



Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Summary Report, New York, USA

30 January 2011

In Attendance

FAO:	Eduardo Rojas (Chair) Peter Csoka Mette Loyche-Wilkie Lauren Flejzor	Secretariats	
		CBD:	Tim Christophersen
		GEF:	Ian Grey Dirk Gaul
		UNCCD:	Luc Gnacadja Melchiade Bukuru Jones Ruhombe Mr. Kamugisha
CIFOR:	Frances Seymour	UNFCCC:	María Sanz- Sánchez
ICRAF:	Dennis Garrity Paul Stapleton	UNFF:	Jan McAlpine UNFF Professional Staff
ITTO:	Amha Bin Buang		
IUCN:	Stewart Maginnis		
IUFRO:	Alexander Buck		
UNDP:	Charles McNeill		
UNEP:	Ibrahim Thiaw	Guests:	
World Bank:	Peter Dewees	Co-Chairs AHEG:	Ambassador Macharia Kamau Jan Heino
		Major Group Focal Point:	Lambert Okrah

1. Opening and Welcome

Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General for Forestry of FAO and Chair of the CPF, welcomed CPF members and invited guests to the first CPF meeting of 2011, convened on the margins of the Ninth Session of the UNFF (UNFF9). The agenda for the meeting, along with the minutes of the last informal meeting were adopted.

2. UNFF9 discussions, including preparations for the HLS (2nd and 3rd February 2011, NYC, USA)

Ms. Jan McAlpine briefed members on the main outcomes of the first week of UNFF9, highlighting the discussions in working groups, as well as in the informal contact group on inter-sessional forest finance activities. Members were informed of the invitations directed to the CPF, and to individual members, on specific tasks to be performed related to forest financing, forests and people, and forest-related reporting, among other. Members States' interest in CPF's forest finance-related work was particularly noted. Ms. McAlpine mentioned that UNFF is aware that each CPF member organization has its independent governing body and that the Forum could only invite members to contribute to its work. On the informal contact group discussions, the Co-Chairs of the AHEG1, Ambassador Macharia Kamau and Mr. Jan Heino, briefed the CPF of envisaged inter-sessional activities, from now until spring 2013. They underscored the decision of the special session of the UNFF9, calling for a broad assessment of the finance issue in order for the Forum to take a decisions in 2013 on the forest financing actions its should consider, including on a global forest fund. Members were encouraged to attend the next round of informal discussions.

The expectations for the inter-sessional period, leading up to the second Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG2) and UNFF10, and the specific invitations to CPF, namely to report on its existing and future work on forest finance, to support all activities of the Facilitative Process and to organize an Organizational Led Initiative (OLI) were the main points of discussion. Ms. McAlpine explained that the OLI would focus on key issues of forest finance, including an analysis of the gaps and connections. Such analysis would also be undertaken within the context of the Rio Conventions. She also mentioned that the CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) would undertake the bulk of the work, in part, through updating and expanding the 2008 AGF paper as contribution to the AHEG2. Additional activities requested by the Forum to the AGF, include providing proposals on ways to improve access to resources, while enabling developing countries to access such resources, keeping in mind the differences within funds and mechanisms. Donor countries' concerns were also noted especially regarding the use of existing resources and the difficulty to address the specific challenges that forest face.

The UNFFS would take the lead on this issue, with support of other CPF members. To follow up, members asked the UNFFS to provide greater information on the expected TOR, roadmap, timetable and deliverables. Members also noted potentials for synergies and suggested areas where their organizations could share best practices and lessons learned (e.g. financing gaps and opportunities related to biodiversity, forest research and dryland issues). Areas requiring further work were also mentioned such as: capacity frameworks for countries and international organizations, as well as translating national level finance needs and addressing the multifunctional benefits and services broadly at the international level. On this subject, ICRAF and the World Bank informed members of its Investment Forum on Landscape Restoration scheduled for May 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Agreed Actions:

- The Chair proposed to reactive the work of the AGF and to address the updating and expanding of the 2008 AGF paper at the next meeting of the CPF.
- As lead CPF focal point on forest finance, the UNFFS will begin the work on forest finance during the second half of 2011, and inform the CPF at its next meeting of the activities to date. The UNFFS will inform CPF and its AGF members of the activities requested by the Forum to be undertaken and delivered by AHEG2 and UNFF10. UNFFS will also provide TORs and a roadmap.
- Subsequently, CPF members should review the activities requested by the Forum and inform the UNFFS of what they can provide, support and how they can contribute in both human and financial resources.
- A half day discussion will be devoted to this issue to strategically guide CPF's work on forest finance, and to identify the emerging issues and the different types of options, both domestic approaches and global solutions. A further review of this work shall be undertaken in late autumn 2011.
- Together with UNFFS, five other CPF members have committed to UNFF's forest finance work (FAO, ITTO, GEF, UNFCCC, WB). Other members may also join.

The complete UNFF9 High Level Segment Programme, including specific details of the High Level (HL) Ministerial Dialogue with the Heads of the member organizations of

the CPF was presented by Ms. McAlpine. Members discussed the format of the HL Dialogue, including the list of speakers, themes and questions, as proposed in the Concept Note circulated by Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretariat of the UNCCD. Views focused on the need to coordinate statements in order to strengthen CPF's voice and to demonstrate CPF's future work on the following three thematic topics: 1) Promoting the International Year on Forests 2011; 2) Forest financing and the implementation of the forest instrument and achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests; and 3) Forests and Rio+20.

Agreed Actions:

- On Monday and Tuesday, 31 January and 1st February, CPF members will meet, in small groups based on the thematic topic selected, to coordinate and review their statements.
- Members will circulate their statements to all partners via email.

3. CPF Forest Communications Strategy

Issues related to the preparation and the distribution of CPF press releases were discussed. The Chair reminded members of the process discussed at the last meeting of the CPF Communicator's Network (December 2010) and specifically underscored the type of media messages sought out by the CPF and the importance of consolidating draft releases at least two weeks before official posting. He proposed developing guidelines and a TOR for the CPF press releases to ensure a clear process. Recognizing the importance of communicating news that is of interest to journalists, he mentioned that CPF should aim to highlight the relevance of forests and its multiple functions, and not just advertise what CPF or its members are doing. Members noted that there would be different media related and press related products, and thus some flexibility should be sought for the final products. Different channels of distribution for the press releases and fact sheets were also discussed, including the option of hiring a media company, e.g. Burness. Due to budgetary restrictions, it was however decided that CPF communication focal points would rely on their individual lists for distribution. Members opined on how the CPF communication focal points could work together and keep building on the momentum of the International Year of Forests. In this context, the Chair highlighted the proposal of establishing an International Day on Forests and suggested to create a strategy for the Day.

A proposal for a new CPF logo, depicting the seven thematic elements of SFM, was also presented by the Chair. The proposal was prepared by an external designer, with the guidance of FAO. While thanking FAO for the proposal, several members offer their input on how to improve the existing logo and the advantages and disadvantages of the newly proposed one. It was suggested that at least two additional designs be presented to CPF before taking a decision on a new logo.

Agreed Actions:

- The lead CPF member organization on a specific month should prepare drafts press releases and circulate them at least two weeks before they are officially posted. In the case a member does not have the capacity to do this, another organization would be asked to send the drafts out.

- All members agreed to the establishment of the CPF Communication Group as a CPF initiative. This new CPF initiative will be led by CIFOR, FAO and UNFFS. The TOR for this initiative and its new title will be decided at the next CPF meeting.
- UNFFS will post an announcement and inform members of the timing schedule for each CPF Head of organization to tape a one minute video message promoting the International Year of Forests. Video messages will be posted on the IYF website.
- FAO will commission two additional logo proposals. These will be presented to the CPF at its next meeting.

4. Taking stock of the outcome of Cancun, including Forest Day 4

Ms. María Sanz- Sánchez, UNFCCC Secretariat, presented an overview of the forest negotiations in Cancun, highlighting the launch of the REDD+ mechanism, including guidance on the first two phases, e.g. the REDD Readiness and implementation phases. Finance for these, as yet, has not been defined. Details concerning the implementation of the Green Fund are also still open, although it was noted that the Fund would explore perform based activities covering everything in the forest sector, such as forest conservation, SFM and the enhancement of forest stocks.

Other developments mentioned include methodological guidelines for developed countries related to monitoring system (MRV), reference levels and a system to address safeguards. The need to build countries' capacity to apply IPCC guidelines and to explore synergies was also expressed. Forest issues in the LCA and SBSTTA and the growing focus on LULUCF activities, specifically on the drivers of deforestation and the role of the agriculture sector were also noted. Ms. Sanz- Sánchez informed members of the Bangkok meeting from 3-8 April, including the status of the LCA workshop and the focus of SBSTA's work programme. She mentioned that a review of the reference levels of 41 countries would help determine if this would remain an option. Discussions followed with a particular interest on the issues to be addressed in Durban and the need to advance other areas, such as the role of forest adaptation.

Ms. Frances Seymour, CIFOR, reported on Forest Day 4 (FD4), recapping some points of the debrief provided by John Colmey, in Cancun. Although FD4 was seen as a big success, she made a few points on some areas which could be improved. She mentioned the challenges of having too many speakers, as it made it difficult for participants to engage in discussions and to interact in learning events. She informed members that an in-depth assessment of FD4 would be available in June.

Looking forward, Ms. Seymour presented a concept note on FD5 (Durban, South Africa, December 2011). Expected funding, member's contributions, and potential changes to the programme, specifically the layout of plenary and special sessions, were some of the points addressed. She encouraged members to provide CIFOR with their proposals by early February to build on those features of Forest Day which are most constructive and which would generate greater opportunities for interaction and dialogue with the audience. As for funding she informed members that contributions were already arriving and that CIFOR would apply the surplus to the next forest day budget. She proposed to keep member's assessment between 15K and 20K. Interest

from Agriculture Day was also highlighted, with support expressed by many members to explore ways to bridge the two agendas.

Members reiterated their appreciation and recognized CIFOR's professionalism in carrying out FD4. The idea of restructuring FD4 was well received however, since FD's are a collective endeavor, any change should avoid creating less visibility on CPF members. The relationship between Land Day (June 2011) and FD was also stressed, in particular noting with appreciation the connections presented in the concept note on the role of forests in combating land degradation, drought and desertification. Members also express their views on the costs and on how such would be represented. The importance of having simultaneous transitions in English, Spanish and French was also noted. In addition, identification of the key issues and target audience of FD5 was sought. In this regard, members noted that Durban could be a constructive platform to address Forests and Rio + 20. A member also proposed to consider organizing additional Forest Days during other high level events to create new channels of discussion with other target groups.

Agreed Actions

- Members agreed to amend the programme by removing sub-plenaries and allocating greater time for Learning Event discussions. Members will also provide CIFOR with possible themes for Learning Events and propose approaches to help strengthen CPF's FD branding.
- CIFOR will review the budget and include costs for French simultaneous translation. CIFOR will also start identifying a few High Level Speakers and send invitations out as soon as possible.
- CIFOR also invited members to appoint their FD5 focal points and communication focal points.

5. Updates of CPF initiatives

Members briefly discussed the next steps for the CPF and the AGF on the overall theme of UNFF10: "Forests and Economic Development", including its four sub-themes. Brief updates were also provided on the Forest Degradation and Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting Initiatives, including implementation of the forest instrument (Brief summaries Attached). On the first, members took note of progress in preparing draft chapters on measuring degradation, and the proposed follow-up peer reviews. The potential contribution of this work to reporting on REDD+ and the GOFs was noted. ICRAF also commented that the initiative could add a new dimension on trees outside forests. UNCCD supported this idea, adding that this could help depict the status of land cover and land degradation. Members recognized the importance of revitalizing the Initiative on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting and reviewing the lessons learned from FRA 2010, and other processes such as the CBD, to help countries report to UNFF11 in 2015, and provide forest-related information to the MDG Summit in 2015 and the CBD in 2020. FAO reported on last year's meeting (October 2010) on the margins of COFO. The need to brainstorm further on the issues, update the portal on reporting, and hold discussions with other partners, including C&I processes, was suggested. FAO reported that the new Team Leader of the Global Forest Assessment and Reporting would be on board by March and that he would be leading the Streamlining Reporting Initiative. A possible meeting may be held later this year.

The importance and value added of these initiatives for all members was highlighted. Some related activities mentioned, include the CBD TEMATEA module on forest biodiversity to be launched on the 22nd of May. Several members expressed their interest in tackling reporting matters and working together on the reporting Initiative. In this regard, the UNFFS underscored the UNFF9 draft resolution which contains decisions on reporting. In particular, Ms. McAlpine underlined a draft decision inviting FAO to integrate the elements of the forest instrument and the GOFs into their FRA and SOFO reporting. She noted that should the UNFF agree to this, it provide an entry point for follow-up action and collaboration with the FRA and SOFO processes. Members noted the need to understand different reporting processes, especially since FRA looks at quantifiable indicators, and other processes, such as the UNFF, would require a separate reporting structure and format.

Members were briefed by ITTO and CBD on the Working Group on Advancing a Common Understanding on SFM. As the status of the Initiative remains as last discussed in December 2010, members asked for additional time to review its work and to address this at the next meeting. Lastly, IUFRO highlighted the increased interest of experts to engage in the Global Forest Information Service (GIFS). He mentioned the type of feedback received, including blogs and media coverage. The results of the initiative will soon be published.

Agreed Actions

- Members should inform FAO about their focal points on the Streamlining Forest Related Reporting Initiative.
- Members will receive updates of all CPF Joint Initiative at the next meeting.

6. Other Business, including Upcoming Forest Related Events

CPF members received an update by Mr. Lambert Okrah, NGO Major Group Focal Point, on a joint project proposal "Intensifying Major Groups Involvement in the Implementation of UNFF Decisions". Mr. Okrah expressed thanks to the CPF for the opportunity to attend the meeting and present the views of major groups. Recognizing differences among the nine major groups, he underscored the main challenge they all face, namely how to translate global policy decisions to enhance their work at the local level and, vice versa, promote and help shape policies to support global level work. He informed members of the Major Group Initiative in support of the UNFF9, held in July 2010, in Accra, Ghana. He presented three activities covered in the draft proposal including, capacity building workshops for major groups to help reach common positions ahead of UNFF sessions and preparations for another global workshop to provide input for UNFF10. Mr. Okrah also proposed greater major group involvement in the work of the CPF, as observers, and encouraged CPF's financial support for Major Group's coordination arrangement. (Proposal Attached)

Several members supported the draft proposal, emphasizing the positive contributions provided by major groups to the UNFF process, thus far, as a result of greater coordination and meetings ahead of UNFF sessions to pre-negotiate their positions. Members also recalled earlier attempts to establish a CPF network to work more proactively with major groups. They expressed the value of these new approaches to engage closely with major groups ahead of the next session of the UNFF.

Members were brief on UNFFS work with low forest cover countries and progress in reactivating the Tehran Process. She highlighted the UNFFS's MOU with UNCCD and the strategy in place to address forest and land management priorities and challenges in LFCCs. Since some members felt that the Tehran process was not moving forward, others described activities undertaken in countries with low forest cover and expressed their interest in supporting further work, for example on the Great Green Wall Project. Ms. McAlpine also noted that the UNFFS would be working closely with the UNCCD and the Global Mechanism on financing for LFCCs and that it would organize a workshop on facilitating forest financing in support of LFCCs, in September 2011, in Tehran, Iran. Mr. Gnacadja mentioned that the process has to move forward in the context of the joint cooperation with the UNFFS. CPF members were encouraged to support this work. Mr. Gnacadja also informed members of the theme for the World Day on Desertification: "Forests to keep the drylands working". Also highlighted was the film: "The man who stopped the desert", on the border concepts of drylands and land management. It will be screened on February 2nd during the launch of the International Year of Forests.

On CPF activities for 2011, the World Bank reported on the upcoming Investment Forum on Landscape Restoration scheduled for May 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya. CBD reported on a meeting in June 2011, in London, UK, to identify indicators for the CBD biodiversity targets. All CPF members will be invited. He also mentioned a series of Capacity Building Workshops on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. The first will take place in Singapore in March 2011, followed by another in Latin America later in the year. ITTO highlighted the International Seminar on SFM to be held in Tokyo, Japan in March 2011, as well as updates on the Asia Forest Partnership and the Lombok Conference on forest tenure to be held in July 2011, in Indonesia.

Agreed Actions

- Members agreed to review the Major Group proposal and to explore how and what CPF could do to strengthen their interaction with major groups.
- UNCCD will report on the World Day on Desertification at the next meeting.
- Members agreed to hold the next meeting in June 2011.