



Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Summary Report, Rome, Italy
15-16 February 2010

In Attendance

FAO:	Alexander Mueller (Chair) Michael Martin José Antonio Prado Peter Holmgren Eva Müller Lauren Flejzor Marco Boscolo	Secretariats	
CIFOR:	Frances Seymour	CBD:	Tim Christophersen Johannes Stahl
ITTO:	Eduardo Mansur Juergen Blaser	GEF:	Gustavo Fonseca
IUCN:	Stewart Maginnis	UNCCD/GM:	Christian Mersmann Elisabeth Barsk- Rundquist
IUFRO:	Peter Mayer	UNFCCC:	María Sanz- Sánchez
UNDP:	Charles McNeill	UNFF:	Jan McAlpine J. Catalina Santamaria
UNEP:	Ibrahim Thiaw Mario Boccucci	ICRAF:	(represented by) Frances Seymour
World Bank:	Gerhard Dieterle Peter Dewees		

1. Opening and Welcome

Mr. Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Department and Officer-in-Charge of the Forestry Department welcomed participants to the first CPF meeting of 2010. Acting as chair of the meeting, Mr. Mueller highlighted several priorities for 2010, including CPF's potential opportunities to reinforce collaborative action in support of REDD+ and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

After adopting the summary reports of the last two meetings, members engaged in an exchange of views on the agenda. Agenda items 5 and 7, as well as presentations on the International Year on Biodiversity (IYB) and the International Year on Forests (IYF), were agreed for discussion on Monday after item 2. Accordingly, on Tuesday the agenda followed with item 4, 3 and 6. IUCN noted that the sub-point on strengthening the working methods of CPF would be jointly addressed with agenda item 7.

2. Taking stock of the outcome of Copenhagen

The UNFCCC Secretariat presented an overview of the forest negotiations in Copenhagen, underscoring the status of REDD+ issues under the AWG- LCA and the developments on methodological guidance. The Secretariat also provided views concerning the outlook for the future. A discussion among the CPF followed with a keen focus on the need for a coherent strategy to position CPF's contributions, in particular country support in planning and implementing REDD+ and adaptation

activities. Coordinated efforts for capacity building projects (i.e. forest carbon monitoring, adaptation, land planning and better governance) were identified. The importance of a strong policy-science interface and reliable information sources on forests, in particular from FRA, were also discussed. On the flip side, concerns were noted on the role of markets in any future REDD + outcome given the lack of clarity, in particular on the role of markets in the overall future climate change outcome. In addition, the misinterpretation of the concept of sustainable forest management (SFM) and the financing needs for REDD+ actions, among other topics associated with the future architecture of REDD+, such as the need for REDD+ financing to be part of larger investment frameworks, at the country level, were also discussed.

CIFOR presented a thorough assessment of Forest Day 3, highlighting numerous positive experiences including the encouraging level of participation which totalled close to 1500 forestry experts, policy makers and activists and the salient quality of outcomes. CIFOR also received constructive feedback from different participants, including some CPF members, through a “survey monkey” which was launched after Copenhagen.

All members expressed their appreciation and acknowledged CIFOR’s professionalism in carrying out such an event. As members noted their individual experiences in prior forest days, they exchanged views on a potential future design and *modus operandi* of these days, including Forest Day 4 (FD4). Members identified ways to help brand forest day and improve future joint events. Areas in need of improvement were also discussed. Members provided suggestions on communication and media aspects, such as developing webpage platforms and cross-referencing events, as well as approaches to increase CPF's involvement in the planning, agenda setting and budgetary details of the days. Linked to FD4 preparations, CIFOR also reported on the commitment it obtained from the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR) to co-host FD4.

Additional discussions about the upcoming UNFCCC COP included the option of preparing a CPF message for COP 16. However, there were divergent opinions concerning the value of such a message. Within the 2010 outlook, the CPF also considered the possibility of organizing additional forest days during the MDG summit, CBD COP 10 and at other relevant meetings. For example, an ‘Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion’ has been planned by the CBD Secretariat during its COP 10 meeting. CPF members are invited to participate at the Pavilion. Also noted was the need to explore linkages between sectors, such as the forest and agriculture sectors.

Agreed Actions

- CIFOR is the convener for Forest Day and has again extended the invitation to CPF members to participate as co-sponsors of the event.
- CIFOR will develop a concept note on FD4, drawing on the comments and suggestions for improvements provided in the CPF discussion, including on the modalities of work (role, responsibility and objectives for FD4).

- CIFOR will solicit from all CPF members' representatives for a Steering Committee which will, based on CIFOR's outline of FD4 plans, provide input to and discuss development and implementation of FD4.
- CIFOR also requested communication focal points to participate in the communication strategy ahead for FD4.
- Based on guidance from CIFOR and the Steering Committee, UNFFS and GEF will prepare a joint CPF letter to request funding for FD4 from donors and the Mexican Government (COP 16 host country).

5. Looking forward: how can CPF best add value to the international understanding of forests in upcoming events?

5.1 Agroforestry Policy Initiative

ICRAF prepared a note on the Agroforestry Policy Initiative and circulated it to the CPF. Members took note of the paper, including the rationale and objective of the Initiative, which sets out to showcase agroforestry as a key element of sustainable development.

Agreed Actions

- Interested CPF members are invited to respond to ICRAF on how they intend to contribute to the Agroforestry Policy Initiative.
- ICRAF will develop a strategy that describes the Initiative and the expected role of CPF in more detail.
- IUFRO, WB and UNFFS will explore possible approaches to build greater opportunities of work with ICRAF.

5.2 XXIII IUFRO World Congress

An update of the XXIII IUFRO World Congress, "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment", (23-27 August, in Seoul, Korea) was provided by IUFRO. The structure of the scientific program (i.e. plenary, sub-plenary, technical and poster sessions) and the aim of the Congress were noted. According to IUFRO, the Congress expects to reach 2,000-3,000 people and provide insight on the latest forest research conducted by the world's leading forest experts and scientists.

A two hour sub-plenary session has been reserved for the CPF. As topics for this session have not been fixed, members were invited to express their views on the content and format of the session. Overall, members recommended focusing on one theme. Some topics for consideration included: functional aspects of biodiversity (links between biodiversity- climate change); forest landscape restoration (degradation, restoration and adaptation); and forest-related research gaps and needs. Members also mentioned that the outcome of the sub-plenary could serve as a potential contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and the Climate Change discussions in December 2010.

Agreed Actions

- IUFRO will circulate a concept paper to CPF for the sub-plenary, drawing on views on a possible format and the focus of the event.
- CPF members are asked to consider holding a CPF meeting during the IUFRO Congress and to confirm interest and availability.

5.3 International Year on Biodiversity (IYB) and the International Year on Forests (IYF)

The CBD and the UNFF Secretariats respectively presented updates on the IYB and IYFs. The focus of the years, including work plans, national events, outreach and communication efforts were presented. Joint international events and opportunities to leverage the role of forests in advancing the MDGs and in the lead up to Rio 20+ were also encouraged.

Specific meetings in support of the years were highlighted by members. Among these were the GEF Assembly which will hold a one day event on the IYB (24-28 of May 2010, Punta del Este, Uruguay); the International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests co-organized by ITTO, CBD, IUCN and the Government of Ecuador (14 July 2010 - 17 July 2010, Ecuador); and an event hosted by UNEP and the CBD Biodiversity and Development Initiative on food security and biodiversity (May 10 2010). December 2010 will also feature a bridge event between the IYB and the IYF in Kanazawa, Japan, highlighting the transition between the two years. In this context, ITTO highlighted the 46th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) scheduled from 13-18 December 2010 in Yokohama, Japan. Given the timely opportunity, ITTO expressed its interest to work with the UNFFS and CBDS to optimize the participation and results of both events. Other CPF members were also invited to team up in the above-mentioned events.

With the IYF focus on “Forests for People”, the UNFF Secretariat underlined opportunities for joint work drawing on the connections between biodiversity and social and cultural aspects of forest dependent people. She emphasized the importance of targeting the forest-people dimension, along with the wildlife and species richness prospect. Many members supported the notion of building a potential agenda from 2010 to 2011 that captures a message on forests and biodiversity and brings governments and different sectors together.

The UNFF Secretariat invited members to provide input and advice on the focus for the Year, including topics related to indigenous peoples and traditional forest-related knowledge, which would also be addressed at UNFF9 (24 January 2011 - 4 February 2011). The IYF will provide a platform to showcase forest best practices, and provides an opportunity to highlight actions by CPF member organizations and member states.

Agreed Actions

- CBDS will follow up with CPF members on collaboration activities for the International Year of Biodiversity. It also invited all CPF members to link relevant activities to the International Year of Biodiversity website (www.cbd.int/2010).
- UNFFS will invite all CPF members to designate IYF communication focal

points within their organizations who would share information on activities being planned by CPF members in celebration of the Year.

- CPF members will consider joint activities that could be undertaken as a CPF contribution to the celebration of the Year, including key CPF messages that would be communicated during the IYF.
- CBDS and UNFFS will continue to update CPF members on preparations for a joint IYB/IYF event in December 2010 which will mark the closing of the IYB and signal a seamless transition to the IYF.

7. Reinforcing CPF Effectiveness

IUCN informed members of past and recent discussions on the need to examine CPF's working methods to strengthen its effectiveness. Members recalled some of the history of cooperative efforts and welcomed the opportunity to review all modalities of CPF's work, including chairmanship, coordination of joint activities and prioritization of CPF initiatives. Members also took note of opportunities to expand CPF's membership, in particular as pertained to a suggestion by the CBDS to extend membership to the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). CPF decided to address such matter in a future meeting.

While the need for stability, continuity and high-level participation at meetings were largely agreed to, concerns remained centered on how to build upon CPF's leadership, responsibility and accountability in future. An increasing request for CPF's involvement and coherent action on all things forest, including greater integration among members in CPF joint work, was viewed as an important reason to review CPF's functions and working methods.

Arrangements concerning the chairmanship were also discussed, with options including a rotating chairmanship, rotating co-chairmanship or maintaining the status quo. Another proposed option consisted of a small executive group to serve on a rotating basis to execute and advance new ideas brought forward by the CPF.

Members agreed to form a small group, on the margins of the CPF meeting, to prepare a note, which would scope and articulate elements for the review of the modalities, drawing on the views expressed by CPF members at the meeting. The note will be attached to the summary report of the meeting and be used, *inter alia*, to inform the upcoming chair, the new Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department of FAO, who had not taken his new appointment at the time of this CPF meeting. It was also noted that the question of modalities, how CPF functions, focal agency system and the chairmanship were decisions to be taken by all CPF members.

Agreed Actions

- A small group of CPF members, who met on the margins of the CPF meeting, will present a note, which compiles the views expressed by members and articulates the scope and areas of review, guided by key principles. The note is attached to the summary report of the meeting. (See Annex 1 and CPF Policy Document 2003).

- CPF will consider the options on future modalities of work, including the chairmanship issue at its next meeting.

4. Social Dimensions of Forests: Targeted 2010/2011 CPF activities in support of UNFF9

The UNFF Secretariat introduced the overall theme of UNFF9 on “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”. In presenting an overview of the numerous reports expected for the session, the Secretariat specifically described the focus of the reports on social and cultural aspects, community-based forest management and social development, indigenous communities and other local and forest dependent communities, including the topic of land tenure. Three Secretary-General’s reports and a fourth report presenting the strategic recommendations on these topics are envisaged. Members were invited to provide advice on how to address local community concerns and to connect issues to the international level. They were also encouraged to play an active role in the peer reviewing of papers.

An exchange of views on the role of the CPF in contributing to the reports and other UNFF activities subsequently followed. Members expressed interest in all the topics and indicated the added value of addressing the social dimensions of forests, especially bringing new developments to the forefront. Various suggestions were identified ranging from the nature and scale of forest dependency, local livelihoods and adaptation to climate change, community development in REDD + and governance, to access and benefits sharing, local level income generation and market opportunities for communities. Remarks also focused on the links to research gaps, extra-sectoral influences and institutional barriers, in developing and developed countries.

Agreed Actions

- UNFFS will organize a “wise persons” discussion group meeting in NYC (end of April 2010) to consider the scope and focus of papers for UNFF9.
- CPF members are asked to provide senior experts for a discussion and to confirm their interest and availability.
- CPF members are also asked to propose experts to undertake consultancy work to assist in the preparation of the background information on forests and people.
- CPF offered to provide ideas on topics to be included based on their specific work.

3. Advancing a common CPF message on SFM

Recent developments on a draft policy note on SFM and REDD + were presented by the CBD Secretariat. In addressing the issue, the Secretariat described the links to the CBD Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change and the connections to forthcoming discussions at SBSTTA14 (May 2010) and COP10 (October 2010). In this regard, the importance of clarifying the understanding of SFM for the CBD process was underlined.

As agreed during the last informal CPF meeting (December 2009), the CBD Secretariat prepared a concept note for a technical paper on ‘SFM – Common

Understanding of CPF Members' (working title). Members were invited to provide suggestions and views on the proposed outline of the technical paper, the organization of the working group, the objective and time line, as well as on the elements of an expert workshop. A note prepared by ITTO and FAO on the subject was also presented as a contribution to the discussion.

Views among the group varied, especially on how to address the diverse interpretations on SFM and how to better communicate the SFM concept. Members agreed that an exercise to harmonize existing definitions was not the way forward. Members agreed to work with the General Assembly definition of SFM. In this regard, the CPF submission to the UNFCCC on the concept of SFM, as addressed at the multilateral level, was noted. To take the issue forward, members also agreed to establish a working group to revise the draft policy note and to focus on the relationship between SFM and REDD+ implementation, as the starting point and to broaden up from there as needed. A suggested text from FAO related to the question of primary forests was put forward to the working group for consideration.

A proposal for the way forward concerning the internal CPF discussions on SFM and REDD+ was tabled at the meeting and agreed by the members.

Agreed Actions:

- CPF will establish an open-ended Working Group to develop the outline of a working paper, focusing on the contribution of SFM (as defined by the General Assembly) in the context of REDD+ implementation. The working paper will address SFM and REDD+ issues in a holistic and comprehensive manner. This paper will focus on the implementation potentials and not on negotiations.
- The Working Group will establish the objective and programme elements of the paper. The Group may also clarify key questions raised by members, at the CPF meeting in February, in the context of SFM and REDD + implementation options.
- CBDS and ITTO will commission a short thought starter to facilitate the discussion of the Working Group. The thought starter will draw on the views expressed by members during the CPF meeting in February, including the draft paper prepared by CBDS. The UNFCCC Secretariat will also prepare a one page note summarizing the elements under the LCA text which are relevant to the definition of SFM (as defined by the General Assembly).
- CPF members will provide comments on the draft thought starter. Members will also be invited to submit to the Working Group relevant information in the context of SFM and forest biodiversity, such as guidelines and safeguards.
- CBDS and ITTO will co-facilitate a subsequent working group discussion, which will take place for 2- 3 days during the last week of April 2010 in NYC. (Potential dates include: 27-29 April).
- CBDS will follow up on a potential expert workshop on SFM and REDD + which may take place in 2010 with the financial support of the German Government.

6. Making finance work for forests and people

The UNFFS described the mechanisms of the Forum's four year strategic framework on forest financing, including the Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) process and the Facilitative Process. The Secretariat explained the nature of these mutually supportive mechanisms, including the aim to deepen the understanding of the state of SFM financing and to result in proposals for long-term measures and strategies for forest financing at national, regional and international levels at UNFF10. As a policy intergovernmental process, the AHEG process will take place over the four year period leading to the UNFF10 decision on financing for SFM. The first AHEG is likely to be held from 6-10 September 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat invited the participation of CPF to support the discussions.

A recent project on SIDS and LFCCs under the Facilitative Process was also described. The Secretariat noted that the project intends to examine forest finance, including information on sectoral and cross-sectoral ministerial impacts on forest financing, including poverty reduction strategy papers, national priorities, climate change (including REDD+), agriculture, infrastructure, among others.

To advance the process the full involvement of all stakeholders from various levels and with various expertise will be sought. In particular, the Secretariat will be tapping the potential of the CPF and member states to help support a bottom up analysis on financing. Targeted support from the donor community will also be sought.

Members expressed positive views on the approach set out in the UNFF strategy. In particular, many recognized the benefit of developing links to the country level, especially working on a bottom up approach to examine country needs and establish a coordinated focus on forest financing. Nevertheless, various issues were raised in terms of how to link larger financing mechanisms, including resources coming out of REDD+, to existing national forest financing processes. In addition cross-sectoral linkages, challenges outside the forest sector and innovative approaches to attract private funding were also discussed

After the UNFFS presentation, FAO facilitated a discussion on how various initiatives on financing for SFM could provide support to country level financing frameworks. To this end, information was provided by the World Bank on its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Programme; by the GEF on the GEF Transformative Programme on SFM/REDD+; from UNDP on the UN-REDD programme; from ITTO on the REDDES Program; as well as the UNCCD/Global Mechanism (GM), on its Integrated Financings Strategies at the national level to increase financial flows to the land sector, including forests and trees in the landscape; and the CBDS on its Life Web mechanism.

Agreed Actions:

- CBDS, ITTO, GEF, UNCCD/GM, FAO, UNFCCC, UNFFS, UNEP, UNDP and WB will participate in the work of the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF).
- The AGF will examine and identify existing funding for forests coming from all sources, including domestic and international public, private and philanthropy resources and develop a list of information gaps, obstacles and barriers.
- AGF will prepare an analysis of the financing landscape for forests, including the silos and funding challenges. The analysis will focus on the entire landscape of

forest financing, including critical gaps, opportunities and areas requiring further attention. The AGF will present practical solutions to the Forum at its ninth and tenth sessions, including participating in and contributing to the AHEG.

- UNFFS will facilitate the discussions to be undertaken by the AGF, including the work on the establishment of a comparable set of financing data, drawing on existing CPF information. UNFFS will provide a preliminary overview of data on the financing directed to forests and distributed to countries and request CPF input.
- UNFFS will commission a group of consultants to examine and peer review the draft documentation, specifically on the financing of broader issues.

8. Other matters

Insights on the World Forestry Week (COFO 2010) including results of 2010 Global Forest Resources Assessment were postponed for the next CPF meeting.

9. Closing remarks

Mr. Mueller thanked all members for their active participation in the meeting and constructive views and suggestions. He highlighted the value of the partnership and encouraged members to continue building on CPF's cooperative approach to tackle the tasks outlined throughout the two day meeting. Members expressed their appreciation to FAO for hosting the meeting.