



Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Draft Meeting report

3 November 2017, FAO HQ, Rome

In Attendance

FAO: Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)

Eva Müller

Peter Csoka

Dominique Rozas

CBD: Catalina Santamaria

CIFOR: Kristina Roing de Nowina

GEF: Paul Hartman

ITTO: Sheam Satkuru

IUCN: Chris Buss*

IUFRO: Alexander Buck

Andre Purret

UNDP: Jyoti Mathur-Filipp

UNEP: Ivo Muder

UNFCCC: Jenny Wong

UNFF: Hossein Moeini-Meybodi

Ryo Nakamura

WB: Garo Batmanian

Regrets: ICRAF, UNCCD

* via audio-conference

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ, Rome on 3 November 2017.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair

Hiroto Mitsugi, CPF Chair, introduced himself and welcomed members to the meeting held in conjunction with the FAO Conference on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable Future (30 October-1 November) and the meeting of the Expanded Steering Committee for the 2018 CPF Conference (2 November). He highlighted his vision as new CPF chair on the important role for CPF and its members in translating aspiration into action to implement existing forest-related commitments.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Introduction of members and update on recent developments

The Chair invited a tour-de-table to share information on recent developments related to members' activities.

CIFOR shared an update on its leadership transition, informing of the appointment of Dr. Robert Nasi as Interim Director General from 1 November, replacing Dr. Peter Holmgren.

IUFRO briefed members on the outcome of its 125th Anniversary Congress and thanked those members who contributed to Science in Dialogue sessions during the Congress, highlighting a high percentage of female participants (45 percent) in the overall attendance. It was added that IUFRO is undertaking a review on its strategy and a panel led by Tim Christophersen presented its recommendations during the Congress.

ITTO encouraged members to actively participate in ITTC-53 (27 Nov-2 Dec 2017, Lima, Peru) and reported on the current status of planning for a joint project with WB on green/sustainable value chain targeting 3 countries in 2018 and additional 3 countries in 2019.

GEF provided an update on the current status of the GEF7 replenishment process, including the result of its second meeting and the schedule of two upcoming replenishment meetings prior to the Sixth GEF Congress (24-29 June 2018, Da Nang, Vietnam), highlighting the continued importance of forests across its programmes, particularly SFM and other forest programmes.

UNFCCC shared the current status of preparation for the UNFCCC COP23, highlighting its main work to develop a guidance/rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and outlining the schedule of forest-related events during the COP, including a side event on REDD+ to be organized by the Green Climate Fund. It was added that so far 26 countries have submitted their forest reference emission levels and interim results on the implementation of REDD+ and a dozen more are expected to do so in 2018.

UNDP informed that a webpage on forests was launched on the UNDP website. It was added that the UNDP serves as the secretariat for the New York Declaration on Forests. It was also added that its Green Commodities Programme recently launched the Good Growth Partnership in partnership with GEF. UNDP will organize 6 side events related to REDD+ during UNFCCC COP23, including on forest action day, and a bicycle-riding advocacy event in collaboration with a 2017 Tour de France cycling team on roles of forests in climate mitigation.

UNEP provided an update on its forest-related programmes and activities, including the one to scale up climate finance for forest landscape restoration, a recent launch of the 1 Gigaton Coalition report on renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries, partnership with GEF on green fund supported by Norway, and partnership with WB on changing landscape in the tropics.

WB informed that it is expected to approve investment support to a group of new and existing program countries, including Brazil, DRC, Honduras and Zambia, under its Forest Investment Program in December 2017.

3. Update on progress in the implementation of UNFF12 resolution and intersessional activities

The UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the UNFF12 resolution and intersessional activities, including an overview of the scope of expert meetings scheduled to be held on the week of 20 November in Nairobi, Kenya, including: i) Regional and Sub-Regional contribution to the implementation of the UNSPF; ii) Major Groups and other relevant Stakeholders' contribution to the implementation of the UNSPF; iii) Reporting to the Forum. The outcome of these meetings will feed into the relevant UNFF13 official documentation for consideration by the Forum. It was added that two expert meetings were held in September and October 2017 respectively to develop a proposal for consideration at UNFF13 on communication and outreach strategy for the UNSPF.

The UNFF Secretariat informed that the Forum will hold a ministerial roundtable at UNFF13 to consider contributions of forests to SDGs under review by the 2018 HLPF. To facilitate the discussion, four background analytical studies are being commissioned with a focus on forest ecosystem services, forests and water, forests and energy, and consumption and production of forest products.

Members were reminded that CPF-related UNFF12 decisions included: i) finalization and presentation of the CPF workplan; ii) development of global core set of forest-related indicators; and iii) consideration on expansion of membership, noting that these activities will be captured in the relevant documentation on the contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF by CPF and its members, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and others stakeholders. Members were also reminded to submit their inputs to highlight significance of forests to the 2030 Agenda by 30 November so that these inputs could be included in the relevant documentation for consideration by the Forum.

Members noted the inclusion of a section dedicated to CPF in the UNFF13 documentation on contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF by CPF and its members, regional and subregional partners, and major groups and other stakeholders.

FAO suggested to explore the possibility to seek synergies between the work of SOFO 2018 on contribution of forests to SDGs and the UNFF13 without pre-empting the launch and discussion of SOFO at FAO. It was also noted that attention should be given to closer future coordination of SOFO, FRA and UNFF thematic priorities to maximise the synergies.

Key Action:

- Members are invited to submit their inputs to highlight significance of forests to the 2030 Agenda by 30 November.

4. Update on recent Joint Initiatives

Members provided an update on the current status of their respective Joint Initiatives.

ITTO shared the outcome of the conference on Sustainable Wood for Sustainable Forests. The conference attracted over 100 participants and focused on the business model of sustainable wood production, including its linkages to sustainable forest management, value chains, livelihoods, investments and financing mechanisms. It was noted that the key messages of the conference could provide an input to UNFF13 and 2018 HLPF through the CPF Conference, and their follow-up actions could be considered at its second conference, subject to further consideration by interested members.

Based on the draft concept note and proposed main themes and topics of the conference, FAO provided an update on the current status of preparation for the 2018 CPF Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action, highlighting the progress made at the Expanded Steering Committee meeting, particularly on the development of the conference programme, preliminary distribution of tasks among members, keynote speakers, a list of invitees and the invitation process, and planning of communication and outreach activities.

IUCN briefed on the current status of the Forest Landscape Restoration JI, outlining the approval of the Project Identification Form for the project by the GEF Secretariat in August 2017 with indicative GEF support for the project at USD625,000 and indicative co-financing at USD722,000. IUCN hired a consultant to support the development of the full project proposal so as to start the implementation from January 2018 for 14 months and is in consultation with JI members regarding their roles and responsibilities for the project.

IUFRO provided an update on the Global Forest Expert Panel scientific assessment on forests and water, outlining the result of its first two meetings particularly on the outline of the assessment report and the allocation of lead authors to chapters. It was added that the final draft of chapters is scheduled to be completed by December 2017 and peer-reviewed in January 2018, and emerging findings and the final report will be presented at UNFF13 and the 2018 HLPF, respectively.

On the 2017 Wangari Maathai Award, FAO informed that it received 17 nominations and the jury is in the process of shortlisting nominees. The jury members have been selected based on members' suggestions: Mr. August Temu (Africa); Mr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto (Asia); Mr. Niels Elers Koch (Europe); Mr. José Joaquín Campos Arce (Latin America); Ms. Balgis Osman-Elasha (Near East); Ms. Penny Davies (North America). The jury will meet virtually on the week of 6 November to select a winner to be publicly announced at the award ceremony scheduled on 19 December at the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany. FAO thanked those members who pledged their contribution to the cash prize for the winner and added that it will cover the remaining gap this time, and requested CIFOR to kindly advise on the award ceremony logistics.

FAO provided an update on the current status of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators, highlighting its scope of work building on the outcome of the 2016 OLI, CPF task force meeting and FRA meeting. It was informed that FAO will convene a meeting from 13-14 December at FAO HQ, Rome to further advance the work and finalize its input for consideration by the Forum at UNFF13. It was reported that the current draft set

contained 20 indicators, including 14 indicators based on the FRA data and 6 indicators that require further data-gathering and input from CPF members. It was noted that the JI should contribute to the work on indicators by UNFF and COFO, as well as the SDG indicator process to ensure consistency. The need to find ways to bring the set to the attention of other governing bodies was also noted.

IUFRO briefed on the current status of the Global Forest Information Service, highlighting its history dating back to 2003 when it was launched and 2004 when it was approved as a CPF JI, and encouraged members to actively participate in the GFIS strategic meeting scheduled to be held in the afternoon of 3 November to explore ways to fully utilize its potential.

FAO provided an update on its IDF2018 preparations, outlining its plans including the production of a video spot and outreach materials and an event that brings together speakers from global cities to discuss contributions of forests to their cities, as well as the scope of related communication materials. IUFRO suggested highlighting the nexus between forests, water and cities as part of key messages in view of their close interlinkages and ongoing GFEP work on the subject. UNFFS added that it plans to hold an annual event at UNHQ, New York with the participation of high-level UN officials, including the message from the UN Secretary-General in view of the forest-related work of 2018 HLPF, noting the importance to feature the outcome of the CPF Conference in IDF2018 activities to promote multiple values of forests.

5. Discussion and decision on the implementation of UNFF12 resolution related to the Partnership

a) CPF workplan (para 14): Next steps in finalizing the workplan

FAO outlined the remaining areas for discussion to finalize a draft CPF workplan, particularly on budgetary information on JI activities, highlighting the need to revisit the budget estimates.

Members considered possible next steps and noted the need to: i) revisit the budget estimates on JIs, particularly on figures and related information on resources implication contained in the draft to ensure their accuracy; and ii) update the information on activities in 2018-2020 in accordance with the decisions made by UNFF and other governing bodies of members. Regarding budgetary information members were advised to review their contributions to recurrent activities taking into account the broader picture presented in the summary tables and provide also some explanation allowing insight into the content of the estimates. JI leaders were requested to kindly liaise with partners to make sure the consistency of the information provided.

Key Actions:

- Members will review the current draft workplan and provide updated information on recurrent activities and JIs, particularly on budget estimates for their respective JIs using the template, by the beginning of January 2018.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will finalize the draft CPF workplan for its presentation at UNFF13 based on members' submissions.

b) Expansion of CPF membership (para 15): Resuming discussion on next steps

Based on the introduction and updates provided by the Chair and the Secretariat, members noted the information provided by CITES and INBAR on benefits and contributions they could potentially bring to the Partnership. While recognizing potential added values that these two organizations could contribute to the Partnership, some members stressed the importance to ensure that potential new members commit their resources to actively participate in CPF meetings and JI activities to minimize the potential risks associated with inactive membership. Regarding the potential requests for membership that may be put forth in the future, a view was expressed that the Forum could consider providing key elements of criteria for membership to avoid ad-hoc approaches to requests for membership.

Members discussed possible next steps and decided to take into account the result of mapping exercise before taking a final decision on the current membership requests by CITES and INBAR at its next meeting.

Key Actions:

- FAO will circulate the revised note for mapping out existing capacities for members' consideration prior to the next meeting of the Partnership.
- Members will decide on the current membership requests by CITES and INBAR at its next meeting.

6. Any other business

a) Participation at UNFCCC COP23 and the GLF

Members provided updates on their respective forthcoming events at UNFCCC COP23 and the 2017 GLF, including UNDP's launch of the Global Platform on the New York Declaration on Forests (7 November), Forest Day and UN-REDD Programme and <2° Initiative Ride for Climate (12 November), ITTO side event on mangroves in the tropics (13 November) and Forest Landscape Restoration pavilion and CBD/GEF/UNEP side events at the GLF.

b) Forthcoming meetings of members

Members provided updates on their respective forthcoming meetings and events. These meetings and events included: ITTC-53 (27 Nov-2 Dec, Lima, Peru), CBD SBSTTA 21 (11 - 14 Dec, CBD HQ, Montreal), and CBD COP14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10-22 Nov 2018).

c) Next meeting of the Partnership

Members considered possible timing of the next meeting of the Partnership and decided to meet on 23 February after the conclusion of the CPF conference.

The Chair thanked for the excellent Vice-Chairpersonship by ITTO in 2017 and called for the nomination of the 2018 Vice-Chair. Members agreed to make a decision on this matter at the next meeting.

Key Actions:

- The next meeting of the Partnership will be held on 23 February 2018 at FAO HQ, Rome after the conclusion of the CPF conference.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the time and venue, as well as draft programme of the next meeting.
- Members will provide nominations of the CPF Vice-Chair for 2018 for consideration at its next meeting.
