



## Promoting sustainable forest management

An innovative interagency partnership on forests, comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests

**COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14**

# Foreword

This year, we celebrate 15 years of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests' (CPF) achievements. There could be no better time to do so, as 2015 is a critical year for forest policy.

This is the year when governments discuss the future International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), negotiate the future sustainable development goals and address climate change challenges. As these global policy ambitions take shape, countries' and CPF's commitment to supporting actions towards implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) has never been stronger.

Over the last 15 years, the global community has made substantial efforts to reduce and reverse forest loss. This has been done largely by reducing forest land conversion to agriculture and other land uses, but also the implementation of SFM practices around the world, improved information dissemination and awareness on forests issues, and strengthened forest-related data collection. The CPF has contributed to these actions by working with countries to promote SFM and support implementation of the Forest Instrument.

This publication presents highlights of the CPF's achievements during the 2013-2014 biennium. The examples in this brochure provide evidence of how the partnership contributes to the UN's "Delivering as One" agenda, while at the same time engaging non-UN international partners. The partnership remains committed to its work on maintaining and sustaining the world's forests.



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Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry



**Manoel Sobral Filho**, Director,  
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat

# What is the CPF?

## FORMATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

In April 2001, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was formed in response to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) resolution that established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). This resolution invited the executive heads of relevant organizations of the UN system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to form a collaborative partnership on forests.

## CPF'S MISSION

CPF's mission is to promote sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

## CPF'S OBJECTIVES

The CPF brings together 14 international forest-related organizations, instruments and secretariats with a two-fold objective:

- to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its member countries;
- to enhance forest cooperation and coordination among CPF members.

## FUNDING

CPF's joint initiatives and other activities do not have dedicated funding. They are supported through voluntary contributions of both human and financial resources by CPF member organizations, together with generous contributions from donor governments. Ensuring sustained financial resources to support the partnership's work plan has been and will remain a critical determinant in its continued effectiveness.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

As of April 2014, the CPF has delivered more than 30 joint initiatives and activities and held frequent meetings and biennial retreats since its inception in 2001. The key deliverables of the partnership during the 2013-2014 biennium are outlined in this publication. They serve as select evidence of the value-for-money activities conducted jointly by the CPF and are an indicator of the potential future successful impacts of the partnership under the new IAF and post-2015 development agenda. Reports of CPF meetings and activities are available on the CPF website ([www.cpfweb.org](http://www.cpfweb.org)).

<sup>1</sup> UN ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35.

## INTEGRATING FORESTS IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

As a result of thorough negotiations, forests are addressed under two of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG6, *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*; and
- SDG15, *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*.

To achieve this outcome, CPF members actively supported the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG). Several CPF members were part of the UN System Technical Support Team (TST), and provided input to the Issues Brief on Forests, as well as to the deliberations on the sustainable development goals and its targets relating to forests.

To assist member States in their deliberations during the eighth session of OWG, which specifically dealt with forests, CPF jointly produced a global analysis of international instruments related to forests and prepared an analytical document that outlined possible targets and indicators on forests for inclusion in the SDGs. Together with the Government of Finland, CPF also organized a side event during OWG8 on integrating forests in the SDGs, which highlighted the interconnectedness of forest issues with others under discussion in OWG8, such as oceans, biodiversity and mountains.

While CPF promoted a consistent message on the importance of integrating forests into the deliberations on the SDGs, further efforts are required to ensure forests continue to be given due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda and the ongoing relevant processes. This includes financing for sustainable development and the development of indicators, as well as identifying and supporting the implementation of supportive policy frameworks for the achievement of the SDGs.

**BOX 1****Forest Targets in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup>****Forest-specific targets**

- 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally.
- 15.b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation.

**Targets addressing the water supply function of forests**

- 6.6: By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- 15.1: By 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

<sup>2</sup> Drawn from the Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>





## SIMPLIFYING REPORTING

Collection of reliable and complete forest information is fundamental to monitoring implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (Forest Instrument). CPF has played an important part in efforts to streamline forest-related reporting and reduce the reporting burden for countries.

As requested by the tenth session of UNFF, CPF members, in particular FAO, GEF, UNCBD, UNCCD and WB, contributed their expertise to streamlining of the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to UNFF<sup>11</sup>, and to the identification of data sources to measure progress in the implementation of decisions relating to the work of the Forum. Since 2013, FAO has also seconded a dedicated forest statistics expert to the UNFF Secretariat to support the collection of data and national reports to UNFF.

In 2013–2014, CPF members continued to contribute to FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) programme, improving indicators, definitions and reporting. CPF members contributed to the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) led by FAO, which also helps data collection and analyses by several intergovernmental processes including UNFF.

For more information on this initiative, see: <http://www.cpfweb.org/73035/en/>



## FOREST FINANCE

Mobilizing and providing access to financial resources remains a significant challenge for SFM implementation in many countries. Since its inception, CPF and its members have worked on a wide range of forest financing activities, to improve data collection and access to information on forest finance flows, facilitate the exchange of knowledge, build expertise and develop stakeholder capacity in mobilizing and accessing funds.

In 2013 and 2014, CPF members supported and participated in the UNFF Facilitative Process, which assists developing countries to mobilize funds for forests, by identifying obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management. The GEF-5 (2010 – 2014) SFM/REDD+ Incentive Mechanism established a separate funding window for countries to enhance financing of their forests. As of June 2014, over 80 countries had accessed \$700 million of GEF investments for sustainable forest management.

FAO, along with partners, organized three regional workshops on national forest funds and launched a major publication on this topic at UNFF11. FAO and ITTO jointly organized an International Forum on Payments for Environmental Services of Tropical Forests (PES), held in Costa Rica. FAO, ITTO and IUCN jointly organized technical sessions on valuation, PES and innovative financing at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia. The twenty-second session of FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO), which was held in June 2014, also addressed PES and forest financing.

For more information and to access reports on this initiative, see: <http://www.cpfweb.org/73033/en/>



## ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

CPF member organizations collaborate to develop communication tools and media products to raise awareness on the importance of forests and trees outside forests and on the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and to poverty eradication, livelihoods and human well-being.

The CPF Communicators Group was created during the International Year of Forests in 2011 to enable greater coordination in communication products and events produced by CPF members. The group, led and coordinated by CIFOR, FAO and the UNFF Secretariat, has facilitated communications related to the International Day of Forests (including the proposed annual theme), the 2014 Wangari Maathai Award and the Global Landscapes Forum. Members meet through video conferencing and on the sidelines of international meetings.



## International Day of Forests

In its resolution 67/200 on the International Day of Forests, the General Assembly invited Member States to celebrate the Day and requested the UNFF secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate the implementation of the Day, in collaboration with Governments, member organizations of the Partnership, regional and subregional organizations and major groups. To promote the international day, CPF members have contributed joint press releases, articles and social media campaigns, and continue to propose yearly themes to enable countries to undertake local and national activities. In 2014, CPF members conducted a variety of activities, including two international events at UN and FAO Headquarters; issued four statements; and launched new data, videos and tracking tools on forest resources.

The theme of the International Day of Forests 2015 was Forests | Climate | Change, to communicate the links between forests and climate change and call for action.

To read reports, access videos, photos and press releases from the Day, see: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/international-day-of-forests/en/>

### 2014 CPF Wangari Maathai Award

The CPF Wangari Maathai Award recognizes extraordinary efforts by “forest champions” to improve and sustain forests and support the people who depend on them. The award, which includes a grant of USD20 000, was established by CPF in 2012 to honour the memory of Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a champion of forest issues worldwide and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The award has played an important role in raising awareness of the importance of forests and trees, by highlighting success stories from the community level.

At the 2014 IUFRO World Congress, CPF presented the second Wangari Maathai Award to Martha Isabel ‘Pati’ Ruiz Corzo for her pioneering work to conserve forests and alleviate rural poverty in Mexico. Ruiz Corzo was recognized for making conservation profitable for rural communities in one of the most ecologically diverse areas of Mexico through the efforts of her Sierra Gorda Ecological Group.

Honourable Mention was awarded to the late Cambodian environmental activist Chut Wutty for his work to end illegal deforestation and protect the rights of indigenous forest dwellers in his country. Wutty was killed in 2012 while escorting journalists to an area of suspected illegal activity.

For more on the CPF Wangari Maathai Award, see: <http://www.cpfweb.org/77034/en/>



## Global Landscapes Forum

A joint activity organized under the auspices of the CPF, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), led by CIFOR, has evolved from the Forest Days and Agriculture and Rural Development Days held alongside meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNFCCC since 2007 and 2009, respectively. The GLF, held for the first time in 2013, aims to integrate forests and forestry within the wider discussion of landscapes. It brings together and connects stakeholders from different land-use sectors such as forestry, agriculture, mountains, water and planning, as well as funding organizations and media. All members of CPF have provided substantive input to GLF, and most have hosted discussions at the events.

The Global Landscape Forum 2013 in Warsaw, Poland attracted over 1 200 participants and was watched by 1 600 people worldwide through live streaming. GLF 2014 in Lima, Peru, attracted over 1 700 participants and ninety-five organizations.

To access blogs, presentations, reports and press releases from the event, see: <http://www.landscapes.org/>

## SHARING FOREST-RELATED INFORMATION

### Global Forest Information Service

The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) is a CPF initiative for sharing forest-related information and international forest vacancies from providers worldwide through a single gateway. GFIS is led by IUFRO and maintained by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla). GFIS counted about 22 000 visitors per month in 2013 and 2014. An increasing number of social media accounts, e-newsletters and websites use its content.

In 2014 the GFIS website was fully upgraded, with new features including: the ability to add metadata to improve information management, searchability and filtering; redesigned graphics and layout; a world map that displays content by region; mobile scalability so that the site can be more easily viewed and searched on mobile devices.

GFIS is accessible via the following link: [www.gfis.net](http://www.gfis.net)





## PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON FORESTS

### Global Forest Expert Panels

The Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative, led and coordinated by IUFRO, links the information requirements of intergovernmental processes related to forests with existing scientific expertise. Thematic panels of internationally recognized scientific experts produce assessment reports on key issues that reflect state-of-the-art understanding of the subject matter. All reports undergo rigorous peer review. These well-received reports have served as background information for strategic policy development and as briefing documents for negotiators. Various members of the CPF have contributed to the work of the expert panels, for example through participation in workshops, review of draft reports and input to authors.

By the end of 2014 GFEP had completed three assessments, on: adaptation of forests to climate change; the international forest regime; and biodiversity and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks). The Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security was initiated in November 2013, and launched its full report in May 2015. Its findings were reported in autumn 2014 at CBD COP 12 in the Republic of Korea and at the Global Landscapes Forum held alongside UNFCCC COP 20 in Peru.

To obtain reports and further information about GFEP, see: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/>



## PROMOTING POLICY LEARNING ON FORESTS

### Policy Learning Initiative

The Policy Learning Initiative analyses the connections between scholarly research and action on-the-ground, exploring how CPF can use policy learning and capacity building to ensure that good practices developed through research are disseminated and applied. The initiative has developed a policy learning framework to define and target pathways of influence for improved policy integration, adaptability, and stakeholder learning around the globe. The initiative is led by IUFRO and maintained by the Governance, Environments and Markets Initiative at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, in the USA.

In 2014 the IUFRO Task Force on International Forest Governance examined the models, methods and guiding principles for applying policy learning to global forest management challenges. The Policy Learning Initiative developed a handbook on policy learning and presented it to CPF. Specific case studies are now planned to employ the policy learning framework.

For updates and developments on the Policy Learning Initiative, see: <http://environment.yale.edu/gem>





## FUTURE VISION FOR CPF

By bringing together entities within and outside the UN system whose shared objective is to promote sustainable forest management, CPF has produced widely recognized results and enhanced the work of its members in areas such as forest finance, sustainable forest management, reporting, scientific analysis, representation at global events and forest communication. It has proved to be a highly effective platform for launching coordinated action on forests at the global level.

The partnership has benefitted from the complementarity of the mandates of its members, the shared goal of promoting sustainable forest management and the flexible arrangements for its activities. The fact that CPF has existed for over a decade and that it has been used as a model for new partnerships (e.g. the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife) testifies to its value.

Given the successes of the CPF, its members are confident that a strengthened post-2015 partnership is essential to provide even more efficient support to countries to implement SFM. The strength of CPF's resources, activities and support from its members, together with support from member States, will determine its future success. CPF members continue to search for opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the partnership even further. The partnership remains committed to saving and maintaining the world's forests and working with countries to sustain healthy, productive landscapes.



# CPF members

Center for International Forestry Research  
(CIFOR)

[www.cifor.org](http://www.cifor.org)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
Secretariat

[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)

[www.fao.org/forestry](http://www.fao.org/forestry)

Global Environmental Facility (GEF)  
Secretariat

[www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)

International Tropical Timber Organization  
(ITTO)

[www.itto.int](http://www.itto.int)

International Union for Conservation of  
Nature (IUCN)

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

International Union of Forest Research  
Organizations (IUFRO)

[www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org)

United Nations Convention to Combat  
Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat

[www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

United Nations Development Programme  
(UNDP)

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

United Nations Environment Programme  
(UNEP)

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)  
Secretariat

[www.un.org/esa/forests](http://www.un.org/esa/forests)

United Nations Framework Convention on  
Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

[www.worldagroforestrycentre.org](http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org)

World Bank

[www.worldbank.org/forests](http://www.worldbank.org/forests)



## CPF

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS

**For more information on the CPF, go to the CPF website or contact:**

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