



## Collaborative Partnership on Forests

### Teleconference minutes: *The Future of Forest Day at the UNFCCC COP (CIFOR proposal)*

Monday, 12 November 2012

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In attendance:

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO  
Lauren Flejzor, FAO

Jan McAlpine, UNFF  
Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, UNFF  
Catalina Santamaria, UNFF

Jenny Wong, UNFCCC

Jasmin Metzler, UNCCD  
Sakhile Kokestso, UNCBD

Ulrich Apel, GEF

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR  
John Colmery, CIFOR

Stewart Maginnis, IUCN

Alexander Buck, IUFRO

Tim Christophersen, UNEP  
Dearbhla Keegan, UNDP

Regrets:

ICRAF  
ITTO  
World Bank

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#### **Discussion on the CIFOR proposal: The Future of Forest Day at the UNFCCC COP**

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, thanked all members for attending and noted the topic of discussion would be the proposal circulated by CIFOR on 'The Future of Forest Day at the COP'.

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR, said four points were required for decision:

- 1) Forest Day 6 (FD6) should be the last Forest Day to be held alongside the UNFCCC COP and an announcement regarding this would be made at FD6.
- 2) Forest Day partners would join forces with the sponsors of ALL Day 5 to support the development of a new platform that integrates forests and forestry into the wider development agenda of sustainable landscapes.
- 3) CIFOR would continue to act as the lead agency on behalf of the CPF for the event and coordinate it with colleagues from the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), on behalf of their respective constituents to ensure forests are equally represented in the conference and ensuing discussions. Opportunities to hold Forest Days in other fora would also be explored.
- 4) CIFOR would hold a meeting on this issue outside of the COP in Doha.

Alexander Buck, IUFRO, fully supported the CIFOR proposal.

Tim Christophersen, UNEP, asked for clarification of the proposal.

Jenny Wong, UNFCCC, supported merging the events into one day but requested clarification on whether Forest Day would be held outside of the COP as a separate event or if it would be just one joint day.

Jan McAlpine, UNFF, said originally the proposal was for a "Landscape Weekend" event to cover various aspects of the landscape. She said further clarification was

required on how to transition to a landscape event that encapsulates climate change, agriculture, food security and forests.

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR, suggested keeping Forest Day separate because it represents a strong brand, but proposed getting into the details at the next CPF meeting in Doha. He said he did not want the event to be only at UNFCCC COPs and would seek other opportunities to promote the day. Regarding UNFFS's intervention, he noted that the lack of clarity on the scope of landscape days was one of the reasons why CIFOR did not want to commit to implementing 'Landscape Days' earlier, noting the possibility to showcase Forest Days as part of a weekend event.

Jasmin Metzler, UNCCD, noted it was in favor of merging the two events, saying UNCCD also has a Land Day and there were other events in the Rio Conventions Pavilion and therefore a 'landscape' event would be preferable.

UNDP supported the CIFOR proposal.

Ulrich Apel, GEF, supported the idea as most of the GEF's projects follow a landscape approach but noted the need to flesh out the details of the new proposal.

Stewart Maginnis, IUCN, supported a broader landscape perspective in the event but flagged the history of Forest Day, noting how Forest Day really "delivered" and had a clear sense of purpose. He encouraged the group to have clearer purpose and objectives for the new event.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO, agreed with the CIFOR proposal to have FD6 as the last Forest Day associated with the COP. He also questioned how to brand the new event, suggesting that a reference to "forests" is kept in the name, and suggested that a weekend rather than a day might be needed for the event. He endorsed IUCN's proposal and, supported by UNFF, encouraged the formation of the event with UNCCD and others to avoid confusion over the different concepts of a 'landscape'. He encouraged the inclusion of a 'landscape' oriented session in a future event.

Jan McAlpine, UNFF, said further discussion is required to consider a two versus one day approach and noted the need to consider the landscape approach.

Stewart Maginnis, IUCN, supported by UNFF and CIFOR, noted this discussion is overdo and said the new approach needs to be a 'Landscape Day' versus a Land or Land Use day and that it should be considered from a systems thinking perspective.

#### *Conclusions:*

- FAO suggested and CIFOR agreed to have a meeting on Saturday 01 December with a small group of members (key players from CPF +CGIAR) to continue the discussion and stressed the need for key players such as the World Bank, CIFOR and UNFF to be on board. .
- CIFOR also noted the need for a separate meeting after Agriculture Day on 4 December and UNFF, supported by IUFRO, UNCCD, UNEP and UNEP, also noted its staff would participate on 4 December. IUCN noted it would not be available for this meeting. UNFCCC expressed they would do their utmost to attend part of the meetings
- Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, closed the discussion by noting that an informal CPF meeting, led by CIFOR, would be held on Wednesday, 4 December to exchange views and discuss key points from the two day event. Decisions on the next steps would be taken at a following meeting since all CPF members would not be present on the 4th.