



Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting Report

10 April 2013, Istanbul, Turkey

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 10 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey on the margins of the 10th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

1. Welcome and introduction

The CPF Chair opened the meeting and welcomed CPF members. He conveyed the positive feedback that CPF received during the UNFF10 CPF High-Level session. He stated that countries praised and noted the important role that the CPF had played so far, highlighting the increased outputs from the Partnership in recent years. Many see CPF is also a very important component of the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

The minutes of the last CPF meeting (Doha, 1 December 2012) and the CPF teleconference (9 January 2013) were adopted.

2. UNFF10, 8-19 April 2013

2.1 CPF 's participation in the UNFF10 Ministerial Segment (MS)

Ms Jan McAlpine (UNFF Director) briefed members about the discussions and issues from the ongoing UNFF session, pertinent to the CPF. She emphasized the increasing number of calls from countries for the involvement of CPF without their commitment to fund these tasks. She said countries expect further involvement of CPF in work related to financing of SFM, data collection, data gaps, support for the implementation of the Forest Instrument and in the work related to the IAF. Ms. McAlpine emphasized that the CPF should not accept any tasks without receiving funds for proposed activities. She then, invited the CPF to make this point very clear to countries.

Concerns related to the lack of funding were echoed by the CPF Chair, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, who underlined that CPF constitutes a voluntary arrangement and it is not a formal body with its own trust fund. With regard to Ms. McAlpine's suggestion, the Chair proposed waiting to review the outcome of UNFF10 and the specific requests to the CPF. Upon such review, he said, the CPF could decide which actions would be feasible to implement. Ms. McAlpine, suggested, however, that informing countries of the need for funding will make their invitations to the CPF more realistic and more feasible.

In the following discussion, IUFRO and UNEP pointed out that selected activities conducted by their organizations are in line with and contribute to UNFF work, and do not necessarily require extra funding. They suggested that each CPF member should state how it can contribute to certain activities in support of the work of the Forum. They added that any actions by CPF requiring additional funding would be subject to the availability of resources. They noted where possible CPF should be speaking with one voice despite different interests and members' priorities.

Ms. McAlpine explained that too often all CPF members take credit for work conducted only by one or two agencies and it should not be the case. She added that CPF needs to clarify what constitutes a CPF product. She said that to a certain degree, discussion on this issue took place at the CPF meeting in Doha. Members indicated that an activity or product could be labeled as CPF only if all members are participating or agree to be associated with it. At the Doha meeting it was proposed that a set of principles/criteria could be made available for discussion at the next CPF retreat.

CPF members then discussed what kind of role CPF should play in reviewing the IAF, as CPF and the work of individual members of the CPF and their contributions to the work of the Forum are a part of the IAF. Some members pointed out that this is a major process, involving substantial human and financial resources. Questions were raised about the methodology of revision, planning and available funds. UNFFS clarified that a specific road map will be elaborated.

With regard to the possibility of having one or more Country-Led Initiatives (CLI) on the review of the IAF, Ms. McAlpine explained that the CLI themes are decided by the host countries and it is doubtful there will be CLIs focused on the IAF.

Members agreed that CPF should be involved in the IAF review only to a limited degree. They said it would be inappropriate to take the lead role in the IAF review process, while CPF itself is a subject of this review. At the same time, they noted, CPF shouldn't be entirely excluded from this work.

Decision:

- CPF recuses itself from taking a leadership role for tasks that relate to the review of the IAF due to the potential conflict of interests;
- Apart from the IAF related work, CPF notes that taking on any additional collaborative activities proposed by UNFF10 will be assessed by the CPF at its retreat in July 2013 and subject to the availability of funds.

3. Global Landscapes Forum

Mr. John Colmey, CIFOR, presented CPF members with the concept, modalities and tentative programme for the Global Landscapes Forum. This is a 2 day event which merges the Forest Day with Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods (All) Day. It will be held in Warsaw, Poland (16 – 17 November 2013) on the margins of the 19th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC with the theme/title “Shaping a Climate-smart Agenda for Forestry and Agriculture”. The event will combine two global meetings on forests and agriculture; focus on the relationship between these two sectors; provide a platform for integration of agriculture and forestry into the global sustainable development agenda and inform the Durban Action Platform, UNFCCC negotiators, UN processes about the possibilities and potential of forests and agriculture to contribute to climate-smart solutions.

The CPF reiterated their support for the initiative. With regard to the themes, members expressed preference for “forests” rather than “forestry” in the title. Other comments included that the event programme should: show clearer links with issues related to climate change; address sustainable land management and mountains; address food security; and be more focused. The concept of landscape, although appropriate, is broad and still relatively little understood. Therefore, more time and efforts should be spent on the elaboration of a strategy, clear objectives and the possible message and foreseen outcomes.

The next suggested steps included preparation of a concept note by CCAFS and CIFOR, identifying possible themes (e.g. ecosystem services, sustainable production, finance, income, climate change/resources efficiency), discussion topics, possibly calls for papers, and a list of speakers. With regard to the themes, members suggested adding good governance, possibly tenure rights and connect the event with Sustainable Development Goals/post-2015 agenda.

Decision:

- The members agreed to follow up these issues through a teleconference of the steering committee representing the CPF in preparation of the Global Landscapes Forum before the CPF retreat at the beginning of July.
- Comments on the draft overview could be sent to CIFOR after the meeting.

4. Other business

4.1 CPF input to State of the World’s Forests 2014

Ms Eva Muller, (FAO) presented a concept note of the State of the World’s Forests (SOFO) 2014. She said this edition of SOFO will present an independent technical review of progress towards the second Global Objective on Forests, with a special

focus on the socio-economic benefits of forests and their contributions to livelihoods. SOFO 2014 will contribute to the international dialogue on forests and, by presenting and discussing SOFO 2014 during COFO, it will help FAO member states to understand the issues and develop their proposals in advance of UNFF 11. It is proposed that SOFO 2014 will focus on data gaps related to a limited number of forest-based socio-economic benefits, for which reliable information is available at the global level or where information from case-studies is sufficient to draw some general conclusions about global trends vis-a-vis these benefits. It will also include an examination of the measures taken by countries to promote these benefits and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches taken by countries. Ms. Muller noted the many gaps in data related to forest-based socio-economic benefits as these issues are covered by the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015 only in very limited way. This edition of SOFO will complement the FRA in these areas.

FAO would be grateful to any CPF member for help with additional data sources, data searches, possible case studies and peer reviewers. IUCN offered support, since it has data on forest medicinal plants and would be willing to share this information.

It is possible that a small group of experts would be set up to draft recommendations. Ms. Muller clarified that the focus of SOFO 2014 will be mainly on goods and products – it will exclude services. The tight deadline was also mentioned as the write-up of SOFO 2014 has to be completed by the end of this year to be published in six languages for the 22nd Session of COFO in June 2014.

It was noted that this is an FAO, not a CPF initiative.

4.2 CPF Retreat 2013

The members agreed on the dates for the next CPF retreat, which will take place on 2 -3 July 2013, in Rome.