium term.

Mr. Ian Gray, GEF shared recent developments on the GEF-6 replenishment in relation to SFM. The current direction indicates that the GEF-6 SFM Strategy will build on the successes of the GEF-5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive Mechanism, maintaining a resource envelope of \$250 million.

Ms. Lauren Flejzor, FAO, explained that FAO would host a webcast IDF event on the theme 'forest monitoring', which would explain updated research results from the FAO remote sensing survey and involve key resource partners who would explain their funding priorities on forest-related initiatives.

## **7. Any other business**

Ms. Lauren Flejzor, FAO, noted that the preparations for the 22nd session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) are currently underway. Due consideration will be given in the number of side events to be held on the margins of the COFO meeting. She also provided an overview of the scope of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) reports and expressed appreciation for the comments submitted by CPF member organizations to the draft SOFO.

In addition, she recalled the 14th World Forestry Congress will be held from 7 to 11 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. FAO, in cooperation with ITTO and the National Forestry Financing Fund of Costa Rica, will also organize the International Forum on Payments for Environmental Services of Tropical Forests from 7 to 10 April 2014, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

## **CPF Vice Chairs for 2014 and 2015**

With regard to the rotating position of CPF Vice Chair, it was recalled that Tony Simons of ICRAF would be the Vice Chair for 2014 and Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias of CBD was proposed and accepted as the Vice Chair for 2015.

## **Next meeting of the CPF**

The CPF Chair proposed the next CPF meeting to take place on Sunday 22 June 2014 from 10:00am to 14:30pm (including light lunch) in Rome, Italy, prior to the start of COFO.

The CPF Chair also indicated a possibility of organizing a CPF retreat before or after the Global Landscapes Forum to be held on the margins of the UNFCCC COP20 in December 2014 in Lima, Peru.