



In Attendance

CBD:	Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias Lisa Janishevski	IUCN:	Carole Saint-Laurent
CIFOR:	John Colmey	UNCCD:	Sven Walter
FAO:	Maria Helena Semedo (Chair) Peter Csoka	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
GEF:	Ian Grey Pascal Martinez	UNEP:	Tim Christophersen Edoardo Zandri Abdelkader Bensada Nauman Haque
ITTO:	Takeshi Goto	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi Ryo Nakamura
IUFRO:	Alexander Buck Christoph Wildburger Andre Purret	WB:	Magda Lovei
		Regrets:	ICRAF, UNFCCC

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met in Paris, France on 3 December 2015.

1. Welcome and short introduction by the Chair

Maria Helena Semedo, Acting CPF Chair, welcomed members to the working meeting held on the margins of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, noting on the timeliness of the meeting after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by world leaders and the ongoing developments on the post-2020 climate change agreement.

The Chair expressed appreciation for members' contributions to activities of the Partnership during the XIV World Forestry Congress held in Durban in September 2015, and informed that the production of a short film on the CPF Dialogue has been completed and its web link will be shared.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted with the addition of an item on the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) topics and the consideration of the arrangements for the vice-chair for 2016.

2. Update by UNFFS on progress on the implementation of the UNFF11 Resolution and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UNFF Secretariat updated members on the progress made on the implementation of the UNFF11 Resolution, including: i) the current status of the draft UN General Assembly resolution on the UN Forest Instrument; ii) the decision of the UNFF Bureau to postpone the first meeting of AHEG (AHEG1), originally scheduled to be held from 20 to 22 January 2016, to 25 - 27 April 2016 at UNHQ NY; iii) the extended deadline for submission of proposals on the strategic plan of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) for 2017-

2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for 2017-2020 by 15 January 2016; iv) an expert study on possible elements for the IAF strategic plan scheduled to be finalized and shared by 15 February 2016; v) a small expert panel meeting scheduled to take place in March 2016 in Japan; vi) indicative schedule for the second meeting of AHEG (AHEG2) in September 2016, UNFF Working Group and UNFF Special Session in January 2017 and UNFF12 in May 2017.

The UNFF Secretariat also provided updates on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including preparatory status of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDG indicators related to forests, highlighting the roles of UNFF as an ECOSOC functional commission and the Partnership as an existing inter-agency network for the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder processes, particularly the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

Key Action:

- Members were encouraged to collectively and individually submit their views and proposals by 15 January 2016 on the IAF strategic plan for 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for 2017-2020, and were also encouraged to actively take part in the AHEG1 discussions to provide their inputs.

3. Discussion of elements for the implementation of the UNFF11 Resolution related to CPF

Based on the compilation by the Secretariat of inputs submitted by members the Chair provided an overview of the inputs submitted by members, highlighting the areas and options for actions or improvement, including the areas of emerging convergence and those for further discussion.

i. strengthening the Partnership by formalizing working modalities and developing procedures for its effective functioning and operation (paragraph 22 (a))

Moderated by FAO, members exchanged their views on working modalities and procedures of the Partnership for its effective functioning and operation, and held a discussion on a wide range of options to strengthen the Partnership, including through the development of a memorandum of understanding, terms of reference or charter, among others. Members also considered various views on the voluntary nature of the Partnership, the need to develop the Partnership's vision and define rules of procedure, membership and conduct of meetings in the context of the new document and the CPF workplan to be developed.

There was an emerging consensus regarding the need for a document that strengthens the recognition of the CPF including by the governing bodies of its members and that rules the internal functioning of the CPF and that these two major objectives should not necessarily be met by one document. Members agreed to initially consider the key components of the new document regardless of its eventual format, including the declaratory elements such as vision and functions, as well as internal arrangements such as rules of procedure. It was also agreed that the Chair will prepare a paper in consultation with the Secretariat based on the analysis on a current CPF Policy Document and taking into account discussions held at the working meeting and inputs submitted by members. The paper will identify specific areas for improvement on the matters discussed at the working meeting, and propose concrete options to strengthen the Partnership for further discussions.

ii. identifying ways to stimulate participation of existing members (paragraph 22 (b))

Moderated by CBD, members held a discussion on ways to stimulate participation of existing members. Members considered the full use of the current focal agency system to ensure ownership of members over activities of the Partnership, enhance recognition of the Partnership by governing bodies of members, and mobilize support from existing and potential donors. Members agreed to consider options to revitalize the current focal agency system and adjust it to the current mandates of the Partnership and its members.

Members noted that the process of formalization of working modalities and development of procedures as well as workplan by itself may help recommitment by existing members and their governing bodies. It was also noted that depending on the actual tasks and priorities of CPF some fluctuation of the activity of the individual members should be considered a natural phenomenon.

Members also considered the importance to inform their governing bodies of the new core functions and principles of the Partnership as contained in the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, based on which members may wish to identify potential areas for collaborative activities that contribute to the achievement of forest-related goals and objectives, including the SDGs, the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) and the Bonn Challenge, among others, taking into account shared interests and comparative advantages, as well as expectations from Member States.

iii. assessing current membership and potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise (paragraph 22 (c))

Moderated by IUFRO, members exchanged views on the current membership and potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise. Members recognized that the Partnership should consider the assessment of the existing and additional members in the context of the overall issue of formalization and the issue on the stimulation of participation by existing members. Some members highlighted that the current membership covers key international forest organizations and the expansion could pose an additional challenge to engage members whereas others stressed that the Partnership can benefit from new members in those subject areas deemed insufficiently covered by the current membership.

Members agreed that the Partnership should conduct a thorough assessment of the current membership and its capacities to identify potential areas for strengthening in the context of the new document and workplan of the Partnership. Any decision on a possible expansion of membership should be based on such an analysis considering also whether the identified capacity gaps could best be bridged by formal expansion or other, more efficient solutions could also exist.

iv. identifying ways to involve major groups and other stakeholders (paragraph 22 (d))

Moderated by WB, members held a discussion on ways to involve major groups and other stakeholders. Members considered the additional value of involving major groups and other stakeholders to bring in their respective expertise and perspectives, particularly through thematic collaboration, and ensure transparency and ownership over the activities of the Partnership. Members agreed on the need to identify potential thematic areas for collaboration and roles for major groups and other stakeholders in the context of the workplan of the Partnership prior to further consideration on ways to involve those stakeholders.

Members highlighted the need to consider an outreach mechanism to identify partners and stakeholders, inform them of and promote the work of the Partnership. Members agreed to consider further the possibility to reinvigorate the CPF Network and utilize it as a platform for communication and collaboration with stakeholders. Consideration could also be given to the benefit of establishing a “CPF Forum” to discuss key issues in a similar manner to the Wildlife Forum organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) during the WFC in Durban.

v. further development and expansion of thematic joint initiatives (paragraph 22 (g))

Moderated by UNEP, members considered the way forward on further development and expansion of thematic joint initiatives. Members highlighted the need to align thematic joint initiatives with the IAF Strategic Plan and include in the workplan of the Partnership. It was reminded that the scope of thematic joint initiatives is contained under paragraph 20 of the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33.

Members discussed the benefits of thematic joint initiatives as a practical tool to mobilize political support to the work of the Partnership and its members, as well as ensure accountability and transparency, in addition to their substantive contributions in their respective areas. It was also noted that joint initiatives could also support actions on the ground.

Members agreed on the need to set the minimum criteria as to what constitutes joint initiatives and reporting responsibilities in the context of the preparation of substantive inputs to the sessions of the Forum by the Partnership.

Members agreed on the need to identify areas for further development and expansion, taking into account comparative advantages of members. They also agreed on the need to review the existing thematic joint initiatives to decide on their future. Members also agreed on the need to identify those activities currently not branded as CPF activity but have been undertaken by multiple members in order to consider their inclusion.

FAO informed of a study that is being prepared on the current CPF joint initiatives to help the collective thinking. The study will be shared with members for comments and for consideration in the next steps.

Key Action:

- The Chair will prepare a paper in consultation with the Secretariat based on the analysis on the current CPF Policy Document in view of the current challenges and taking into account discussions held at the working meeting and written inputs submitted by members. The paper will identify specific areas for improvement on the matters discussed at the working meeting, and propose concrete options for the strengthening of the Partnership for further discussion.

4. Global Forest Expert Panel Topics

IUFRO briefed members on two suggested possible themes for the next GFEP assessment report “forests and water” and “illegal timber trade” identified through the consultations with members. In view of the importance of independent scientific input on both topics and their political significance for the global development agenda, IUFRO proposed to take up both topics concurrently, through a full-scale assessment on the topic of “forests and water” in line with the “Forests and Water – a five-year action plan” launched at the XIV World Forestry Congress, and a rapid response approach to the topic on “illegal timber trade” with a reduced scope and a shorter timeline compared to full-scale assessment.

Members welcomed the IUFRO’s proposal, noting the increased importance of the two themes at the international and national levels, as well as their linkages to other sectors and cross-sectoral issues such as governance.

IUFRO proposed the way forward for GFEP Rapid Response on illegal timber trade with a view to finalizing the report by the end of 2016, including: the scoping meeting on the margins of the second UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) scheduled in Nairobi, Kenya from 23-27 May 2016; scientific conference back-to-back with COP17 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) scheduled to be convened in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September-5 October 2016; presentation of emerging findings in a side event during the CITES COP 17; and presentation of the final results at the CBD COP13 scheduled to be convened in Cancún, Mexico from 4-17 December 2016. Members were invited to participate in the scoping meetings.

IUFRO also proposed the way forward on GFEP on forests and water to be initiated in spring 2016 and finalized by the end of 2017. UNEP and FAO offered to host the scoping meeting alongside the second UNEA and the 23rd session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, respectively. The UNFF Secretariat added that the 2016 IDF event in UNHQ in New York may provide a useful opportunity as the event is scheduled to celebrate both the

International Day on Forests (21 March) as well as World Water Day (22 March) co-organised by the UNFF Secretariat and UN-Water.

Key Action:

- Members were encouraged to participate in the scoping meeting for GFEP Rapid Response on illegal timber trade scheduled to take place on the margins of the second UNEA in Nairobi, Kenya from 23-27 May 2016, and the scoping meeting on GFEP on forests and water to be held in July 2016.

5. Timeline for finalizing decisions on above elements

FAO recalled the discussion at the last meeting of the Partnership and proposed the way forward to finalize a concept note on future modalities of the Partnership at the retreat to be held in spring 2016. Members explored options on the timeline to finalize decisions and decided to convene the second working meeting on the margins of the AHEG1 scheduled to take place in April 2016 at UNHQ NY, to be followed by a two-day retreat in June 2016 in Rome.

Key Action:

- Members agreed to hold the second working meeting immediately after the AHEG1 scheduled to be convened at UNHQ New York from 25-27 April 2016, to be followed by a two-day retreat in June 2016 in Rome. The Chair will identify the meeting dates in consultation with the Secretariat and will inform members of the meeting details.

6. Any other business

Members agreed that Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, will assume the 2016 CPF Vice-Chairpersonship, taking over from Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD. The Chair expressed her appreciation to Mr. Dias for his excellent service as the Vice-Chair throughout the year 2015.