



Collaborative Partnership on Forests 2013 Retreat - Meeting Report 2-3 July 2013, Rome, Italy

In Attendance

FAO: Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair)	IUFRO: Alexander Buck
Eva Muller	Niels Elers Koch
Eduardo Mansur	UNCCD/GM: Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist
Peter Csoka	Sven Walter
Mette Loyche Wilkie	Camilla Nordheim Larsen
Lauren Flejzor	UNEP: Niklas Hagelberg
CBD: Catalina Santamaria	UNFCCC: Jenny Wong
CIFOR: Andrew Wardell	UNFF: Jan McAlpine
GEF: Ian Gray	Mita Sen
ICRAF: Tony Simons	World Bank: Peter DeWees (via video conference)
ITTO: Emmanuel Ze Meka	Regrets: UNDP
IUCN: Chris Buss	

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met in Rome, Italy from 2-3 July 2013 for the Partnership's biannual Retreat.

1. Welcome and introduction (FAO)

The CPF Chair, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales opened the meeting and welcomed CPF members to the Retreat. He also shared that CPF members would have an opportunity to meet senior management from FAO during lunch on 3 July. He noted the busy schedule of meetings in 2013, and thanked the CPF communicators group for having a last-minute consultation in order to prepare for discussions at the retreat.

The minutes from the last CPF meeting in April in Istanbul and the agenda for the Retreat were adopted.

2. Outcomes of UNFF10 and Strategic Priorities for CPF (UNFF)

2.1 Taking stock of UNFF10 Resolutions

UNFF Director, Ms. Jan McAlpine provided an overview of the UNFF10 Resolution paragraphs that were pertinent to CPF members and asked members to self nominate for areas that required leads. Due to the high degree of overlap in the issues covered in the resolution text, the Chair suggested a "bundling exercise" in which issues could be grouped together, and leads identified for the corresponding broader "bundles".

ICRAF proposed bundling the UNFF10 resolution text into five issue areas namely sustainable forest management, valuation, knowledge and communication, country actions and governance issues around financing. CIFOR suggested adding in research and training to the list, and ITTO pointed out that the resolutions highlighted the importance of private sector financing and investment. ICRAF also noted that there true cost accounting; tools and methods were big issues in this area.

Key Action: Members agreed to the following bundling of issues for UNFF10 follow-up:

- Sustainable Forest management - (CIFOR, FAO, IUCN, **ITTO***)
- Valuation, financing, private sector investment, MAR - (FAO, ICRAF, GEF, UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNEP, **WB***)

- Knowledge, science, research, communication and capacity building, - (CIFOR, ICRAF, IUFRO*,.)
- Country actions - (FAO*, UNDP, WB)
- Governance, regional, Forest Instrument - (FAO*, UNFF, UNCCD)

*(lead CPF member indicated in **bold**)

2.2. Preparatory work for UNFF11 including the review and future direction of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) to guide the preparation of the 2013-2015 CPF work plan

UNFF Director, Ms. Jan McAlpine provided an overview of the latest developments in the UNFF11 preparatory work. In particular, she shared the terms of reference for the five consultants (one from each geographic region) who would be gathering input for the IAF Independent Review. She also highlighted that two Co-Facilitators (one from North, one from South) would work with the consultants to consolidate the regional reports into a single report. She stressed that the IAF review was a highly political exercise in which the UNFF11 Bureau would be closely involved. Ms. McAlpine pointed out that the IAF review had three main elements: a survey which would seek input from member states, CPF members and stakeholders; the Independent Review conducted by consultants, Co-Facilitators appointed by the UNFF11 Bureau and; two Ad Hoc Expert Group meetings scheduled for early 2014 and late 2014/early 2015.

CPF members discussed the implications the IAF review would have on the CPF work plan, and how best to prepare a proactive strategy to gather the information on CPF's substantive contributions to the IAF. CIFOR pointed out that the CGIAR Research Program on 'Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: Livelihoods, Landscapes and Governance' is going to be undergoing an evaluation from September 2013 to May 2014, and that the findings of this evaluation could help inform the IAF review process.

Members noted that sufficient lead time would be needed to gather information on the joint activities of the CPF as well as related activities of individual members in support of UNFF resolutions. There was broad support for proactively creating an inventory which would serve a dual purpose of both preparing responses to the consultants for the Independent Review, while at the same time provide useful information for the Partnership in taking stock of its achievements.

Key Action: Members agreed to develop an inventory of CPF's contributions in support of UNFF resolutions (including both joint activities and activities individual members).

2.3 Status and role of CPF in the post-2015 UN development agenda and follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference, including Sustainable Development Goals

UNFF Director, Ms. Jan McAlpine provided an overview of the current UN processes related to post-2015 UN development agenda and the Rio+20 follow up, including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the TST Issues Brief on Forests. She stressed the importance of emphasizing social and economic aspects of forests, and to have these aspects fully captured/reflected in development issues currently under discussion in these processes, such as poverty and food security.

CPF Chair, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales expressed his disappointment on the OWG process – in that CPF had not been formally involved in the TST as a co-lead for the Issues Brief on Forests, and that only certain CPF members were included as co-leads. He also voiced his concern, from the FAO perspective, that the issue of mountains have not been taken forward in the OWG process. On substantive issues, he noted that was important to counter the negative perceptions of forests (often associated with deforestation) and put forth the positive aspects of forests.

Members discussed the importance of having a common CPF message on Forests and the SDGs, and it was proposed that a CPF side event be held in UNHQ, NY to publicise the issue. Members also agreed it was important to highlight the interlinks between forests and other development issues – including through input to other TST Issues Briefs currently being developed on issues such as inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy, energy, means of implementation, and biodiversity, to name a few. It was noted that the information contained in the CPF submission to Rio+20 could be drawn upon in developing a common message. UNFF offered to take the lead on drafting this publication.

Key Actions:

- Members agreed to develop a document on a SDG on forests is needed, and highlighting the cross-cutting aspects of forests in natural resource/ecosystem services.
- 8 CPF members and focal points were identified to lead the CPF's input: FAO (Eva Muller), UNFF (Hossein Moeini-Meybodi), ICRAF (Phil Derby), IUFRO (Alexander Buck), UNEP (Niklas Hagelberg), CBD (Catalina Santamaria), CIFOR (focal pt tbd), UNFCCC (Jenny Wong)
- CPF had initially proposed to hold a side event on forests and SDGs at UNHQ, NY in the sidelines of the Sept. 25 MDG high level event; alternate dates are now being proposed in February 2014 in conjunction with the Open Working Group session meeting.

3. Developments of Joint CPF Initiatives: Updates, discussion and views from CPF members

Members had extensive discussions on branding of CPF joint initiatives and procedures for situations where not all members endorse the outcome/output from a joint initiative. IUFRO suggested that the GFEP approach could be utilised wherein if all CPF members don't agree, only individual member organisational logos are used. UNFF Director, Ms. Jan McAlpine stressed that collective consensus was necessary for the CPF logo to be used. CPF Chair, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales highlighted the need to maintain some degree of flexibility, noting that an early "ex-ante" discussion of a concept note of a joint initiative could help avoid issues later on. He suggested that only in cases where an outcome affects the core mandate of a particular member organisation, this organisation could have the right of veto. It was noted that the practice has been for steering committees to ensure that joint initiatives are in keeping with CPF mandates, and to provide quality control.

Members agreed that it would be useful to have rules of procedure – to address issues such as voting, rights of veto, branding of initiatives and on dealing with new constituencies. UNFF Director, Ms. Jan McAlpine pointed out rules of procedure would be extremely useful in distinguishing between "CPF-facilitated" or "CPF catalysed" initiatives which were not CPF branded, but could still be counted as CPF contributions in the reporting process for the IAF review.

Key action: FAO to draft rules of procedure for circulation by email to membership.

3.1. Global Landscape Forum

CIFOR reported that Warsaw University was the main venue for the event, and that logistics arrangements progressing well. He shared that the proposed fee structure would be \$5,000 for technical sessions, \$10,000 for discussion forums, \$1000 for booths and \$30 fee participant/ \$15 fee for students. He stressed that the most urgent planning issue was that current list of proposed discussion forum topics was too long (19) and that these needed to be reduced to 12 priority topics under the 4 themes. He mentioned that at the time of retreat, feedback on the topics had only been received from three CPF members.

Members had extensive discussions on the proposed list of 19 topics. FAO stressed the need for mountains as an issue to be more prominent, and suggested the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and water to be added in. IUFRO noted the need to expand "legal framework & landscapes" to beyond legal frameworks. UNFF noted that addressing investments in forests in the context of REDD was too narrow.

Members agreed that it was not practical to address all issues related to forests and agriculture at the first Landscape Forum this year, and raised the possibility of continuing the forests and agriculture in 2014 and beyond. It was noted that feedback from CCAFs partners on the priority topics was expected.

UNEP suggested streamlining to 4 themes to 2-3 themes related to the landscape approach such as 1) Demonstrating the benefits 2) Planning & framework - governance and 3) Investment. IUFRO stressed that the Landscape Forum should explain what is meant by the landscape approach, using on-the-ground experiences to communicate the concept. UNFF emphasized that the Global Landscape Forum topics should be forward-looking, and that one of the main challenges was that while integrated approaches are being discussed at the intergovernmental level, this has not translated to the project level.

CPF Chair, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales stressed that it was urgent for the four leads from CCAF and the CPF to have a tele/video conference to finalise the 4 themes and 12 subtopics.

Based on discussions at the Retreat, the four revised themes were:

1. Exploring the benefits of a landscape approach
2. Investing in sustainable landscapes
3. Landscape policy and governance
4. Multi-purpose management of landscapes (food security and nutrition as well as other forests goods and services)

Key action: CPF leads (CIFOR, UNFF, FAO and WB) and CCAFs leads to coordinate via tele/video conference on the four themes, and 12 topics.

3.2. CPF Forest Communicator's Group, including a strategy for the International Day of Forests Day of Forests

Peter Csoka reported on the CPF communicator's group discussions on the International Day of Forests (IDF). He highlighted that the group had agreed that the future observances of the IDF should have a specific theme/slogan linked to major policy related activities of CPF members. In that regard, the group proposed that the theme for IDF 2014 be focused on sustainable development (given broader discussions on SDGs and the post 2015 development agenda). The need for a common logo and thematic visual identity tailored to the theme/message was also discussed. The group proposed to develop an inventory of existing ambassadors/celebrity spokespersons of CPF member organisations, who could be leveraged for IDF social media communications. On types of activities, the tried and tested role of contests in generating interest, and in developing stock image inventories through photo contests was noted. The group also discussed the possible production of CPF film using existing footage from members; creating an online catalogue of existing educational materials, publications as well as new and stand-alone publication/s and tool kits linked to the IDF theme.

UNFF noted that 2014 was a critical year, given the convergence of the post 2015 development agenda and SDG processes. CIFOR pointed out that messaging related to the IDF should be broad enough to allow some flexibility in the types of activities that could be organised in support of the Day.

CPF members discussed the future of the "Forest Day" brand, given that the Doha Forest Day was the last of its kind at UNFCCC COPs, and had evolved into Global Landscape Forums. The CPF Chair pointed out that the key elements of the future of Forest Day needed to be defined such as: key audience and which CPF member would take on the organiser/coordinator role. IUFRO and UNFF reiterated the importance of identifying the appropriate international process where the CPF would have a strategic interest in influencing/informing discussions. Potential international processes/meetings identified by members included The World Economic Forum, the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, and the post Rio+20 processes. The issue of frequency of Forest Days (annual vs. biennial) was also discussed.

Key Action: CPF Communicators group was requested to develop a concept note on future Forest Days including identifying strategic issues and audiences.

3.3 Next CPF Wangari Maathai Awards

The CPF Chair proposed that future CPF Wangari Maathai Awards should be organized biennially, and pointed out that a venue was needed for the awards ceremony in 2014. Members supported the proposal of having the awards event at the next IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City in October 2014. The Chair also suggested that the CPF Communicators group could be asked to work on updating the call for entries, and develop a communication strategy to promote the awards, with a particular goal of generating greater engagement (and nominations) from Africa.

The UNFF Director suggested that greater participation/entries could also be elicited by sending a Note Verbal to all Permanent Missions at the UN. IUFRO also proposed that Mita Sen from UNFF could join the informal communicators group within IUFRO that is working on the communications related to the 2014 World Congress, so that she could serve as bridge between CPF communicator's group and the IUFRO event organisers.

Key action: Wangari Maathai Award to be presented at the next IUFRO World Congress in October 2014. The CPF Communicators group to update the call for entries for the 2014 CPF Wangari Maathai Awards, and develop a communication strategy for promoting the awards, with a specific focus on Africa.

3.4. Socioeconomic indicators and reporting for 2015

The CPF Chair highlighted that there was an urgent need to strengthen hard data in the area of the contribution of forests to livelihoods, poverty alleviation, employment and rural development, as the need for information on forests is growing, as evidenced by requests from Member States. Eva Muller from FAO provided an overview of how SOFO 2014 would address socioeconomic aspects of forests. She noted that FAO was currently looking at all existing socioeconomic data (from all sources including outside forestry), and would have a good idea by the end of 2013 as to the extent of the existing data. Mette Loyche Wilkie (FAO) stressed the need to harmonize terminology and methodology related to forest data. She shared that the FRA 2015 key findings would be released in early 2015 and that FRA 2015 would include a chapter on socioeconomic data. She noted that while there are bound to be data gaps on socio economic issues, they may be able to draw on case studies.

UNFF stressed the importance of the CPF initiative on harmonizing reporting, and pointed out that UNFF had pulled from FRA 2010 data for UNFF10 reporting. She noted that integrated socio-economic data on forests was of crucial importance, and mentioned links to several ongoing UN processes including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) by the Statistics Division of UN DESA and the development of targets and indicators related to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs.

UNEP noted that the current FRA questions on livelihoods may underestimate the full scope of economic contributions, as they only capture the flow of monetary resources collected by governments from forests and the contributions of forests to GDP. The CPF Chair noted that national data was a crucial determinant in what data could be collected at the global/regional level – and that national forest information system were needed able to include and update all elements of data.

Key Action: Members agreed to work to further catalyse the CPF initiative on harmonizing reporting.

3.5. Pending and new SFM fact sheets

Members discussed the successful production of the fact sheet series, and how they had proven to be a very useful product for members in their communication activities. In this regard, the production of additional factsheets on strategic issues was discussed. Specific topic areas and leads proposed for the additional 8 factsheets included drylands (CCD & GM), forest finance (UNFF), wood (FAO), tenure (FAO), restoration (CBD), water, energy, sustainable consumption and production (UNEP).

It was suggested by UNFF that IUFRO could send out a call for information from the research community for new factsheets. UNFF also pointed out the need to develop factsheets on forest links to SDG issues, and including social and economic aspects. The Chair noted that there was a need to communicate SFM's contributions to critical issues such as water and energy.

ITTO noted that the original budget for the first set of eight factsheets was \$60,000 was for the 8 factsheets.

Key Action: The Working Group will identify the 8 (new) topics and possible lead organizations.

3.6. Possible topics for the next report of the Global Forest Expert Panel

Alexander Buck (IUFRO) briefed members on the proposal for the next Global Forest Expert Panel to have a focus on forests and food security. He noted that while there is a rich body of knowledge on the topic – a comprehensive synthesis is missing. Members welcomed the topic, noting the importance of issues such as food sovereignty and food waste, poverty, livelihoods, economic valuation of land, and the landscape approach. It was also emphasized that the next report should include scientific and technical information to help policy makers in making informed decision-making and provide elements that would enable building a vision, without taking on a prescriptive format.

The next step will be to convene a scoping exercise for the review; IUFRO proposed that this scoping meeting could be held at FAO in October 2013. IUFRO also briefed members on the outputs from the 3rd assessment, including media uptake.

Key Actions: CPF members agreed to IUFRO's proposal for the next GFEP review to be focused on forests and food security. It was also proposed that a scoping meeting for this review be held at FAO in October 2013.

4. CPF Working Procedures

4.1. Review of CPF's modalities and composition, including substantive work elements

The CPF Chair also shared that as part of the FAO evaluation it was proposed that an advisory group be formed to advise the Chair on strategic issues, and how best to position the partnership. Members supported the proposal and FAO would draft a proposal on the Advisory Group for Chair for consideration by Members at the next CPF meeting.

Key action: FAO will draft two proposals: one on rules of procedure and the other on the Advisory Group for Chair, for consideration at the next CPF meeting.

4.2. Engaging civil society and other stakeholders

a) Civil Society Engagement

The CPF Chair raised the issue of civil society engagement, and proposed initiating a consultative process for this purpose, including through a half day meeting with major groups in the sidelines of UNFF. UNFF noted that strong participation by civil society is a key component of current discussions on the high-level political forum on sustainable development as well as ECOSOC reform. UNFCCC pointed out that civil society engagement was already occurring at the individual member level. Members discussed whether CPF should further engage civil society through a consultative process, and, if so, how CPF should approach the consultation.

b) Broadening CPF membership

The issue of broadening membership of the partnership was discussed at length; however some members felt it was premature to consider increasing membership at the current juncture. UNFF noted that the CPF had previously discussed the notion of an "outer circle" to promote dialogue which would not entail extending membership per se. CBD pointed out the importance of first identifying gaps from a substantive issue perspective, and the need for an assessment of how expanding the membership would benefit the future vision of the CPF. In this regard, UNEP stressed the need to identify key priorities beyond 2015.

c) Policy learning mechanism

IUFRO presented a proposal for new CPF initiative on policy learning which could provide a mechanism for engaging with civil society and other stakeholders. The first step would entail the establishment of a CPF working group on Policy Learning which would identify existing policy learning platforms, draw together lessons on policy learning from other policy networks and develop the architecture for institutionalize policy learning.

UNFF emphasized the importance of involving non-academic actors such as negotiators and other policy practitioners in such learning activities. ITTO noted the importance of leveraging good practices, success stories, and scaling up from these. CBD expressed interest in seeing how this proposed initiative could deliver information. The World Bank and FAO stressed the need to focus on practical "real world" case studies and examples (e.g. Niger, ROK). Members noted that focus of such an initiative should be on objective gathering of data on existing policy instruments, rather than advocacy.

Key actions: At the next CPF meeting, CPF members will decide whether to further engage civil society through the UNFF Major Groups, using previous or new consultative processes. CPF members will draft a document on the membership of the CPF for the next meeting. IUFRO will initiate a call for members of the CPF Working Group on Policy Learning and further clarify the objectives of the initiative.

4.3 Funding for joint CPF activities

The CPF Chair stressed the need for a Trust Fund to support the work of CPF, and to cover the cost of the CPF Secretariat.

Key Action: The CPF Chair proposed that he could reach out to the DESA USG to communicate the urgent need for support to cover the staffing cost of the CPF Secretariat.

5. Other Business, including Upcoming Forest Related Events

5.1. CPF activities for 2013- 2015, including updates on recently held forest- related meetings and upcoming meetings

Tour de table discussions focussed on the following meetings:

- GEF 44th Council Meeting was held in June 2013. There are currently 50 SFM projects, and 625 million in funding on forests. The GEF SFM strategy is currently being developed with four objectives – maintaining, managing, restoring, and capacity-building & collaboration. There are five signature GEF programmes, of which 2 are on forests -one on the Amazon and the other on commodities.
- “Forests Africa: Opportunities for a Green Economy” Conference organised by UNEP, CIFOR and UN-REDD in Nairobi from 17-19 September 2013. The conference focus includes challenges and opportunities for forests to contribute to green economies in Africa, through sustainable management, REDD+, trade of forest products and services.
- UNCCD COP11 is taking place from 16-17 September 2013 in Namibia. COP11 will include a Rio Pavilion which will have a half day programme of forest-related side events.
- The CBD SBSTTA 17 will take place from 14 - 18 October 2013 - Montreal, Canada. SBSTTA 18 is scheduled to take place in June 2014. In connection with achievement of the area-based Aichi targets, a series of eight regional workshops are planned from end 2013 to fall 2014.
- The 49th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and associated sessions of the committees will take place from 25-30 November, 2013 in Libreville, Gabon.
- The 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties will take place from 11 to 22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. REDD issues will be featured in discussions of the COP, MOP and SBSTA.
- The Global Landscapes Forum will take place from November 16-17, 2013 on the sidelines of UNFCCC COP19 and will be coordinated by CIFOR on behalf of CPF and by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).
- The 22nd Session of COFO will take place from 23 - 27 June 2014 at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy
- The 2014 IUFRO World Congress will take place from 5-11 October 2014 in Salt Lake City, USA. The theme of the Congress is “Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research”. In 2019, the IUFRO World Congress will be held in Curitiba, Brazil.
- The next IUCN World Parks Congress will take place 12 - 19 November 2014 in Sydney, Australia. The theme of the Congress is Parks, People Planet: Inspiring Solutions.
- UNFF11 will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in UNHQ, New York. During the intersessional period two Ad Hoc Expert Groups meetings will be convened in early and late 2014.
- The XIV World Forestry Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 7-11 September 2015. FAO and South Africa have recently selected Ms. Tiina Vähänen as the Associate-Secretary General of the Congress. FAO will host the Congress Secretariat and begin consultations on the Congress theme in September 2013.

5.2 Other collaborative activities

Collaborative Partnership of Sustainable Wildlife Management: Eduardo Mansur (FAO) provided an overview of the Collaborative Partnership of Sustainable Wildlife Management which was launched in March 2013. The CBD Secretariat is the Chair of the partnership, and FAO serves as the Secretariat. A number of CPF members are also part of the CFW (CBD, FAO, CIFOR, IUCN, IUCN,

UNEP and IUFRO (pending formal confirmation)). The World Bank mentioned that they are part of another partnership with CITES on wildlife trafficking, and would be interested in exploring synergies between the two partnerships.

FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on national forest monitoring: Eduardo Mansur (FAO) presented an overview of the process for development of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring, the mandate for which was ratified during COFO 2012. He pointed out that at present only 22 countries have repeated forest inventories, and that data needs do not match the capacities on the ground. The Guidelines are intended to provide a technical reference framework for implementation of a National Forest Monitoring process. ITTO expressed their interest in participating in the initiative and noted that making reliable information on SFM available is a strategic plan element for ITTO. UNFF expressed their interest in the initiative and suggested that UNFF11 in May 2015 would be a good opportunity to get endorsement of the Guidelines from countries.

The Mountain Partnership: Eduardo Mansur (FAO) briefed members on the upcoming 4th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (17-20 September 2013, Erzurum, Turkey) where a new four-year strategy and workplan will be approved. The partnership has members from 51 governments, 16 IGOs and 145 Major Groups