



Collaborative Partnership on Forests
Working Meeting
Draft Meeting report
14-15 March 2017, FAO HQ, Rome

In Attendance

FAO:	Maria Helena Semedo	UNEP:	Marieta Sakalian
	Eva Müller		Valerie Kapos
	Peter Csoka	UNFF/DESA:	Thomas Gass
CBD:	Catalina Santamaria		Manoel Sobral Filho
CIFOR:	John Colmey		Ryo Nakamura
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		Tomasz Juszczak
ITTO:	Steve Johnson	WB:	Gerhard Dieterle
IUCN:	Chris Buss		
IUFRO:	John Parrotta		
	Andre Purret	Regrets:	ICRAF, UNCCD, UNDP, UNFCCC

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ, Rome from 14 to 15 March 2017.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair

Maria Helena Semedo, CPF Chair and FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, welcomed members to the working meeting of the Partnership and thanked them for the great progress so far in the implementation of the outcome of UNFF11. She stressed in her remarks the importance to advance the work of the Partnership building on the momentum generated by the adoption of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and forest-related actions and events held during CBD COP13. In this context she noted that FAO is hosting a platform to mainstream biodiversity into agriculture, forests and fisheries sectors as a follow-up to CBD COP13.

The Chair invited members of the Partnership to introduce themselves.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Brief summary of key developments

a) Update on the SDG process and HLPF

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA highlighted the critical role of forests in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, as well as the Paris Agreement, noting the importance of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 as a global framework on forests. He outlined the scope of the 2017 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and encouraged the CPF and its members to contribute to the work of the HLPF, particularly for the 2018 HLPF meeting at which SDG 6 and 15 will be reviewed in depth among other SDGs.

Members exchanged ideas on how CPF can contribute to the 2018 HLPF in addition to contributions through the work of the Forum, including through: preparation of background notes on forests and relevant SDGs; organization of a CPF side event on the margins of the 2018 HLPF; and organization of a global conference on forests prior to the 2018 HLPF. It was also discussed how CPF can contribute to Forest Action Day to be held during UNFCCC COP23 and the work of a biodiversity platform to be hosted by FAO.

Key Action:

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will explore a possibility to organize a global conference on forests in 2018 prior to the 2018 meetings of the UNFF and the HLPF.

b) Outcomes of the UNFF Special Session, Expert Meeting and preparations for UNFF12

The UNFF Secretariat informed members of the outcome of the Forum's Special Session, outlining the main features of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum (4POW) for the period 2017-2020 adopted at the Session. It was added that the General Assembly is scheduled to consider a resolution on the UNSPF on 27 April possibly followed by a brief celebration of the adoption of the resolution.

The UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for UNFF12, outlining the provisional organization of work of the session, including: i) panel discussion on the contributions of CPF members, UN partners and stakeholders to the implementation of the UNSPF; ii) panel discussions on contributions of forests to SDG1, 2 and 5, respectively; iii) discussion on the proposed format and cycle for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the outcome of an expert meeting on national reporting to the Forum; iv) consideration of provision for preparation of inputs to the HLPF2018; and v) panel discussion on means of implementation. It was highlighted that members of the Partnership have an important role in contributing to these discussions in view of their expertise and experience in the respective areas, including through the participation as speakers in relevant panel discussions.

Key Actions:

- The CPF Chair will introduce the CPF policy document and CPF workplan at UNFF12.
- Members will be invited to participate in relevant UNFF12 panel discussions.

c) Update on the task force meeting on the global core set of forest indicators

FAO reported the result of the discussion held by the task force on the global core set of forest indicators held on 13 March at FAO HQ, Rome, highlighting the progress made in several areas, in particular: i) alignment of the wording of the indicators with the existing definitions; ii) assessment of the proposed indicators in terms of its current use and data availability; iii) identification of next steps to advance the work.

Key Action:

- The task force will conduct online consultations in April to advance the work prior to its next meeting scheduled to be held in conjunction with the FRA consultation meeting in June 2018 in Finland.

3. Implementation of the UNFF11 Resolution and related decisions by CPF

3.1 Update on the final report on the "mapping exercise"

WB provided an update on the report on the Mapping and Gap Analysis of Forest-Related Activities of Members of the CPF. Members noted the usefulness of the information contained in the report to inform the discussion among members on membership and stakeholder participation, as well as to identify future activities of the Partnership. It was noted that a map similar to the gaps would be useful to develop for the areas covered by CPF, Such map could provide a useful input to the focal agency system under the new Workplan.

Key Action:

- FAO agreed to prepare a draft map of activities/capacities based on the study.

3.2 Next steps of the Task Force on membership and stakeholder participation

Moderated by GEF, members discussed next steps to advance the work of the Task Force on membership and stakeholder participation.

Members recalled the criteria for membership discussed at the previous meetings that any new members should be global in nature and have substantial programme on forests. Members agreed to seek confirmation of interest in membership by CITES and INBAR and clarify the status/position of request by UNESCO.

Members noted the importance to distinguish membership issues from stakeholder participation, while recognizing the importance to engage stakeholders on a task-by-task basis. It was discussed that the task force should develop ideas for stakeholder participation, particularly through the CPF Dialogue, based on priorities of the Partnership to be identified in the CPF workplan.

Key Action:

- Members of the task force will develop ideas for stakeholder participation, particularly through the CPF Dialogue, and report its progress at the next meeting of the Partnership.

3.3 Concluding the work on the policy document

Based on the final draft Policy Document that had been circulated prior to the meeting, the Chair provided an overview of the progress made through the previous working meetings and the retreat.

Members expressed their support to the final draft and approved the policy document.

3.4 CPF work plan

Moderated by WB and based on a though-starter paper for development of the CPF workplan that had been circulated prior to the meeting, members discussed ideas to develop a CPF workplan, taking into account: i) the implications of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, the UNSPF and the 4POW 2017-2020; ii) outcome of the CPF Retreat on key elements of the workplan; iii) actions to respond to the UNSPF and the 4POW; and iv) actions to respond to invitations from other governing bodies.

Members noted the importance to develop activities to contribute to the Global Forest Goal 6 “Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders”, particularly its target 6.2 “Forest-related programmes across CPF member organizations are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Members also noted the importance to consider developing a workplan building on existing activities of the Partnership in view of the limited resources currently available to the Partnership.

The ideas discussed by members included: i) clear indication of contributions of CPF activities to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and the SDGs; ii) reporting by CPF members on their contributions to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals, using the reporting format to be developed based on national reporting format, beginning at 2018; iii) describe each member’s contributions to the core functions of the Partnership and the achievement of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and SDGs; and iv) preparation of quadrennial publication on CPF contributions to the GFGs and the SDGs.

Moderated by ITTO, members also discussed possible actions to respond to invitations from governing bodies of other members. Members noted the existing invitations from CBD, COFO and UNCCD, as well as the need to consider new activities if the Partnership deems unable to address invitations through its existing activities.

a) CPF joint initiatives: continuing ones and new proposals

Moderated by IUFRO, members evaluated the existing joint initiatives based on the background study “the CPF Joint Initiatives: Current State-of-Play and Proposed Actions”, members' own views and tasks arising from the UNSPF.

Members decided to continue the Joint Initiatives on: i) Forest Finance (as a contribution to or merged with the GFFFN); ii) Global Forest Expert Panel; and iii) Global Forest Information Service.

Members decided to consolidate communication activities, including activities related to the International Day of Forests and the Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award, under a new Joint Initiative taking over the functions of the CPF Communicators' Group, and explore a possibility to contribute to the development of the UNSPF communication strategy through its work.

Based on updates provided by IUFRO on the current status of its policy learning initiative and by IUFRO and CBDS on the current status of their activities related to forest landscape restoration, members also decided to consider establishing new Joint Initiatives in the respective areas.

Key Actions:

- IUFRO will develop a proposal for joint initiative on policy learning initiative for members' consideration at the next meeting of the Partnership.
- IUCN will develop a proposal for joint initiative on forest landscape restoration for members' consideration at the next meeting of the Partnership.

b) Annual/biennial workplans for 2017-2020

Moderated by FAO and based on a though-starter paper for development of the CPF workplan that had been circulated prior to the meeting, members considered specific activities for inclusion in the workplan and next steps for further consideration. Members were invited to share any governing body decision not in the draft yet having implication on the Workplan. It was also agreed to modify the JI template so that it would give clear indication of the relationship to the GFGs and SDGs, clarify the external partners and provide an insight of the financial aspects.

Key Actions:

- FAO to modify the template and share with members.
- Members to submit governing body decisions for inclusion in the Workplan.

c) Resource implications of the CPF workplan

Moderated by IUCN, members noted the need to include information on resource implications of CPF activities in the workplan in response to the invitation from ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and UNSPF and to facilitate efforts to mobilize resources to support the activities of the Partnership. Members considered possible ways and next steps to develop such estimates.

Key Actions:

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will develop and circulate to members a template to collect information on cost estimates of CPF activities, including regular activities and joint initiatives.
- Members will provide information on cost estimates of their respective CPF activities by 31 March 2017.

d) Presenting the CPF Workplan to governing bodies

Moderated by IUCN, members provided an overview of how CPF activities have been reported to their respective governing bodies. Members discussed possible courses of action to bring the policy document and the workplan for consideration by their respective governing bodies.

e) Synthesis and summary

The Chair proposed next steps to finalize the CPF workplan and make it a formal CPF document as referred to in the CPF Policy Document. Members considered possible options to further advance the work on the development of the CPF workplan, and discussed the need to follow up and annually review the progress made in the implementation of the eventual workplan, at the second biannual meeting of the Partnership or its retreat.

Key Actions:

- Members to provide information as per the template in b) and c) above for all Initiatives and recurrent activities by 31 March.
- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will develop a draft workplan for members' comments and inputs by 7 April.
- Members provide feedback in the coming 2 weeks after that.
- The final draft will then be developed for consideration by members prior to the next meeting of the Partnership to be held on the margins of UNFF12.

4. Any other business

GEF informed members of the current status of the GEF7 replenishment process, including the preparation of its strategy documents related to forests.

WB shared that PROFOR is conducting a study for publication on the role of productive forests in green growth and climate change mitigation, including case studies in six countries.

Members agreed to hold the next meeting on the margins of UNFF12 scheduled to be held from 1-5 May at UNHQ, New York.

Key Action:

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