



Collaborative Partnership on Forests
Working Meeting
Draft Meeting report
16-17 January 2017, UNHQ, New York

In Attendance

FAO:	Eva Müller	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Peter Csoka	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
CBD:	Catalina Santamaria	UNFF:	Manoel Sorabl Filho
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		Ryo Nakamura
	Paul Hartman		Tomasz Juszcak
ITTO:	Takeshi Goto	WB:	Gerhard Dieterle
IUFRO:	John Parrota		Hosny El Lakany (for item 6.c via telephone)
	Alexander Buck		
	Andre Purret		

Regrets: CIFOR, ICRAF, IUCN, UNEP, UNFCCC

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at UNHQ, New York on 16 and 17 January 2017.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair

Ms. Eva Müller, FAO, welcomed members to the fourth working meeting of the Partnership held on the margins of the meeting of the Working Group of the Forum 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, Ms. Müller chaired the meeting on behalf of the Chair. The Chair was unable to attend the working meeting due to other commitments.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

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

FAO briefed members on the scope of the State of the World's Forests 2018, highlighting that it will map and assess the contributions of forests to the SDGs, including possible measures to realize their potentials. It was added that FAO's newly-created Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water, led by the former CPF Chair René Castro Salazar, will have a coordinating function over the activities of other technical departments.

The CBD Secretariat informed that a memorandum of understanding to strengthen support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets, originally signed in 2012, was extended by the CBD Secretariat and CGIAR research centers and programmes, including CIFOR, ICRAF, Bioversity International and partners in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. It was added that Ms. Cristiana Pasça Palmer is expected to start as head of the CBD Secretariat in March.

IUFRO shared that the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Rapid Response assessment report on illegal logging and related timber trade and its policy brief were successfully launched at the High-level Segment of the CBD

COP 13, adding that the scoping meeting for the GFEP assessment on forests and water is scheduled to be convened in March 2017 and will be hosted by FAO.

GEF informed members on the status of the preparation for the GEF-7 replenishment cycle, including possible future programming directions and their finalization schedule.

The UNCCD Secretariat shared its ongoing work to develop and refine indicators to measure progress made in achieving long-term benefits for people and ecosystems affected by desertification, land degradation and drought, noting that it is closely working with the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators and the CPF task force on global forest indicators to advance the work on the subject matter.

The UNFF Secretariat informed members on the status of the work of the Forum's Working Group, highlighting mean features of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020 contained in the Co-Chairs proposals, including the global forest goals and voluntary planned contributions.

WB informed members of the status of the implementation of its Forest Action Plan 2016-2020, highlighting that the recently-concluded IDA18 replenishment contains commitments to support forest-smart development and interventions, including those related to climate change mitigation.

3. Update on the outcome of recent meetings related to the CPF

a) ITTC-52

ITTO provided an update on the outcome of the fifty-second session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-52), highlighting the election of Mr. Gerhard Dieterle as its next Executive Director and current status of the implementation of its projects, including their funding.

b) CBD COP13

The CBD Secretariat shared the outcome of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to CBD, highlighting decisions made on actions to integrate and mainstream biodiversity in forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors and to implement the 2030 Agenda, including actions on specific themes such as protected areas, ecosystem restoration, sustainable wildlife management and others.

FAO provided an update on the outcome of the Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Day held on 13 December on the margins of the CBD COP13, at which a Joint CPF Message on Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration was presented.

Members added that a number of forest-related events, in particular the Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Day, attracted high level of attention from countries and stakeholders, and were well attended.

4. Report on the CPF OLI outcome and discussion of elements for implementation

The Chair briefed members on the CPF OLI on global forest indicators, highlighting the progress made on the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators, as well as the need to align the indicators with the goals and targets of the eventual Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030. The proposed indicators are scheduled to be considered at a FRA expert consultation in mid-2017 and the core set of indicators are expected to be brought to the attention of UNFF and other relevant governing bodies, to measure progress towards the forest related SDGs, targets and other internationally-agreed goals on forests, and other indicators relevant for the Strategic Plan.

a) CPF Task Force/Joint Initiative on the proposed core set of forest related indicators

In response to the recommendation from the OLI addressed to the CPF and based on the proposal for a joint initiative "streamlining global forest-related reporting", members held a discussion on elements for

implementation and explored possible next steps to ensure the single data collection and data-sharing arrangements between relevant members and other user agencies, as well as the application of common definitions and harmonization methods.

Members agreed to create a CPF task force and a Joint Initiative to streamline global forest-related reporting and develop global forest indicators, building on the progress made through the OLI and the IAEG-SDG indicators processes. Members considered the need to consider partnering with relevant non-member organizations and processes to advance the work, as and when deemed necessary.

Key Action:

- Members are invited to provide reflections on the draft JI proposal.
- Members are invited to indicate intention to join the JI and/or its Steering Committee.
- FAO considers convening a meeting of the CPF Task Force on the proposed core set of forest related indicators in February 2017 in Brasilia in conjunction with the expert meeting on reporting to UNFF.

5. Update by UNFFS on the preparations for Expert Meeting on national reporting, the 2017 IDF, and UNFF12

The UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the forthcoming meetings and activities, including: i) Expert Meeting on reporting to the UNFF scheduled to be held from 7-10 February in Brasilia; ii) the 2017 celebration of the International Day of Forests; and iii) UNFF12 scheduled to be convened from 1-5 May 2017 at UNHQ, New York.

The expected outputs of the expert meeting on reporting to the UNFF are: i) proposal for a reporting format/template to UNFF along with a new reporting cycle; ii) a set of possible indicators for the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests; iii) reviewed and identified sources of forest-related data and agreed data-sharing arrangements; and iv) suggestions on the use of the information collected through the national reports.

The 2017 celebration of the International Day of Forests will highlight linkages between forests and energy. The main IDF activities to be organized by the UNFF Secretariat in collaboration with CPF members include: i) message of the Secretary General for IDF 2017; ii) a special event at UNHQ, on the morning of 21 March; iii) preparation of the UN press release for IDF 2017; and iv) a week long social media campaign.

Members were also updated on possible issues and components for inclusion in the organization of work for UNFF12, including: i) discussion on technical and implementation issues related to the theme of the session; ii) monitoring, assessment and reporting; and iii) enhanced cooperation, noting that the documentation will reflect the new structure of the Forum's annual sessions and the eventual 4POW 2017-2020.

FAO shared that it plans to host IDF events at FAO HQ, Rome and produced a short video spot designed for commercial blocks in major TV channels highlighting linkages between forests and energy with a focus on wood-based energy and its sustainability.

Key Action:

- The UNFF Secretariat will circulate the information on its planned activities for the 2017 celebration of the IDF.
- FAO will make available the video spot for use by CPF members.

6. Update on discussion of elements for the implementation of the UNFF11 Resolution related to CPF:

a) Update and review of the implementation of actions agreed at the CPF Retreat and at the Marrakech meeting

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

Members emphasized that relevant actions should be considered and included in the eventual CPF workplan.

b) Final review of the draft Policy Document, including rules of procedure

Based on the revised 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, highlighting the remaining areas for consideration.

Members expressed their support to the revised draft. Some members stressed the need to consider the remaining areas, such as focal agencies system, once the CPF workplan is developed. Additional comments made during the discussion were noted by FAO for inclusion.

c) Presentation of the draft findings of the “mapping exercise” by the WB

Mr. Hosny El Lakany, independent consultant of WB, provided an update on the mapping exercise/CPF review paper entitled “a mapping and gap analysis of CPF members’ forest-related activities”, highlighting main areas of revision based on inputs submitted by members, including those related to cross-cutting issues, financing, communication, as well as science and research.

Members exchanged their views on the revised version of the paper, highlighting the usefulness of the information contained in the paper to inform the discussion among members on the development of the CPF workplan.

d) Next steps

The Chair recalled the discussion at the last meeting of the Partnership and proposed next steps to finalize the policy document and initiate the development of the CPF workplan.

Members considered possible options to advance the work on the development of the CPF workplan, and agreed on the need to consider priority actions in line with the eventual UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Forum’s quadrennial programme of work, taking into account the findings contained in the mapping exercise paper. The possible areas for inclusion in the workplan discussed included, among others: global forest indicators and reportings; forest landscape restoration; and stakeholder involvement. The importance to assess resources required to support the implementation of the workplan was highlighted.

Key Actions:

- The Chair will finalize the draft policy document in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account the discussions held at the fourth working meeting, and circulate to members prior to the next meeting.
- The Chair will prepare a draft framework of the CPF workplan in consultation with the Secretariat, and circulate to members for their consideration at the next meeting.
- Members are invited to provide comments on the revised “mapping exercise” paper by 27 January for its finalization.

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

FAO reported the result of the preliminary discussion on membership and stakeholder involvement held in Bangkok on the margins of AHEG2.

Some members emphasized the importance to consider issues on membership and stakeholder involvement based on the priorities of the Partnership to be identified in the context of the development of the CPF workplan.

7. Election of the 2017 CPF Vice-Chair

Members agreed that Mr. Gerhard Dieterle, incoming Executive Director of ITTO, will assume the 2017 CPF Vice-Chairpersonship, taking over the role from Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

8. Next meeting of the CPF

Members considered the need to advance the work on the development of the CPF workplan, and agreed to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the GFEP scoping meeting scheduled to be convened in mid-March with the period of 14-17 identified as most suitable option, FAO HQ, Rome.

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.