



In Attendance

FAO: Peter Csoka	UNCCD: Nadhini Iyer Krishna
CBD: Catalina Santamaria	UNDP: Danae Maniatis
CIFOR: John Colmey*	UNEP: Juan Rengifo
GEF: Ulrich Apel	UNFCCC: Jenny Wong
Pascal Martinez	UNFF: Manoel Sorabl Filho
ITTO: Takeshi Goto	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
IUCN: Carole Saint-Laurent*	Mita Sen
IUFRO: John Parrotta	Ryo Nakamura
Alexander Buck	Tomasz Juszczak
Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers*	WB: Werner Kornexl
Iben Nathan*	

Regrets: ICRAF

* via audio-conference

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at UNHQ in New York on 24 April 2016.

1. Welcome and short introduction by the Chair

Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, welcomed members to the second working meeting of the Partnership held on the margins of the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG1) on Matters referred to in Paragraph 44 of ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33.

At the request of the CPF Chair and in absence of the Vice-Chair, Mr. Peter Csoka, FAO, chaired the meeting on behalf of the Chair. The Chair was unable to attend the working meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Tour de table and update on recent developments from members

The IUCN Secretariat shared that over 1,300 member organisations are expected to participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress scheduled to take place from 1-10 September 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii, under the theme of "Planet at the crossroads" and invited members for their active participation. It was also shared that the IUCN is spearheading the efforts on forest landscape restoration to support countries to identify and locate the areas of opportunity using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology.

CIFOR informed the recent release of the CIFOR Strategy 2016-2025 "Stepping up to the new climate and development agenda", which sets out CIFOR's vision, mission, values, three pillars and thematic areas, including the connection of its work to all 17 SDGs. It was reported that the 2015 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) brought

together over 3,200 participants, including 19 ministers and one president, and generated many commitments, including the restoration of 128 million hectare of degraded and deforested landscapes. Many members of the Partnership participated in and contributed to the 2015 GLF under different roles and capacities. The second edition of Global Landscapes Forum - the Investment Case is scheduled to be held in London, UK, on 6 June, to provide a platform for exploring the potential of private finance in enhancing livelihood, environment and food security benefits. Several members of the Partnership will host sessions and other members are invited to actively participate in the event. It was added that CIFOR is considering separating the GLF from the UNFCCC COP in the future.

IUFRO informed that the IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania 2016 is scheduled to take place under the overall theme "Forests for Sustainable Development: the Role of Research" from 24-27 October in Beijing, China, and invited members for their active participation. Members were also invited to submit their session proposals for the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress "Interconnecting Forests, Science and People" scheduled to be held from 19-22 September 2017 in Freiburg, Germany. The Congress will include a high-level "Science meets policy" session and other strategic events addressing critical global challenges. An update was also provided on the two upcoming regional knowledge sharing workshops "Forest Landscape Restoration: From Policy to Practice" in Rwanda (July) and El Salvador (September). Members were also provided an update on the upcoming Scoping Meeting for the GFEP Rapid Response on Illegal Timber Trade to be hosted by UNEP on 18-19 May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Several CPF members confirmed their participation in the Scoping Meeting.

The CBD Secretariat informed that the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 20) and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) are scheduled to be convened from 25 - 30 April and 2-6 May 2016, respectively. The SBSTTA 20 will consider forest-related issues, including REDD+, sustainable wildlife management and mainstreaming of biodiversity in forests, whereas the SBI 1 will review progress made in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) and means of implementation, among others. A series of capacity building workshops are scheduled to take place to support the achievement of the ABTs, including a subregional workshop on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems scheduled in June in Bangkok, Thailand. The outcomes of these intersessional activities will feed into the Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4-17 December 2016.

WB shared that the recently-released WB Group's Forest Action Plan for 2016-2020 focuses on two strategic priority areas: cross-sectoral coordination such as those with agriculture, transport and energy as well as governance, and investments in the sustainable forest management, coordinating efforts and focus of the forest-related funds. A series of working papers on forests have been financed by PROFOR, including a paper on "Understanding Long-Term Impacts in the Forest Sector: Predictive Proxy Indicators" to facilitate monitoring and evaluation on forest sector investments.

The ITTO Secretariat provided that the fifty-second Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC52) is scheduled to take place from 7-12 November 2016 at ITTO HQ in Yokohama, overlapping with the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC. The ITTC52 will consider, among other agenda items, the election of a new Executive Director. The ITTO Secretariat is organizing a series of workshops and other project activities related to SFM under its current biennial work programme, including a regional workshop on trans-boundary biodiversity conservation in Southeast Asia and the conservation project on mangroves, and invited members' contributions to its activities.

UNEP briefed members on the second session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA2) scheduled to be convened from 23-27 May 2016 at UNEP HQ in Nairobi under the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The UNEA2 will consider, among others, the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for 2018-2021 and Programme of Work for 2018-2019, as well as relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements,

and feature a number of high-level events, including a ministerial policy review session and a multistakeholder dialogue to consider issues on healthy ecosystems, including forests, under its overarching theme "Healthy Environment, Healthy People".

The UNFCCC Secretariat briefed members on the status of the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, underlining that the increasing number of countries are submitting their proposed forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels, for which the technical assessment of the submissions is scheduled to be organized in November 2016. The synthesis report on the technical assessment process for proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels has been prepared for the forty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 44). During the May 2016 Bonn Climate Change Conference, a number of forest-related meetings are scheduled to take place, including a voluntary meeting of the REDD+ focal point and a special event on enhancing coherence and coordination for forest finance. It was added that the UNFCCC Secretariat is preparing activities to support national readiness for the preparation and implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and pre-2020 actions, including forests in mitigation and adaptation measures, and wishes to collaborate with other CPF members to advance its work.

UNDP informed that the UN-REDD Programme is supporting countries to gain access to REDD+ and related funding at the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the GEF as well as the bilateral donors. It was added that the UNDP provides a range of programme supports to countries, including the recently-signed partnership agreement on REDD+ between the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as activities around deforestation-free commodity supply chains.

The GEF Secretariat shared recent developments on the implementation of the GEF-6 SFM strategy, and highlighted that the pace of its allocated resource use has been faster than that of GEF-5 due to increased recognition and interest by countries in the programme, assisted through strengthened partnership with the UNFF and its Secretariat. The GEF and UNFF secretariats recently held a consultation to further facilitate collaboration, particularly to support countries' access to funding for SFM through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN). It was added that the Climate Action 2016 multi-stakeholder summit is scheduled to take place 5-6 May in Washington DC to be co-organized by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Bank Group, and the GEF, among others.

The UNCCD Secretariat shared its view on the importance to achieve SDG 15, including through the full implementation of its target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality (LDN), highlighting the need to look at the restoration of degraded land and forests in view of close interlinkages between forests and drylands.

FAO briefed members on the preparatory status of the Fifth World Forest Week, during which the Twenty-third session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 23) is scheduled to be convened from 18-22 July at FAO HQ in Rome. The COFO 23 will consider, among other agenda items, the role of forests in implementing major global decisions, in particular the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, strengthening FAO's contribution to the IAF, land use opportunities and challenges as presented in the State of the World's Forests 2016, follow up on the implementation of the outcome of the 2015 XIV World Forestry Congress. A number of events will be organized during the Fifth World Forest Week/COFO 23.

3. Update by UNFFS on progress in the implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, intersessional activities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UNFF Secretariat updated members on the progress made in the implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33 and intersessional activities, including: i) main tasks of the AHEG on the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020; ii) background paper on the elements for the preparation for the strategic plan 2017-2030 and summary of the expert panel discussion on the IAF strategic plan; iii) the status of preparation for AHEG1 and tentative schedules for AHEG2 (second half of

2016), the Working Group and the Special Session of the Forum (16-20 January 2017), and UNFF12 (May 2017); iv) ongoing implementation of the capacity building and project formulation activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) in pilot countries in collaboration with other members, in particular the GEF, and a possibility to collaborate with other potential partners to scale up the support to countries through the GFFFN activities; and v) the recent adoption of GA resolution A/RES/70/199 that extended the timeline of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) to 2030 and renamed the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to the UN Forest Instrument.

The UNFF Secretariat also provided updates on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including: i) the current status of the intergovernmental negotiations on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, including an expected role of the Forum as a ECOSOC functional commission; ii) the theme and modality of the 2016 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development; iii) the outcome of the 47th session of the Statistical Commission on the SDG indicator framework; and iv) the current status of the work on the SDG indicators by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). It was added that an informal meeting on criteria and indicators for SFM is scheduled to be organized by FAO in collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat on 29 April to guide the further development and finalization of the paper "Monitoring progress towards SFM", including a set of indicators on SFM, and related methodological specifications, to be presented at the FAO COFO/World Forest Week event scheduled in July 2016.

Key Action:

- Members were encouraged to actively take part in the AHEG discussions to provide their inputs to facilitate the work of the AHEG to develop proposals on the IAF strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work.

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

a) Possible format and content of key documents for strengthening the Partnership, formalizing its working modalities and developing procedures for its effective functioning and operation as referred to in 3.i. of the Minutes of the first working meeting;

FAO provided an overview of the Chair's proposal prepared taking into account current challenges and discussions held at the first working meeting held in December 2015 in Paris as well as written inputs submitted by members prior to the Paris meeting. FAO explained the scope and content of the proposed three, closely related key documents, namely: i) a revised CPF policy document/statutes/charter/others; ii) rules of procedure or equivalent; and iii) a programme of work (PoW)/workplan.

Members held a thorough discussion on desirable format and content of the key documents, including the scope of each proposed key document and a possibility to include rules of procedure or its elements in the eventual policy document/statutes/charter/others. A view was expressed that the framework for reporting and funding could be included in the policy document/statutes/charter/others to institutionalize the matter, with its functioning elaborated in a rules of procedure. The relevance of the work programme was also stressed and the CPF retreat was recognized as an opportunity to enhance the discussion further on this subject. It was also noted that CPF's work has not stopped for the period of developing of the IAF SP/4POW on implementing the Forum's other decisions and CPF is delivering on several areas, parallel to the strategic planning process.

Members considered a possible timeframe and approach to finalize its work on the key documents, noting the importance to consider presenting the eventual key documents to their respective governing bodies for endorsement/approval to improve cooperation, synergies and coherence among members. Members also noted the need to develop the key documents in parallel with the ongoing intersessional activities of the Forum to develop the IAF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programme of work (4POW).

Document 1: Policy document/statutes/charter/others

Preamble, Name, Mission and objectives, Functions

Members emphasized the importance to update the objectives and functions of the Partnership contained in its current policy document, consistent with the core functions and the objectives of the IAF, while recognizing that further discussion was required in order to explore ways to narrow differences in views on priorities among the functions of the Partnership. Members agreed to continue to consider elements and building blocks for the proposed key documents before deciding on their eventual names, format and placement of content.

Membership

Members considered the thematic gaps in the current membership and the need to set criteria for the admission of new members. There was general agreement to leave flexibility to consider applications for membership and assess them on a case-by-case basis based on the pre-determined criteria and timeframe, taking into account the operational effectiveness of the Partnership. The main criteria suggested included: i) value-addition to the Partnership; and ii) substantial programmes on forests at the global level. Other ideas and proposals included: i) consider membership of those organizations that have already expressed their interest such as the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in parallel to the ongoing considerations on membership (the potential role of the CPF retreat was also noted in this regard); and ii) creation of subgroups for members.

Focal agencies

Members held a discussion on the focal agency system, and agreed to update the current system in the context of the PoW/workplan of the Partnership, taking into account members' comparative advantages and their willingness to lead the work related to the respective focal areas. It was proposed to include general description of the functioning of the system in the policy document/statutes/charter/others, and concrete activities in the PoW/workplan based on the needs of the Partnership, respectively. Programming cycle and resource mobilizations could also be considered in the context of the PoW/workplan.

CPF Network or CPF Forum

Members considered ways to bring together a wide range of expertise and resources through collaboration and communication with interested stakeholders, including Major Groups. The view was expressed that the revitalized CPF Network or a CPF Forum or dialogue could effectively engage stakeholders based on thematic areas for collaboration yet to be identified. Several members noted that the Forum could be a more efficient arrangement than the Network and suggested moving the considerations to that direction. There was general support to the proposal to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, including through the CPF Communicator's Network, and provide a space for interaction to highlight the work and contributions of stakeholders to the Partnership/the Forum, including through the Forum's partnership forum that may be convened as part of its high-level segments. It was agreed that this particular area deserves further exploration and that the retreat could also contribute to addressing this issue.

IUFRO provided updates on the latest results of the CPF Policy Learning Initiative, led and coordinated by IUFRO in collaboration with the Yale University's Governance, Environment and Markets (GEM) initiative, highlighting the relevance and applicability of its work to the work of the Partnership, particularly areas related to stakeholder engagement. A short presentation was made to share key features, phases and steps of the Policy Learning Protocol, including its pilot project in Peru on the issue of community legal ownership and access to forests. Members exchanged their views and explored ideas for the possible application of the Protocol, including multistakeholder engagement and the South-South Cooperation.

CPF Workplan

There was general agreement to the idea to include generic language on the PoW/workplan of the Partnership in the policy document/statutes/charter/others to institutionalize it. Members noted the need to discuss the workplan further at the CPF retreat.

Joint Initiatives

Members highlighted that joint initiatives constitute key delivery mechanisms of the Partnership, along with the focal agency system and CPF Forum/dialogue, and agreed to include a short text on the joint initiatives in the policy document/statutes/charter/others to institutionalize such delivery mechanism, noting the need to consider its detailed description, including criteria for joint initiatives and reporting obligations, in the annex or the PoW/workplan. FAO noted that the study on existing joint initiatives are close to be finalised and will be shared with members soon.

Working modalities

Members considered the placement of the language on working modalities, and agreed to decide its placement once the rules of procedure or equivalent are developed, taking into account the overall structure of the key documents.

Document 2: Rules of procedure (or equivalent)

Members exchanged their views on possible contents and elements of the rules of procedure. The main issues considered included: clarification on the decision taking mechanism; regulatory rules on publication, public statement and policy attributed to the Partnership; role of the Vice-Chair; elaboration on functioning of the reporting and funding framework, as well as delivery mechanisms; and periodic review mechanism. Members suggested that the rules of procedure be fully integrated with the policy document, noting that the latter should define the mechanisms and instruments for which operational procedures be established.

Document 3: Workplan and operational activities

Members discussed the cycle of the PoW/workplan. There was broad support to the development of biennial PoW/workplan to allow flexibility in the work of the Partnership, taking into account the quadrennial cycle that operationalizes the IAF strategic plan.

Members considered a possible timeframe to finalize the PoW/workplan of the Partnership, and agreed to finalize the PoW/workplan by January 2017 in time for the Working Group and the Special Session of the Forum with a view to starting the implementation of the PoW/workplan as soon as possible.

b) Next steps for: i. assessing current membership and potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise; ii. identifying ways to involve major groups and other stakeholders; iii. further development and expansion of thematic joint initiatives; iv. developing a workplan to identify priorities for collective action; v. preparing periodic reports on the Partnership activities, achievements and resource allocations;

Members agreed to continue to discuss these items at the retreat.

c) Options for implementing: i. paragraph 23 and 24 on funding; ii. paragraph 13 (g) on GFFFN; iii. paragraph 16 (c) on national reporting and MAR; iv. paragraph 38 on IAF strategic plan.

Members agreed to consider concrete steps to explore a possibility to mobilize dedicated funding, possibly under the lead implementation members for the respective activities. A view was also expressed that the respective members leading joint initiatives should continue to coordinate efforts to mobilize funding for these initiatives. It was noted that the existing activities and joint initiatives of the Partnership should continue in the interim while developing the PoW/ workplan. The existing joint initiatives should be included in the

PoW/workplan as part of its core activities while considering new ones based on the emerging mandates and tasks.

Members further exchanged their views on possible next steps and options for implementing UNFF11 resolution related to the Partnership, noting the importance to reflect the discussions held at the two working meetings of the Partnership, as well as developments to be made in the work of the AHEG on the IAF strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work, taking into account the areas of emerging convergence and those for further consideration.

Key Action:

- The Chair will prepare a revised version of the CPF Policy document/statutes/charter/others and rules of procedure or equivalent, as well as elements of the PoW/workplan in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account discussions held at the second working meeting as well as developments made in the work of the AHEG on the IAF strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work.

5. Timeline for finalizing decisions on above elements

The Chair recalled the discussion at the first working meeting and its follow-up online consultations that the decisions on the Partnership's future modalities should be finalized at the retreat to be held in June 2016, and proposed to hold a two-day retreat on the week of 13 June in Rome with the participation at the most senior level possible as communicated prior to the meeting. Following the retreat, the third working meeting may be considered in conjunction with the second meeting of the AHEG (AHEG2) scheduled to be held in late 2016, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources. Members informed their respective availability and expected participation in the retreat.

Key Action:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the dates and venue, as well as draft programme of the retreat.