



Summary Report
Informal Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
6 December 2010, Cancun, Mexico

In Attendance

FAO: Eduardo Rojas- Briales (Chair)
Susan Braatz

CIFOR: John Colmey

ICRAF: Tony Simons
Paul Stapleton

ITTO: Eduardo Mansur

IUCN: Stewart Maginnis
Carole Saint Laurent

IUFRO: Niels Koch
Alexander Buck

UNDP: Tim Clairs

Secretariats

CBD: Tim Christophersen
Simone Schiele

GEF: Dirk Gaul

CCD: Luc Gnacadja
Sergio Zelaya

UNFF: Jan McAlpine
Mita Sen

J. Catalina Santamaria

Guest: John Lui

Regrets: UNEP, UNFCCC, World Bank

1. Welcome and introduction

Mr. Eduardo Rojas- Briales, Assistant Director-General for Forestry of FAO and Chair of the CPF, welcomed CPF members to this informal meeting which was convened on the margins of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16), in Cancun, Mexico. The agenda for this meeting was adopted with an additional point introduced by ICRAF, under other business, concerning statements by Intergovernmental Organizations on the 10th of December during the High Level Segment of COP 16.

2. Preparation for UNFF9 (24 January – 4 February 2010, NYC, USA)

Ms. Jan McAlpine briefed members on UNFF9 preparations, highlighting in particular activities of the CPF, the High level Segment (HLS), regional involvement and interactions with major groups. On the latter, Ms. McAlpine mentioned the efforts of Major Groups to coordinate responses on each thematic topic on the agenda of UNFF9. While describing the activities of the Forum's two week session, Ms. McAlpine referred to the organization of work for UNFF9 (See Annex 1), specifically underscoring CPF's participation under agenda items 2, 8 and 10.

Ms. McAlpine informed members of work in parallel groups, among other, to discuss UNFF9 recommendations, including possible building blocks for a Ministerial Declaration focusing on Forests 2011, Forest financing and Forests and Rio+20. She also noted special events during the HLS, including announcements of major initiatives, speech by a children's representative, film screenings and other media events. As concerns the HLS on the 2nd and 3rd of February, Ms. McAlpine mentioned the four topics for the HLS roundtable discussion: "Forests for people"; "Finance for forest-dependent communities"; "Forest Plus: A cross-sectoral, cross-institutional approach" and "Forests and green economies". In this regard, she adverted to the Ministerial Dialogue with the heads of the CPF member organizations set for the afternoon of 3 February 2011 (3-5pm), reiterating the important role of CPF members.

Members agreed to contribute to those CPF related agenda items and to announce the increased collaboration and involvement of members during 2010, as shown at Forest Day 4 and IUFRO XXIII. Members also heard suggestions from IUFRO, ICRAF, CBD, UNCCD and FAO on possible themes for the HL dialogue. Many felt that the dialogue should convey a



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positive agenda on forests, offer solutions which could be scaled up, attract media attention and resonate with the public. Some members felt that the four HLS roundtable themes could provide good entry points. Ms. McAlpine highlighted UNFF9's focus on the relationship between people and forests, underscoring the importance of trends and building connections during Forests 2011 and beyond. She proposed that Mr. Luc Gnacadja (UNCCD) devise a strategic focus for the HLS dialogue and communicate it to the other heads of the CPF with the purpose of seeking their input to jointly package a coherent set of messages. The Chair and Mr. Gnacadja agreed to the proposal. Members also agreed to hold the next formal meeting of the CPF on the afternoon of the 30th of January 2011 (Sunday), in NY.

3. Outcomes of Forest Day 4 (5 December 2010, Cancun, Mexico)

Members took stock of the outcomes of FD4, expressing appreciation to CIFOR for a successful event. More than 1,500 people attended Forest Day 4. FAO, ITTO, ICRAF and GEF highlighted positive developments, including better fund raising, significant donor support and increased participation and interactions. The participation of the President of Mexico was also noted. In addition, the CPF gift bag, press events and interviews were recognized as positive new features. There were different impressions, however, on the organization of the plenary, sub-plenary and learning events.

Areas requiring further improvement to help brand forest day as a CPF event and ensure better recognition of CPF members were also discussed. Proposals for a new CPF logo design and website for forest day were considered. Additional comments rested on the need for better time management to help meet uncertainties. Concerns were also raised with regards to the closing ceremony as there was no summary report delivered to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. The recurrent reference in Spanish to "El Dia Mundial del Bosques" was also highlighted and requested to be amended in any Spanish text as FD4 was not the "World Day of Forests". Discussions also focused on the format of the events, functions and frequency. Several shared their views on how to manage the growing number of participants, as well as ways to balance the budget through possible cost sharing approaches, especially as members prepare for Forest Day 5 (FD5) next year in Durban South Africa.

John Colmey (CIFOR) agreed to the various points expressed by members, including the revamping of the CPF logo, exploring a new website design, funds raising and cost savings approaches, ensuring proper use of terms and concepts in translations, planning for the summary report, and addressing the number of panelist in different events. In preparation for FD5, he suggested a concept note addressing the points discussed and, invited members to provide views on themes for next year, keeping in mind the close proximity to the closing of Forests 2011. Members provided CIFOR with input and ideas on how to approach the Durban meeting, in particular exploring opportunities to build linkages between sectors. They also agreed to address post-Durban discussions after FD5. Discussions on FD5 planning will resume at the next meeting of the CPF on 30 January in NY.

4. Communicators Network and Forest Communications Strategy

Mr. Rojas-Briales (Chair) briefed members of the early morning meeting of CPF forest communicators, highlighting key issues including discussions of the CPF strategy to support Forests 2011 and a possible "Day of the Forests". A proposal on CPF monthly



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activities was also mentioned. Details of the discussion, including the response to the invitation from the UNFF9 Chair for CPF members' to participate in the "Forest Heroes Programme and Awards" will be available in the summary report of the Forest Communicator's meeting.

5. CPF initiatives on Forest Degradation, Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting and Advancing a Common Message on SFM

ITTO and CBD briefed members on the CPF initiative on Forest Degradation highlighting developments on the use of guidelines to measure forest degradation. Mr. Mansur (ITTO) highlighted ITTO's role in assessing degradation. He also mentioned that the initiative had been reviewed at its last meeting to realign its work in order for its tools and product to be known by others, especially by member States. Members noted several challenges related to data gathering, especially the difficulties in differentiating the causes of degradation and identifying degraded areas. John Lui expressed his interest in the Initiative, particularly on the priorities of communities. He suggested to film specific aspects of this in countries where he plans to work in. ITTO and CBD recommended members to review the draft document prepared by FAO and to suggest ways to promote the toolkit to a wider audience. Members agreed to refrain from having a technical discussion, and proposed to hold such discussion back to back with UNFF9 in NY, either in the morning of the 30th of January or the week before. Mr. Luc Gnacadja proposed to nominate a focal point from UNCCD to start working on the CPF initiative to help consolidate the technical document. Once the document is finalized it would be tabled at a formal CPF meeting.

Members were also informed of upcoming activities during UNFF9 on the CPF initiative on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting, including implementation of the U.N. NLBI. Plans include a side event during UNFF9 to highlight related reporting assessments, needs and gaps. The Initiative will also organize a meeting on the margins of UNFF9.

Members were briefed by ITTO and CBD on the developments in the Working Group on Advancing a Common Understanding on SFM, including a short background brief prepared by a consultant, which requires feedback from all members. While addressing divergent points of view on SFM, the Working Group has been trying to clarify SFM concepts to achieve a common understanding, through the use of a content sharing web platform, a strategic document and more recently a list of frequently asked questions. Members had concerns with the proposed approach and questioned whether the strategy would resolve areas of disagreement. Mr. Rojas-Briales proposed that the co-leads of the Working Group report the challenges and opportunities of this activity and develop a 3-4 page paper that would provide a concentrated distillation of the concept of SFM.

6. Other Business, including Upcoming Forest Related Events

Members addressed the additional point proposed by ICRAF regarding the speaking arrangements for Intergovernmental Organizations at the High level Segment of COP 16 on 10th December. Of the members holding a speaking slot, ICRAF and CIFOR agreed to mention the CPF and Forests 2011.



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Updates on the outcomes of COFO held from 4 to 8 October 2010, in Rome Italy, were mentioned by the Chair. A brief note was circulated highlighting five decisions taken at COFO which invited the CPF to support (Annex 2).

Mr. Christophersen (CBD) briefed members of the decisions of the CBD's COP 10 held from 18 to 29 October 2010. He distributed a package (also circulated via email) consisting of the various forest-related decisions taken at COP 10. He mentioned follow up step regarding the signing of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, set for February 2011, but not to overlap with UNFF9. Moreover, he noted the 20 targets of the new Strategic Plan, highlighting those relevant to forests. Attention also focused on specific decisions calling for CPF's involvement and support, including collaboration on relevant biodiversity safeguards, work on indicators, monitoring and reporting as well as other activities linked to forest genetic resources, sustainable use of bushmeat and livelihood alternatives. Mr. Christophersen noted that most of this work would draw from existing information and data provided by CPF members in order to avoid duplication.

Mr. Briales-Rojas reported on the outcomes of the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (31 October to 5 November 2010, in The Hague, the Netherlands). The Conference was organized by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation in close cooperation with Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the World Bank and FAO. More than 900 participants from 80 countries attended the Conference, with approximately sixty ministers and vice-ministers participating in the ministerial roundtables, and an opening and closing ceremony by HRH Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange and HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands. Mr. Briales-Rojas mentioned that the Conference was intended as a follow-up to the Shared Vision Statement agreed at the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17) in May 2009. It also drew from an African communiqué containing a set of key recommendations. He also highlighted the Chair's Summary, containing a Roadmap for Action. While Mr. Briales-Rojas noted the wealth of information generated at the Conference, including the visually captivating excerpt shown of one of John Liu's films, he also highlighted the silos and lack of integration among the key issues discussed. He felt that there was very little knowledge of this meeting among the agriculture community and that the forest discussions were ad hoc.

Mr. Briales-Rojas noted a couple items for the next CPF meeting in January 2011, including discussions on Forests 2011 and FD5 preparations. Additional points expressed related to low forest cover countries and how to reactivate the Teheran process, especially in light of the envisaged workshop in Iran next year. Mr. Briales-Rojas also mentioned the launch of FRA 2015 at the next World Forestry Congress to be held in South Africa in September 2015. Mr. Niels Koch (IUFRO) announced the newly elected Executive Director of IUFRO, Mr. Alexander Buck. Ms. Mita Sen (UNFF) highlighted opportunities at UNFF9 to showcase CPF member organizations, and reminded members of the possibility to organize video messages from all CPF heads. Mr. John Colmey (CIFOR) mentioned that CIFOR has hired an external consultant to carry out an independent evaluation of the impact of FD4. Ms. Jan McAlpine (UNFF) nominated Mr. Jag Maini as a recipient of the Forest hero's award at UNFF9. Mr. Eduardo Mansur (ITTO) highlighted the 46th session of International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) (13-18 December 2010, Yokohama, Japan). Ms. McAlpine mentioned the forthcoming bridging ceremony between the close of the



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International Year on Biodiversity and the seamless transition to the launch of the International Year of Forest in 2011.

Mr. Luc Gnacadja highlighted several UNCCD events to be held next year, including the 2nd Special Session of the Committee of Science and Technology (CST-S2) and the 9th Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9), both to be held in February. He also underscored the Launch of the report: Achievement of the MDGs in the drylands, which will be part of a General Assembly High Level Event in September, in New York. In addition, he announced that Land Day 4 would take place in Bonn, Germany, in June 2011, with a particular focus on forests and landscape approaches. The 10th UNCCD COP which takes place from the October 10, to October 21, 2011 in Changwon, Republic of Korea was also noted. Mr. Briales-Rojas thanked members for their active participation at the meeting and closed the meeting at 3:20pm.
