

Summary report of the seventh meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

9 March 2002, New York

Participants:

Hosny El-Lakany, FAO (Chair)
Jo Mulongoy, CBD Secretariat
Jagmohan Maini, DESA
John Poulsen, CIFOR
Michael Martin, FAO
Tiina Vähänen, FAO
Rosalie McConnell, FAO
Kanta Kumari, GEF
Sergio Trindade, ICRAF
Amha bin Buang, ITTO
Alastair Sarre, ITTO
Andrew Deutz, IUCN
Nina Roy, UNDP
Bai-Mass Taal, UNEP
Claudio Forner, UNFCCC Secretariat
Christian Mersmann, World Bank, PROFOR
Susan Braatz, UNFF Secretariat
Mia Söderlund, UNFF Secretariat (Secretary)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General of FAO and Chair of the CPF, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and, in particular, the new members, ICRAF and IUCN. Mr. El-Lakany further highlighted the importance of the UNFF dialogue between heads of CPF member organizations and Ministers.

2. Presentations by ICRAF and IUCN

The representative of ICRAF gave a short overview of the organization. ICRAF is part of the CGIAR system and already has a close working relationship with other CPF members, in particular with UNEP and CIFOR. Currently, ICRAF is going through a transition phase. In the future, ICRAF will focus more on strengthening its information management capacity and outreach. Also, ICRAF will shortly change its name to the *World Agroforestry Center*.

The representative of IUCN briefed CPF members on the structure and scope of the work of the IUCN, as well as the possible contribution of IUCN to the CPF. He highlighted IUCN's work to bridge policy and practice, and its presence in the field, with 42 field offices throughout the world.

3. Organization of the policy dialogue between CPF heads and Ministers

The UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of the organization of the policy dialogue.

Members noted that the focus of their introductory remarks during the dialogue would be to provide an overview of the situation and key policy questions related to the four critical issues to be discussed and to highlight individual, joint and collaborative CPF efforts addressing these issues. CPF members agreed to share their prepared remarks for the policy dialogue among each other in advance.

4. CPF's role in the ad hoc expert groups of the UNFF

CPF members reviewed the latest revision of the draft terms of reference of the UNFF ad hoc expert groups, and expressed their readiness to support the work of the groups, pending the UNFF's agreement on the terms of reference.

5. CPF Network

On Thursday 7 March, the CPF Network met for the first time. The meeting was well attended both by the CPF members and a large number of other interested partners. CPF members noted the fruitful outcome of the meeting, discussed some of its highlights, and agreed to look into the possibility of organizing a CPF Network meeting in conjunction with the CBD's COP 6 in April to continue to discuss CPF Network's contribution to support the work of the UNFF and its working modalities. Regarding the issue of funding some CPF Network participants to attend CPF Network meetings, raised in the inaugural meeting of the Network, member noted that as CPF is an informal entity, without specific funds, it would not be able to provide assistance. However, some CPF members indicated that they could look into such a possibility in the future, on an individual basis.

6. CPF Framework

The CPF Framework was presented to UNFF 2 during the agenda item on enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination. The Framework was well received by UNFF. However, time limitation prevented a detailed discussion of the Framework and CPF activities.

7. CPF initiatives on financing sustainable forest management

FAO presented an update of the CPF initiative on the Sourcebook for Financing SFM. A paper had been prepared by FAO, which highlighted some of the recent developments and suggested steps forward. One question that was raised and discussed was how the Sourcebook could fit into UNFF's overall discussion on financing SFM, including its ad hoc expert group on financing and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It was noted that this initiative requires strong involvement of a number of CPF members, specifically those that are acting CPF focal agencies for finance. It was also noted that the

initiative, if expanded beyond a database to include, for example, capacity building efforts, would need additional resources. It was also suggested that the Sourcebook should make reference to the UN process of financing for development. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Sourcebook could be presented at UNFF 3. Several CPF members also suggested that the Sourcebook should be tested with donors and recipient countries. CPF members were requested to review the FAO document and provide Michael Martin, FAO, with comments and suggestions for future steps.

8. Brief agency report on matters of interest to other CPF members

GEF Secretariat informed CPF members about the Roundtable on Forestry, which was scheduled for 11 March in New York. The idea of roundtables came from the GEF Council, which wanted to contribute to the WSSD. The Roundtable on Forestry included a panel of experts and the outcome was to be a chairman's summary that would be presented during a UNFF side event on 12 March.

CBD Secretariat representative highlighted some of the outcomes of the Workshop on Forest and Biological Diversity, held in Accra, Ghana from 28 to 30 January 2002. It was stressed that the work of the CBD and the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to forest biological diversity are complimentary.

Furthermore, the CBD Secretariat announced that it was holding a coordination meeting with the UNFCCC and CCD in July 2002 to discuss collaboration and coordination on their activities related to forests. The other members of the CPF and the UNFF Secretariat would be invited to attend.

World Bank/PROFOR has prepared a document entitled "Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action: Fostering National-level Assessments and Identification of Action". A side event was held during UNFF 2 to discuss the document and related efforts to assist countries in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

FAO, ITTO and other partners will organize an International Conference on Criteria and Indicators in Guatemala City, Guatemala from 22 to 26 July 2002. In addition to taking stock of progress in the international criteria and indicators processes, the meeting will address the question of how the processes can facilitate monitoring, assessment and reporting in the UNFF. All CPF members will be invited to attend.

FAO reported the outcomes of the Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders, which was co-organized by FAO, CIFOR, IPCC and IUFRO. The meeting was held in Rome, from 23 to 35 January 2002, and launched a "harmonization" process, which will be carried out under the umbrella of CPF. Proceedings from the meeting were distributed during the CPF meeting.

ITTO informed the CPF that the ITTC meeting is scheduled for 13-18 May in Bali, Indonesia.

9. Next meeting of the CPF

Various options were discussed. It was agreed that the date for the next CPF meeting would be set after having analyzed the results of UNFF2. UNFF Secretariat would inform members of the possible dates and venues.

10. Other matters

The CPF discussed how the work of the CPF could be more visible. It was agreed that the CPF would update the CPF Policy Document that was prepared for UNFF 1. An updated version could serve as a valuable document for CPF with a view to distributing it at the upcoming World Conference on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, August 2002.

It was also suggested that reports of CPF initiatives, i.e. activities in support of the UNFF endorsed by all CPF members, should be clearly identified as CPF products, e.g. with the logos of all the member organizations of the CPF on the cover page, even if all members may not contribute actively. It was also suggested that if several CPF members were publishing a report, which was not a CPF initiative, it would be desirable to include a statement along these lines: "The following organizations are associated with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests".

The meeting ended with a farewell to Jag Maini, Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat. Jag has been directing the Secretariat for the last six years and has been instrumental in the birth and functioning of the CPF. All CPF members wished him good luck with future projects and thanked him for his outstanding leadership and vision over the years.