



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

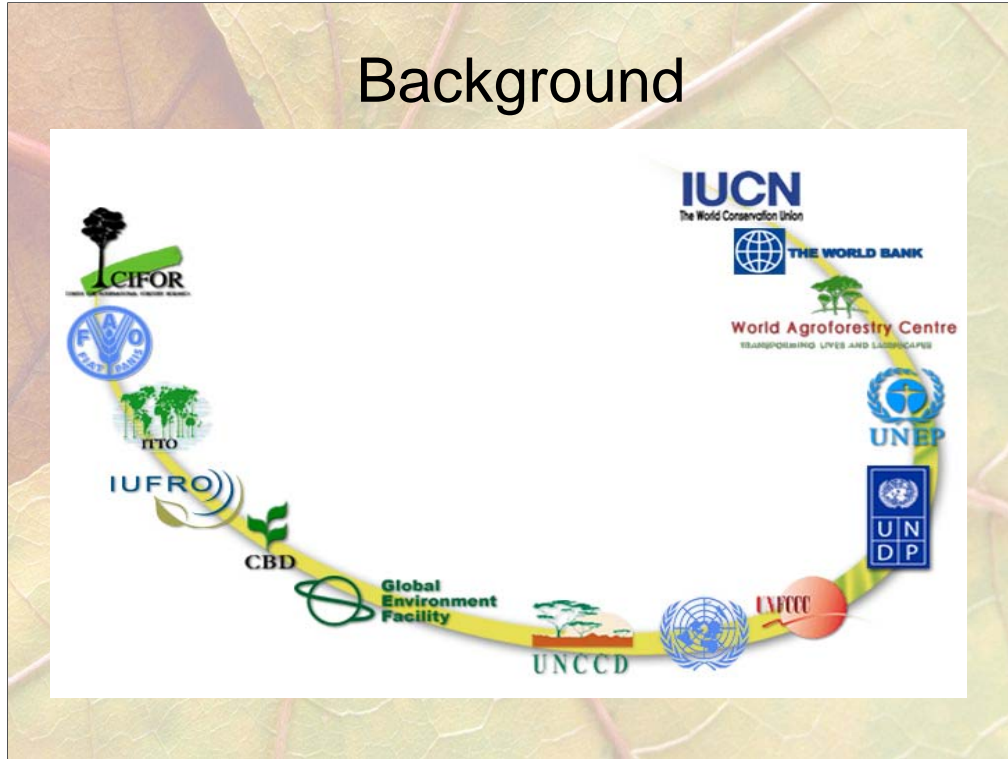
Framework 2007

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It is a pleasure to present to you the fifth report of the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The report itself provides a comprehensive assessment of both joint initiatives as well as ongoing collaborative activities of CPF members. This presentation will provide a brief overview of this ongoing work. CPF members are also present in the room and ready to answer any further questions you may have.

Background



The CPF consists of 14 independent organizations working in association to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Background

- 2 main tasks:
 - to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests
 - to enhance cooperation and coordination among its members



The CPF was created by ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 with two main tasks: to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to enhance cooperation and coordination among its members.

In 2006 the important role of CPF in accomplishing both of these objectives was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council, which invited members of CPF to continue to “strengthen their collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels”.

New Initiatives



- Initiative on Science and Technology
- Forest Sourcebook on Sustainable Forest Management



Since the last CPF Framework paper submitted to the Forum in 2005, the CPF has undertaken three new joint initiatives:

The Initiative on Science and Technology aims to bring together existing scientific information on issues deemed to be of relevance to the inter-governmental process to inform policymakers about the state of the art in each chosen field. Topics will be chosen in consultation with stakeholders and governments and existing information will be gathered and compiled by a panel of scientists from both developed and developing countries.

The Forest Sourcebook is designed to assist countries and practitioners in implementing projects aimed at taking advantage of the potential of forests to contribute to poverty alleviation, conservation and development. It covers a wide range of topics from the role of forests in poverty reduction and making markets work for the poor, to improving forest governance and monitoring forest sector projects. This initiative is separate but complimentary to the Sourcebook on Financing on which I will come to soon. The Forest Sourcebook on Sustainable Forest Management will be available and distributed in June of this year.

Ongoing Initiatives



Streamlining Reporting

- Reporting Portal
- Streamlining Data Collection: FRA 2010

Challenges

- Fixed Reporting Schedules and Formats

Planned Activities

- Increasing Collaboration
- Capacity Building at national level



The initiative to Streamline Reporting continues to show progress. ITTO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO have worked towards more coordinated information-gathering, in particular within the framework of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). FRA 2010 is aimed at providing information on all major elements of sustainable forest management and thus also at helping to monitor progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests agreed by the Forum on Forests and the Economic and Social Council, the 2010 target of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other targets and objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other processes. Nine CPF members provided their expertise for outlining FRA 2010.

The greatest challenge in streamlining reporting among all members of the CPF are the fixed reporting schedules and formats that are often prescribed by the governing body of the organization. These can only be changed through the inter-governmental process.

The CPF plans to continue work on this initiative by further increasing collaboration among members and taking a coordinated approach to building capacity at the national level for data collection and reporting.

Ongoing Initiatives

Harmonizing Definitions

- 3 expert meetings
- Web portal



Challenge

- Different definitions used in the various processes can only be changed by their respective governing bodies



CPF members have held three expert meetings to consider harmonizing reporting since 2002. Key terms discussed, among others, were “natural forest”, “planted forest”, “forest plantation”, “trees outside of forests”, “managed forest” and “unmanaged forest”. There was general, although not unanimous, agreement on definitions for the first three terms, and participants reached consensus on the working definition of “forest management”.

CPF provides a web portal to forest definitions, including the outcome of the expert meetings, definitions used by CPF members and a number of other links to thesauri and definition databases.

The primary challenge lies in the fact that different definitions of forest-related terms can be used in various contexts to meet different political and practical ends. As in the case of obstacles to harmonization of reporting, some problems may best be overcome through better coordination among governing bodies that may set definitions to be used in reporting. Member States of various Governing Bodies may wish to take into account the need to alleviate overlap and contradictory use of terms when setting definitions.

Ongoing Initiatives



Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management

- On-line database of potential sources of funding
- Monthly funding e-newsletter



The CPF maintains an on-line database of potential sources of funding for sustainable forest management open to countries as well as civil society organizations. In 2006 all entries in the database were updated and the number of funding sources was substantially increased, from 450 in September 2004 to 650 in March 2006. French and Spanish sources were also added to increase the geographic coverage. The database system was upgraded to improve access to information, with a new interactive search function.

In addition to the database, a new electronic funding newsletter has been initiated to assist fund-seekers worldwide to learn about opportunities in a timely manner. It is sent once a month to over 600 e-mail subscribers. The Sourcebook also continues to host a discussion forum that has attracted the participation of hundreds of individuals and has helped its page become one of the most frequently visited on the CPF website.

The initiative will continue to expand both its database and newsletter subscription base over the coming years.

Ongoing Initiatives



Global Forest Information Service (GFIS)

- Internet gateway for all types of forest information
- English, French and Spanish interfaces
- Training workshops for GFIS information providers: Russia, China, Chile, Costa Rica and Korea



The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) is an Internet gateway that provides access to forest-related information through a single entry point.

Searching among the resources is free and provides direct access to the original information. All information made available through GFIS is supplied by partner institutions from around the world that are concerned with forest information. An upgraded version of the GFIS gateway was opened in January 2007, providing an improved search tool and viewing facility for the latest news, events, publications and job opportunities and overall enhanced visibility of GFIS partners. In February 2007, new Spanish and French language interfaces were launched. GFIS partners also completed training workshops in the Russia, China, Chile, Costa Rica and Korea for new information providers in parallel with the system development in 2006.

Enhancing Collaboration



- Financing for SFM
- Improving Governance and Law Enforcement
- Forest Landscape Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
- Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting



The spirit of enhanced cooperation often goes beyond the formal boundaries of the Partnership, and CPF members regularly engage in collaborative activities on a wide range of issues related to sustainable forest management.

CPF members continue to contribute to the UNFF process through a number of substantive reports, including the PROFOR led study on Means of Implementation. This study was prepared as a background document and has been made available to UNFF participants.

To improve financing for SFM, CPF members also continue to work with countries to develop strategies for financing their sustainable forest management activities through the development of case studies and best practices and by organizing a series of national and regional investment forums.

A number of CPF partners maintain their own programs related to improving forest governance and law enforcement and often work together to develop and expand knowledge and expertise, build capacity and promote dialogue at the national and regional levels.

The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, formed in 2003, remains an active platform for collaboration by nine CPF members as well as a growing number of government and civil society partners. This Partnership has proven successful in initiating projects around the world, sharing best practices, and developing the links between scientific knowledge and policy.

Enhancing Collaboration



- Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Research

- Forest Fires

- Public Outreach



Many CPF members place poverty alleviation as a leading priority.

Apart from their own on-going programs, several CPF members have worked together over the last year to:

- foster a dialogue in the West-African sub-region and in SE Asia on the contributions of forests to poverty alleviation;
- develop a tool-kit for gathering data on the role of forests in maintaining livelihoods;
- and pull together a group of diverse stakeholders to raise global awareness on the importance of forest tenure, policy and market reforms through the Rights and Resources Initiative

Joint research initiatives are also increasingly prevalent among CPF members, including a new initiative to study the integration of biodiversity and conservation in multi-functional forest landscapes.

Collaborative work to help countries reduce the risk of forest fires is on-going, particularly in the African region.

Public Outreach through publications and via the web also continues to be an important activity for both the CPF as a Partnership and for its individual members.

Future Actions

- Focus on action on the ground
- Support the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests and the implementation of the NLBI and MYPOW



The members of CPF have made great efforts to build and strengthen the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. The primary concern of CPF and its members is supporting tangible actions on the ground.

The members of CPF look forward to working closely with the UNFF and its member States to assist them in their efforts to achieve the global objectives on forests and to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, as well as the new multi-year programme of work.



We invite you to visit the CPF website, which is maintained jointly by the UNFF Secretariat and FAO, and thank you for your attention and consideration.

The Chair of the CPF as well as some other members are here and ready to respond to any questions or comments you may have.