



In Attendance

FAO: René Castro-Salazar (Chair)	UNCCD: Monique Barbut (Vice-Chair)
Simon Rietbergen	UNDP: Kimberly Todd
CBD: Kata Koppel	UNFCCC: Dirk Nemitz
CIFOR: Markku Kannien	UNFF: Ryo Nakamura
GEF: Pascal Martinez	WB: Hosny El Lakany (consultant for item 4 b))
IUCN: Adriana Vidal	
IUFRO: Alexander Buck	Regrets: ICRAF, ITTO, UNEP

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met in Marrakech, Morocco on 7 November 2016.

1. Welcome and short introduction by the Chair

René Castro-Salazar, CPF Chair, welcomed members to the third working meeting of the Partnership held on the margins of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the UNFCCC, highlighting the importance of forests on the agenda of the recent UNFCCC COPs in view of the growing recognition on multiple contributions of forests to climate change solutions.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

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

The Chair introduced himself and invited members to introduce themselves.

FAO briefed members on its proposal to establish a CO₂ facility for land-use sectors as a possible precursor for a joint initiative by interested members, highlighting the scope of the proposed facility to assist countries in implementing their land-based Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through the provision of upfront funds from public and private sources to countries for investment in their NDCs. FAO is currently conducting a feasibility study in consultation with partners such as GEF, and initiated preliminary consultation with potential partners such as the European Commission. FAO also provided an update on its support to 20 country-level projects and 4 programmes in Africa recently approved by GCF, adding that additional projects and programmes are currently being considered for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Asia.

IUFRO informed of the completion of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Rapid Response assessment on illegal logging and related timber trade. The assessment report and accompanying policy brief entitled “Forests beyond the law: Scientific insights into illegal logging and related timber trade” will be launched at High-level Segment of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 13) in December 2016 in Cancún, Mexico.

The UNCCD Secretariat shared the current status of its Global Mechanism activities related to the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund, and underscored its scope to combine a blended finance from public and

private sources, and technical assistance to support large-scale revitalization of degraded land, particularly developing countries. It was added that the establishment of the LDN Fund was mandated at the UNCCD COP12 and the Fund is designed as a public private partnership with an environmental and social safeguard framework, co-promoted with Mirova, a France-based sustainable investment management company.

The GEF Secretariat shared that the GEF-6 resource envelope for SFM Programme has already been exhausted ahead of its schedule.

UNDP informed members of its REDD+-related events to be held during COP 22/CMP 12/CMA 1, including FAO-UNDP Forest Action Day scheduled to be held on 8 November, featuring showcase segments and a multistakeholder dialogue on country experiences in forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Key Actions:

- FAO will circulate an information note on the proposed CO2 facility for land-use sectors for members' consideration of possible cooperation.
- Members were reminded to inform IUFRO of their support to the GFEP Rapid Response report and policy brief on illegal logging and related timber trade by 9 November 2016.

3. Update by UNFFS on the outcome of the Expert Meetings on regional involvement (Tehran), major groups and other stakeholders' engagement (Ottawa) and the 2nd AHEG on the Strategic Plan of the IAF

The UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the outcome of the second meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG2) held in October 2016 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, highlighting the key points contained in the AHEG2 Co-Chairs' summary and their 11 October proposals for the building blocks and options for the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work (4POW) 2017-2020. These key points highlighted included: i) goals and targets of the UNSPF; ii) universal and UN system-wide nature of the UNSPF; and iii) the concept of the voluntary planned contributions (VPCs).

An update was also provided on the outcome of the expert meetings on: i) Enhancing Regional and Subregional Involvement in the Work of the IAF (September 2016, Tehran); and ii) Strengthening Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Engagement in the IAF (October 2016, Ottawa), highlighting the respective priority actions recommendations identified through the two meetings, including the establishment of the inter-regional coordination mechanism on forests.

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

a) Review of the implementation of actions agreed at the CPF Retreat

Based on the list of actions agreed at the 2016 retreat that had been circulated prior to the meeting, members provided their respective updates and reviewed their implementation status.

The GEF Secretariat informed members of the ongoing possibility for joint action in the GEF-7 replenishment cycle, noting the importance to move quickly ahead of its scheduled finalization in 2018.

UNFFS provided an update that it would be opportune to consider sending the letter from the Chair of the UNFF Bureau to governing bodies of other members regarding dedicated funding for CPF activities after the completion of the development of the CPF work plan in line with the eventual UNSPF and the 4POW 2017-2020.

b) Presentation of the draft findings of the "mapping exercise" by the WB

Mr. Hosny El Lakany, independent consultant of WB, presented the draft findings of the mapping exercise/CPF review entitled “a mapping and gap analysis of CPF members’ forest-related activities”, highlighting the main areas of ongoing and planned forest-related work by CPF members for the period 2017-2020, including: i) SFM; ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation; iii) forest governance and institutions; iv) forest finance; v) data collection and reporting; vi) science and research; vii) communication, information dissemination and knowledge management; viii) cross-cutting issues, integrated approaches, and capacity development. The identified gaps focused on aligning CPF activities in the context of the IAF and other processes, including: i) integration of the IAF processes in the strategies, workplans and reportings of CPF members; ii) collaborative support of CPF to the 2030 Agenda, including its follow-up and review on the progress made on the achievement of forest-related SDGs; iii) gap in collating strategic and policy work of the partnership and communication to countries and policy makers; iv) shortage of collective, coordinated and costed CPF initiatives addressing IAF requirements. The identified areas of opportunities and recommended priority actions included: i) a new strategic framework for CPF and a quadrennial programme of work 2017- 2020; ii) coordinated and collaborative normative, analytical and technical aspects; iii) financing SFM activities as the core of realizing role of forests in global development and climate agendas, such as the UNFF’s Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) and the WB’s Forest-Smart Investments; iv) science and research; v) cross-sectoral issues; and vi) communications, information dissemination and outreach.

Members exchanged their views on the draft findings, focusing on the areas of opportunities and recommended priority actions. It was noted that delivery mechanisms in particular joint initiatives should be added in the review to provide an overview of current gaps among members and as an important tool to realize the opportunities.

Key Action:

- Members are invited to submit their written comments on the draft findings of the mapping exercise/CPF review by 18 November 2016.

c) Review of the latest draft policy document/Rules of Procedure

Based on the revised draft Policy Document, the Chair provided an overview of the outcome of the previous working meetings and the retreat, as well as written inputs submitted by members prior to the meeting, highlighting the areas of remaining areas for further discussion.

There was general support among members to the revised draft, noting the need to develop a strategy to operationalize its functions, including through the development of its workplan and identification of operational activities.

Members discussed and explored ways to further enhance coherence, coordination and synergies among CPF members on their respective policies, projects and programmes on and related to SFM in view of persistent lack of understanding and focus on SFM in many national policies as opposed to afforestation, reforestation, and halting deforestation. In this regard, members took note of the importance to ensure that the eventual CPF workplan and joint initiatives address SFM as an overarching theme.

d) Report from the Task Force on membership and stakeholder involvement

Based on the concept note for initiating the work of the CPF Task Force on Membership and Stakeholder Involvement, FAO reported the result of the preliminary discussion held in Bangkok on the margins of AHEG2.

Members considered the importance to ensure that the options for membership and stakeholder involvement are based on the priority areas of the Partnership, to be identified through the development of the CPF workplan, taking into account the findings of the mapping exercise/CPF review led by WB.

Some members stressed the need to expedite the process on the current requests for membership. A mapping exercise/analysis on the possible areas of opportunities for stakeholder involvement was suggested.

Key Action:

- The Task force will consider suggested actions on membership and collaboration with stakeholders contained in the concept note, and report its progress and findings at the next CPF meeting.

e) Next steps in completing the policy document/Rules of Procedure

The Chair recalled a timeframe to finalize the draft policy document/Rules of Procedure no later than May 2017 in time for the UNFF12, and proposed to further revise the draft policy document/Rules of Procedure based on the discussions held at the third working meeting.

Key Action:

- The Chair will revise the draft policy document/Rules of Procedure in consultation with the Secretariat and circulate to members for their further consideration at the next meeting, taking into account the discussions held at the third working meeting.

5. Preparations for the OLI

The Chair briefed members on the preparatory status of the CPF OLI entitled “Development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the IAF Strategic Plan” scheduled to take place from 28-30 November at FAO HQ in Rome.

Members considered the provisional agenda and annotations, provisional organization of work, and list of background documents that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Some members underscored the importance to take into account rapidly-advancing technologies in particular those related to remote sensing when developing indicators, to ensure the effectiveness of the framework and arrangement for data collection, as well as national reporting. In this regard, FAO shared the progress of its partnership with Google on remote sensing data to be made available to countries upon its launch scheduled to take place during the 2017 celebration of the International Day of Forests.

6. Preparations for CPF-related events during CBD COP13

The CBD Secretariat informed of the preparatory status of the CBD COP 13 scheduled to be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 4-17 December 2016, highlighting that the high-level segment is scheduled to be held on 2 and 3 December under the central theme “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being” with a sectoral focus on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism.

The Chair provided an update on the preparatory status of the Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Day scheduled to take place on 13 December at the Rio Conventions’ Pavilion, based on its concept note and a draft Joint CPF Message on Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members reviewed and endorsed a Joint CPF Message on Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration.

7. Election of the CPF Vice-Chair 2017

Members agreed that Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, will continue to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Partnership until the 2017 Vice-Chair is elected at the next CPF meeting.

Key Action:

- Members are invited to send their nomination and recommendation for the 2017 Vice-Chair.

8. Any other business

a) Preparations for the UNFF Working Group and Special Session

The UNFF Secretariat updated members on next steps leading up to UNFF Working Group and Special Session, including the nomination process of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and organization of informal consultation(s) on key issues to be conducted by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting of the UNFF Working Group and Special Session.

It was added that UNFF12 is tentatively scheduled to be convened in the first week of May 2017 at UNHQ, New York, subject to the final decision to be taken by the Economic and Social Council.

Key Action:

- Members are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the meeting of the Working Group and the Special Session of the Forum scheduled to be convened from 16-20 January 2017 at UNHQ, New York.

b) Next meeting of the CPF

Members agreed to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the Forum's Working Group and Special Session.

Key Action:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the dates and venue, as well as draft programme of the next meeting to be held in conjunction with the Working Group and Special Session of the Forum scheduled to be convened from 16-20 January 2017 at UNHQ, New York.