

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF)

Policy Document

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests that was established in April 2001 following the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). It is modeled on the high-level, informal Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) that supported the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (1995-1997) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (1997-2000). The CPF is comprised of thirteen international forest-related organizations, institutions and instruments.

The mission of the CPF is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in promoting sustainable management of all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. CPF's two objectives are to support the UNFF and its member countries and to enhance cooperation and coordination among its members.

CPF members facilitate the work of UNFF by: supporting the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action; providing expertise and advisory services to the UNFF; and assisting in monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests. CPF members enhances cooperation and coordination on forests by developing synergies among partners and carrying out joint programming and collaborative activities, enriching the work of each member organization by the continuous exchange of information and innovative ideas.

The CPF operates in an open, transparent and flexible manner. It has established a CPF Network to facilitate interaction and communication with a wide range of other international and regional organizations, including NGOs, private sector entities and other major groups, involved in forest-related activities.

The CPF reports annually to the UNFF through its *Framework to Support the Work of the UNFF*, which represents both CPF's work plan as well as its report on progress.

1. INTRODUCTION

This document, updated in May 2002, gives an overview of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests' (CPF) mission, objectives, terms of reference and working modalities.

2. INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS

In February 2000, at the conclusion of its mandate, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) recommended the establishment of a new international arrangement on forests, to be composed of a policy forum and a collaborative partnership.

In October 2000, acting on this recommendation and on the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), ECOSOC established the UNFF to succeed the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) (1995-1997) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) (1997-2000). As a part of the new international arrangement on forests, ECOSOC invited the heads of relevant international organizations to form a collaborative partnership on forests to support the work of the UNFF and to enhance cooperation and coordination among its participants in forest-related activities.

The international arrangement on forests is designed to “*promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.*”¹

In this regard, its main purpose is “*to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels, to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development, and to carry out principal functions,*”² which were agreed upon, as follows³:

- (a) facilitate and promote the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action, including through national forest programmes; and catalyze, mobilize and generate and channel financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;
- (b) provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue and to foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management;
- (c) enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments;
- (d) foster international (North-South, public-private) and cross-sectoral cooperation;
- (e) monitor, assess and report on progress; and
- (f) strengthen political commitment.

Activities to be undertaken within the international arrangement on forests, are based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁴ the Forest Principles⁵, Chapter 11 on Combating Deforestation and other relevant Chapters of Agenda 21, as well as on the outcomes of IPF/IFF⁶.

The UNFF works on the basis a multi-year programme of work and a plan of action for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.⁷ It has ministerial segments at some of its

¹ ECOSOC Resolution E/2000/35, para 1.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid, para 2.

⁴ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, 1992

⁵ Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, adopted at UNCED

⁶ Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel (E/CN.17/1997/12) and Forum (E/CN.17/2000/14) on Forests

sessions, including a dialogue with the heads of CPF members and other relevant organizations, and it reports to ECOSOC and, through it, to the General Assembly. The effectiveness of the international arrangement will be reviewed at the fifth session of the UNFF in the year 2005.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CPF

As noted above, when ECOSOC established the UNFF, it invited the formation of a collaborative partnership on forests and recommended such a partnership be modeled on the previous informal, high-level Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) that was set up in 1995 to support the IPF and IFF. It consisted of eight international forest or forest-related organizations⁸ and was chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as the Task Manager of Chapter 11 of Agenda 21⁹. The ITFF was considered to be one of the main institutional legacies of the IPF/IFF process. Both the IPF and IFF recognized the valuable contributions made by the ITFF and commended the ITFF as an example of an effective mechanism for interagency collaboration.

In response to ECOSOC's recommendation, the CPF was established at its inaugural meeting on 4-5 April 2001 in Rome. Initial membership of the CPF consisted of the eight members of the ITFF, however, it has since been strengthened. Currently, the CPF consists of the following thirteen organizations:

- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR);
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (DESA);
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO);
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF);
- World Bank;
- World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The CPF consists of international organizations, institutions and instruments that have the capacity, programmes and resources to support the UNFF process, in particular, the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. CPF members have stressed, however, the importance of strengthening their work by inviting partners to join in specific initiatives and by sharing information on CPF work with a wide audience. A CPF Network has been set up to facilitate these activities (see section 8).

⁷ The multi-year programme of work and the plan of action of the UNFF is contained in the report of the UNFF on its first session (E/2001/42/Rev.1) Available online at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests

⁸ ITFF members were: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (DESA); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and, World Bank

⁹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex III

4. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the CPF is to support the work of the UNFF in the promotion of sustainable management of all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

5. OBJECTIVES

The CPF has two main objectives: (1) support the work of the UNFF and its member countries; and, (2) enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF members.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

6.1 Support the work of the UNFF

CPF members support UNFF in three main ways:

1. Supporting the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action by:
 - Assisting countries in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by providing information and technical assistance;
 - Facilitating regional and international initiatives and efforts
 - Identifying and mobilizing financial resources
 - Strengthening political support for sustainable forest management
2. Providing expertise and advisory services to UNFF by:
 - Preparing documentation for UNFF sessions
 - Supporting inter-sessional work
 - Seconding staff to the UNFF Secretariat
3. Assisting UNFF in monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests by:
 - Supporting the development of a reporting mechanism in UNFF
 - Increasing accessibility of forest-related information, and strengthening national capacities for information collection and reporting
 - Streamlining international reporting on forests
 - Clarifying forest-related terminology.

6.2 Enhance cooperation and coordination among its members

CPF fosters enhanced cooperation and coordination among its members by:

- Facilitating and promoting coordinated and collaborative action, including through joint programming;
- Submitting coordinated proposals to the Governing Bodies of the CPF member organizations;
- Fostering cross-sectoral cooperation;
- Developing links between forest-related conventions and instruments, as well as contributing to synergies among them;

7. WORKING MODALITIES

7.1 Approach

To carry out its functions effectively and efficiently, and to strengthen collaboration among its members and with other institutions, the CPF will:

- Operate in an open, transparent and flexible manner;
- Facilitate commitment and rapid decision-making by participating in CPF meetings at senior levels, and in the UNFF high-level segment at the executive level;
- Develop and maintain partnerships with other institutions, including the CPF Network, for active communication and interaction;
- Hold regular meetings to develop and follow-up its work plan and activities;
- Contribute to the preparation of the reports of the UN Secretary-General;
- Share information on policies, programmes and activities among its members;
- Explore the feasibility of implementing joint programming among its members;
- Fulfill the commitment to second staff to the UNFF Secretariat to ensure an interagency character;
- Receive guidance from the UNFF;
- Undertake periodic reviews of its effectiveness.

7.2 Chair of the CPF

FAO, as Task Manager for Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, chairs the CPF. The tasks of the Chair include: facilitating cooperation among all CPF members to mobilize the best expertise to address complex tasks; assisting with collective efforts to mobilize external financial and human resources; preparing the CPF meetings, with the support of the UNFF Secretariat; chairing the CPF meetings; participating, on behalf of the CPF members, in the UNFF Bureau meetings; and speaking on behalf of the CPF at the UNFF and other international meetings.

The CPF will hold its meetings in different locations from time to time. These meetings would be co-chaired by FAO and the host CPF member. When necessary, the Chairperson can assign the responsibility of chairing a meeting to any other CPF member.

7.3 Focal-agency System

The CPF has established a focal agency system to enhance coordination and cooperation among its members, consistent with the practice that the ITFF initiated to support the IPF/IFF programme of work. Table 1 is broken down by UNFF elements, as identified in the UNFF multi-year programme of work. This division is based on the mandate, competence, resources and comparative advantage of each member, especially with regard to activities related to implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

The focal agency works in cooperation with other organizations and strengthens collaboration, both among the CPF members and with other partners to mobilize the best possible resources and expertise, avoid duplication and minimize overlap in activities. The

focal agency also plays an important role in channeling requests for information and assistance to the appropriate sources.

Table1. CPF focal agencies

UNFF Elements	Focal Agency
Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes	FAO
Promoting public participation	DESA(international) UNDP (national)
Combating deforestation and forest degradation	UNEP
Traditional forest related knowledge (TFRK)	CBD
Forest-related scientific knowledge	CIFOR
Forest health and productivity	FAO
Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management	FAO/ITTO
Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests (Economic aspects of forests) (Social and cultural aspects of forests)	World Bank CIFOR
Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems	UNEP
Monitoring, assessment and reporting; and concepts, terminology and definitions	FAO
Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover	UNEP
Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests	FAO
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs	DESA
Financial resources	World Bank/ GEF
International trade and sustainable forest management	ITTO
International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technologies for the support of sustainable forest management	FAO

7.4 CPF Framework

The CPF reports annually to the UNFF on its activities in support to UNFF in a document entitled *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests' Framework to Support the Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests*, or the "CPF Framework". This annual report represents both the CPF's work plan and progress report. It is prepared as a collaborative effort by all CPF members and is compiled with the assistance of the UNFF Secretariat. The first report, for the second session of the UNFF, provided an overview of activities carried out collectively and individually by CPF members in support of the UNFF. In subsequent reports, it is envisaged that the CPF Framework will focus on the elements to be discussed at each UNFF session and include ways in which the CPF has followed up on invitations and guidance from previous UNFF resolutions and decisions.

7.5 Secretariat

The UNFF Secretariat services CPF and its Network by: facilitating joint programming and joint submissions to governing bodies of the CPF and donors; mobilizing support for CPF activities; liaising with CPF members; coordinating CPF contributions, including preparation of reports of the Secretary-General to UNFF; participating in meetings of governing bodies and technical sessions, as required; acting as a focal point for information dissemination and communication among members; preparing and supporting CPF and CPF Network meetings; preparing background documents; maintaining a calendar of meetings/events; and managing other outreach activities of the CPF. In addition, the Secretariat also helps prepare, implement and monitor the CPF Framework.

Recognizing the benefits that would result from the Secretariat having an interagency character, have agreed to make every effort to second staff to or otherwise contribute to the staffing of the UNFF Secretariat.

8. CPF NETWORK: COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PARTNERS

To strengthen international cooperation and transparency in its operations and to facilitate communication with a wide range of partners, the CPF established an informal CPF Network in March 2002, in conjunction with the second session of the UNFF.

Participation in the CPF Network is open to all interested individuals and international, regional and national organizations, institutions, instruments and processes, such as regional processes, development banks, environmental and development NGOs, IPOs, the scientific community, private sector entities and other major groups, which work on forest-related issues.

The objectives of the CPF Network are to:

- (i) Facilitate stakeholders' involvement in CPF work in support of the UNFF;
- (ii) Enhance communication among a wide range of stakeholders; and
- (iii) Further enhance collaboration and cooperation among organizations, institutions, instruments and processes working on forest-related matters.

Mechanisms and measures to enable communication and collaboration include:

- Dissemination of information through the CPF website, including summary reports of CPF meetings and CPF Network meetings;
- Dissemination of information related to UNFF activities by the CPF focal agencies;
- A section of the *UNFF News* (distributed electronically monthly by the UNFF Secretariat) for contributions from CPF members and participants of the CPF Network;
- CPF Network meetings in conjunction with each UNFF session and at other times, as needed;
- Task forces consisting of CPF members and CPF Network participants formed to share ideas and information on specific issues; and
- Direct lines of communication between focal points of the UNFF multi-stakeholder dialogue and CPF Network participants to facilitate collaboration.