



In attendance:

CIFOR: Peter Holmgren
John Colmey

FAO: Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Chair)
Eduardo Mansur
Peter Csoka

ICRAF: Tony Simons

ITTO: Hwan-Ok Ma

IUCN: Stewart Maginnis

IUFRO: Alexander Buck

UNDP: Dearbhla Keegan

UNEP: Ibrahim Thiaw

GEF: Ian Gray

UNCCD: Sergio Zelaya
Elisabeth Barsk- Rundquist
Sven Walter

UNFCCC: Jenny Wong
Dirk Nemitz

UNFF: Jan McAlpine
Catalina Santmaria

Regrets: CBDS, World Bank

Discussion on the draft Concept Note “Forest Day 2013 and Beyond”, prepared by CIFOR for the CPF, in follow up to the CPF meeting on 1 December 2012

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, thanked members for attending the teleconference. He noted that a couple CPF members had provided written comments to CIFOR on the draft Concept Note “Forest Day 2013 (FD 2013) and Beyond”, as well as input on CPF member organizations’ Conferences in 2013 which FD 2013 could be linked to (See Annex 1.) The CPF also made reference to its last meeting summary report in 2012, held in Doha, Qatar, recognizing that no decision was reached on FD 2013 and beyond.

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR, thanked members for their time and engagement in the discussion on FD 2013 and beyond, reiterating CIFOR’s intention to continue working with CPF members in future FDs, as reflected in the CPF summary report from Doha. Current preparations for FD 2013 were presented for the first time to CPF members by John Colmey, CIFOR. He highlighted the collaboration developing with UNEP and ICRAF for FD 2013 to take place from 16 to 17 September 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya. He also referred to the interest expressed by other CPF and non-CPF members, including various Africa Forest Networks whom are trying to accommodate their meeting dates to ensure for meaningful stakeholder participation at FD 2013.

Discussions followed on the proposed dates, given that several members opined on having FDs linked to an international event, such as the UNCCD COP 11- (date to be provided), UNCBD COP12 in 2014, and to avoid overlapping with the UNGA 68th session scheduled for 24 to 29 September 2013, in New York. Some

members felt that the location should be deduced from the venue of potential international events and not pre-decided, as reflected in the draft Concept Note.

The Chair echoed the importance of collectively deciding on the next FD, including the event it would be linked to, in order to address a specific venue, date and thematic issues. Additional questions were raised on the purpose and focus of FD 2013, for instance to ensure that FD does not duplicate with other global events such as UNFF, COFO, etc. CIFOR offered to develop a follow-up concept note on possible substantive topics for FD 2013. Topics mentioned included: dryforests, REDD+, gender, biofuels, forest finance, and forest-related communications in Africa.

According to CIFOR, the new FD process would provide an opportunity to bring forests and forestry to the broader development context, without being specifically linked to any thematic event. CIFOR is of the view that there would be greater traction, in connecting issues across sectors, from a stand alone meeting.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, CPF Chair, reflected on the exchange of views and stated that the FD concept could not be copyrighted. FAO highlighted four aspects of the new FD format for 2013 which require clarification. First, he questioned whether FD, at this stage, should continue to be a joint CPF initiative or a separate event led by CIFOR. Subsequently, he raised a query on the objective of the new FD format, how it plans to manage competition with other meetings, and what its funding expectations would be, given its proposed two-day set-up, which would impact travel costs. Future FDs should be inclusive. All countries need to be considered as possible FD hosts.

Eduardo Mansur, FAO, opined on the important momentum FD generated in fora where forests were overlooked. IUCN, noted that the most memorable FDs were in Bali (FD1) and Cancun (FD4), as these helped to obtain demonstrable endorsements on forest issues in the decision-making process of the UNFCCC. Many remarked on FD's strategic shift, and questioned whether it was more desirable to link FDs with other events, such as the UNCCD COP11 to address the links between forestry and drylands.

CPF's brand, and its future relationship to FD were also discussed. Ms. McAlpine, UNFF, reminded members that to-date FD is a CPF initiative and annual event. This point should not be treated as a question of language. The fundamental point is whether CPF will lend its name to FD 2013, and whether CPF can agree jointly on the date and venue for the next FD in 2013. As it stands it is unclear whether FD 2013 will be linked to a major event.

Building on views thus far, the Chair invited all members to indicate whether CPF would prefer keeping the existing modality, of CPF FDs led by CIFOR, or withdrawing its brand in the new FD concept.

Alexander Buck, IUFRO, stated preference for a joint CPF event, and requested clarification on the target audience. IUFRO supports CIFOR in convening FD 2013, as part of CPF.

Stewart Magginis, IUCN, emphasized the need to be clear on who FD 2013 would be targeting as well as the change process CPF intends to influence. In his opinion, stand alone events would not be desirable.

Ibrahim Thaiw, UNEP recalled CPF's common purpose on FDs, and called for CPF's united approach and collaborative spirit to continue. He proposed that in future CPF could link FDs to the International Day of Forests, having events on a rotational basis, with a clear focus and target group. UNEP supports CIFOR's FD 2013 proposal as planned for September 2013, in Nairobi.

Jenny Wong, UNFCCC, opined that the audience for FD should be broaden to a larger constituency (i.e stakeholders not attending the COPs). Taking in account the possible interface between Landscape Day and FD, Ms. Wong suggested that FD could reach out to implementing agencies at regional and local levels, while the policy issues at the global level would be addressed at Landscape Day. UNFCCC will not co-sponsor FD 2013, but will provide in-kind support as a CPF member.

Sergio Zelaya, UNCCD, recognized the collegial effect of the Partnership. He noted Mr. Luc Gnacadja's written comments, which supports FDs, as an inclusive joint CPF event, and part of the programmatic long-term approach of CPF. He also noted preference for FD 2013 to be linked to an international event. In moving forward, he called for understanding of the target audience and strategic thinking on how the venues for FDs could maximise benefits for all. A possible venue would be UNCCD COP11. UNCCD expressed interest in working with CIFOR to update the draft Concept Note, should CPF agreed in linking FD 2013 to UNCCD COP11.

Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, UNCCD/GM, supported comments made by other members on having FD 2013 as a joint CPF event and cautioned, should FD be a stand alone event, it may be misread by countries and donors, and the target audience may be misinterpreted.

Hwan-Ok Ma, ITTO, underlined the need for better understanding of the FD 2013 strategy. He also highlighted the 49th Session of the ITTC and Associated Sessions of the Committees, 25-30 November, 2013, Libreville, Gabon, as an option for FD 2013.

Ian Gray, GEF, noted that GEF has not been a major player, but signalled its support to maintain FDs as part of CPF.

Jan McAlpine, UNFF, questioned FD's purpose. She stated that UNFFS supports a CPF joint initiative, but how initiatives are to be managed is a separate issue. FDs should occur in tandem with other meetings relevant to forests and forestry, to influence leaders and the ownership of the other processes. This would ensure greater visibility and broader participation. If the venue is fixed on Nariobi, the event could be held on the margins of the UNEP Governing Council meeting in 2014. Ms. McAlpine noted UNFF's interest in joining FD 2013.

John Colmeley, CIFOR, reminded members of CIFOR's willingness to link FD to a major event, but was unaware of any to-date. Peter Holmgren, CIFOR, recalled CPF's minutes from Doha: "to organize Landscape Day as a substitute for FDs and the Conventions Pavilion, at the UNFCCC COPs. FD's will continue to be organized and coordinated by CIFOR. Future FDs will be convened annually in developing countries. At the next retreat, CPF will address the criteria for initiatives to be labelled " a joint CPF initiative". He stated CIFOR's commitment to continue to support FDs in the context of CPF, and to further invest in this work at the UNFCCC COP's, ensuring a main focus on forests at Landscape Day. CIFOR is already working on this and is interested in joining forces with partners to ensure that forest issues keep a high profile at the UNFCCC COPs, building on what has already been established as the modality of cooperation.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO and CPF Chair, requested CIFOR to further elaborate the FD 2013 and Beyond Concept Note to clarify its purpose and audience. He disagreed with holding future FDs only in developing countries, and asked for the Doha minutes to be amended. He also noted that no decision on FD 2013 and the future of FDs was reached at Doha, since members agreed to further discuss the Concept Note in April 2013, on the margins of UNFF10, and to take a decision on this at the next CPF Retreat in 2013. He also suggested that the CPF Communicators Group prepare a concept note examining the possibility of linking future FDs to the International Day of Forests. The note would be discussed at the CPF Retreat in 2013.

Tony Simon, ICRAF, brought up references to other parallel events, questioning what outcome CPF intends to achieve by linking to other events. He encouraged members to lend greater support to CIFOR to develop a more robust concept note which could be presented to donors. He also expressed ICRAF's support in moving FD 2013 forward.

As a compromise way forward, the Chair proposed accepting the CIFOR proposal for arranging FD on an exceptional basis in 2013, as a stand alone event in Nairobi in September, while CPF develops a strategy for future FDs at the CPF Retreat in 2013. In this regard, the Chair proposed that FD would continue to be organized by CIFOR, on behalf of the CPF, as recognized in CIFOR's draft Concept Note Forest Day 2013 and Beyond, as the modality applied during the past FDs.

CIFOR commented that the proposal put forward in its Concept Note is to continue to coordinate the event *in collaboration with*, interested CPF members each year and if other proposals are to be made they will require further consideration by members before arriving at a final decision. Subject to CPF agreement, the FD event would continue to carry the CPF brand (or, where necessary, just those of endorsing members) and therefore continue to benefit the organization and its members.

Conclusion

CPF members (10 out of 13) were not in agreement with the CIFOR Proposal. Therefore, the Chair concluded that a clear majority of CPF members had expressed their preference to respect the consolidated modality of CPF engagement in FD that is incompatible with the proposed Concept Note. Due to the range of opinions expressed, CPF members agreed to return to the discussion of FD at the next meeting of the CPF in April 2013 and to take a decision on FD 2013 and beyond at the CPF Retreat in 2013.

The offered modality would not be a CPF issue but a bilateral one between a restricted number of CPF members.

The following final observations were made by the Chair, before closing the meeting:

- The concept of FD 2013, and beyond, is still in progress. Planning for FD 2013 would not predetermine FDs in 2014 and beyond.
- In order to accommodate the views of all members, CIFOR was requested to explore the possibility of linking FD 2013 to the ITTO or UNCCD Conferences noted in Annex1.
- Subsequently, CIFOR should prepare a follow up concept note on the purpose and target audience of FD 2013, in line with its proposal for September 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ICRAF, IUFRO, UNEP, and UNFF will support preparations for FD 2013, in the framework of CPF.
- Follow up discussions on FD 2013, including planning beyond 2013, will continue at the next CPF meeting in April 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, on the margins of UNFF10.
- The CPF Chair may convene another conference call before April 2013.

Annex1. Views of four CPF members in response to CIFOR's email dated 14 December 2012, with subject "Draft Concept Note Forest Day 6, other comments"

| Input | Key points | Date |
|-------|---|------------|
| ITTO | <p>Relevant meetings from ITTO's perspective when considering timing/place of next Forest Day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 49th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees, 25-30 November, 2013, Libreville, Gabon 2. 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, 1-3 June, 2013, Yokohama, Japan (this one might be relevant if Forest Day 7 goes ahead in May, outcomes could feed into this high level meeting that will focus on environment). | 1/12/12 |
| ITTO | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow up to the December 1 email concerning relevant events in 2013. 2. For info, the USA will fund a ministerial meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in conjunction with the 49th ITTC session in Libreville at the end of November, we checked the dates of the UNFCCC COP as suggested at the CPF meeting and confirmed that the COP finishes before the ITTC session. | 14/12/2012 |
| ICRAF | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the commentary on COPs I suggest we credit WB and Rachel Kyte for pushing for a landscapes day (even though as seen in FD6 movie clip ICRAF was calling for this approach at Poznan, and others even earlier). 2. Also FD in future might broaden its COP reach to CBD and UNCCD rather than just UNFCCC 3. There should also be mention of SBSTAs 4. We should also think about how this annual Forest Day with a new format will interface/replace/compete/ support existing multi-annual forest events (WFC, IUFRO, COFO, etc) 5. In terms of objectives, FD2013 could usefully frame what goes into the post MDG framework (e.g. SDGs) on forests 6. Also in terms of objectives, helping countries frame forestry inside a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approach may benefit it 7. Next year already has several forest events in Q1/Q2 including: Economist Forest Meeting, March, Sweden; FAO Forest and Food Security, May, Rome; UNFF, April, Istanbul; International Congress on Planted Forests, May, Edinburgh 8. September may be safer in terms of any post-election wobbles (March 4 election, April 3rd likely presidential run-off, May – ICC cases from last Kenya election start in Hague) 9. Perhaps we may wish to focus this event on helping countries develop national strategies, plans, capacities, policies, positions in contrast to COPs which had more of multilateral level 10. 500-1000 maybe too ambitious and/or too much focus on quantity rather than quality 11. Checking on UNEP conference hosting prices, hotel costs in Nairobi, sponsorships required then a \$200k budget for 1000 delegates may be under-budgeting 12. Will folks travel just for a one day meeting? The idea of pre-meetings feeding into the main meeting sounds good. 13. Broadening co-hosting of FD2013 beyond CPF members would be good especially with various African Forest Networks already in place. In summary, ICRAF is happy to experiment with you on this new format. We would prefer September in terms of giving a heads up to our partners and having enough lead time but if you feel you could pull a rabbit out of the hat by May then more power to you. | 17/12/2012 |

| Input | Key points | Date |
|-------|---|------------|
| UNEP | <p>1. Regarding the concept note, we would like to offer UNEP's support to CIFOR in terms of liaising with Conference Services here at the UN compound, in case it is decided that Forest Day will come to Nairobi (which we would appreciate). We can also use Forest Day in Nairobi as a crystallization point for a number of technical meetings that are already budgeted for, but for which we have not yet set a date.</p> <p>2. We hope that we can welcome Forest Day and CPF members in Nairobi in the course of 2013.</p> | 20/12/2012 |
| UNCCD | <p>1. The concept note should clearly refer in paragraph 1 to "UNFCCC COP" (it currently only refers to COP) as other convention and agreements hold COPs as well.</p> <p>2. The CPF participation to Forest Day should continue and the process should remain as inclusive as possible; therefore we consider that it is not advisable to refer to only "interested CPF members" for the participation at forest day. As such forest day will be part of the programmatic long-term approach of CPF. Even though the brand is of CIFOR, the programmatic approach of CPF has been, since the onset, to be part and parcel of such event</p> <p>3. We commend the highlighting of new and broader issues, such as dry forest, biodiversity management, as highlighted in the concept paper; equally, we support the approach to opening up to other stakeholders as well as regional and national issues.</p> <p>4. Definitely, the Forest Day should be linked with a large international event. The COPs of UNCCD and CBD present another opportunity. This means that the location should be deduced from the venue of such international events and not pre- decided it, as mentioned in the concept paper. At the same time, we need to ensure that the Forest Day does not duplicate other global events such as UNFF, COFO, etc</p> <p>5. We also agree with inputs from others in relation with the promotion of the science-policy interface, focus approach and synergy issues that could be undertaken by FD, to increase the effectiveness of such events. This could be done in accordance with the programme of work of CPF and its members.</p> <p>6. CPF members would need to budget their own participation and cost to future Forest Days, although at this stage, the organizer would not be able to tell how much each participating agency would expect to contribute above their own participation.</p> <p>7. The UNCCD remains fully available and committed to support the organization of future Forest Days.</p> | 09/01/2013 |