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Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests


Summary
The present report provides a summary of the joint and collaborative activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in 2008 and 2009. The important contributions of the partnership are recognized in recent United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions and decisions. The non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests calls for further support to the CPF to develop and implement joint initiatives, while the Forum’s multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for 2007-2015 calls upon the CPF to develop synergies and explore possibilities for joint activities to achieve sustainable forest management, the Global Objectives on Forests and implementation of the forest instrument.

Since its last report in 2007, the partnership has embarked on new joint initiatives on financing for sustainable forest management; forests and climate change and forest degradation. The CPF also continues to develop and expand existing joint initiatives on a sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management; global forest expert panels; streamlining forest-related reporting; a global forest information service and the partnership’s website. CPF members also continue to engage in other collaborative activities related to improving forest governance and law enforcement; research in forest landscape mosaics; monitoring, assessment and reporting; forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands; public communication and outreach and forestry education.
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I. Introduction

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)\(^1\) is an informal, voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. It was established to enhance cooperation and coordination among its members on forest-related issues. In this regard, it supports the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in particular country efforts to achieve sustainable forest management. The Partnership meets regularly to share experiences, discuss emerging issues, and develop joint initiatives to address areas of mutual concern. Building on each of their comparative advantages and institutional strengths, CPF members seek to speak with a common voice, deliver consistent messages, and facilitate bottom-up approaches in the implementation of sustainable forest management.

2. Consistent with their commitment to support UNFF, several CPF members were substantively involved in two country-led initiatives: the Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa, held in Durban, South Africa in April 2008 and the International Dialogue on Financing Sustainable Forest Management held in Paramaribo, Suriname in September 2008. In addition, ITTO is arranging for the latest secondment of a senior staff person to the UNFF secretariat in 2009.

II. Links to recent United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions and decisions

3. In 2007, the seventh session of the Forum agreed on the landmark non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) and the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the UNFF for the period 2007-2015. Both of these important UNFF\(^7\) outcomes identify key elements for future international forest policy and call for active support from CPF members.

4. The forest instrument, which builds on more than fifteen years of negotiations on global forest policy, strengthens political commitment to sustainable forest management and provides a framework for international cooperation\(^2\). It seeks to achieve the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOF)\(^3\), sets out national policies and measures\(^4\), and further defines measures of international cooperation and means of implementation\(^5\). Most actions called for relate to ongoing activities of the CPF and its members, including criteria and indicators\(^6\), scientific and technological innovation\(^7\), public awareness\(^8\), research and development, governance\(^9\), national forest programmes\(^10\), environmental impact assessments\(^11\), threats to forest health\(^12\), and protected areas\(^13\). The forest instrument also

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\(^1\) CPF membership consists of the Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Bank and the World Conservation Union.

\(^2\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 1(c)

\(^3\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 5

\(^4\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6

\(^5\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 7

\(^6\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(g), see also paragraph 6(b)

\(^7\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(s), see also 7(k), 7(l), 7(m) and 7(n)

\(^8\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(s), see also 7(k), 7(l), 7(m) and 7(n)

\(^9\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(n), see also 7(h), 7(i) and 7(j)

\(^10\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(a) and 6(l)

\(^11\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(c)

\(^12\) A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(o)
identifies potential areas of future CPF collaboration: traditional forest related knowledge, incentive structures, encouraging investment by both the private sector and local communities, and access to resources and markets to ensure livelihoods, among others.

5. In addition, the forest instrument calls on Member States to support the CPF to develop and implement joint initiatives. As members of the CPF governing bodies, they are also asked to help ensure that the respective forest-related priorities and programmes of each partner are integrated and mutually supportive.

6. The UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) sets out the themes and activities for the Forum from 2007 to 2015 and, in doing so, provides a number of opportunities for CPF and its members to contribute to the inter-governmental dialogue. The MYPOW highlights the CPF initiative to streamline reporting and calls for further harmonization of monitoring, assessment and reporting. It also calls upon the Partnership to develop synergies and explore possibilities for joint activities to achieve sustainable forest management, the Global Objectives on Forests and implementation of the forest instrument. The MYPOW also invites CPF members to share information on their activities in support of the International Year of Forests in 2011.

7. To address the opportunities presented by the UNFF outcomes and other forestry-related international agreements in 2007, the Partnership held a strategic dialogue (Bonn, February 2008) in which members agreed on the need to advance forest finance and raise awareness of forests as a multi-value and multi-functional resource. With regard to climate change, CPF members noted the timely relevance of the adaptation and mitigation aspects to their mandates, strategies and programmes, as well as the need for further co-operation and coordination in this area. Members also agreed to work towards revitalizing their joint initiative on streamlining reporting, strengthening support to forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG), and promoting effective use of science and technology in international forest-related processes.

III. Joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

A. New initiatives

8. Since 2007, the Partnership has undertaken several new initiatives in support of UNFF:

Financial for sustainable forest management

9. In December 2007, the UNFF Secretariat invited five other members of CPF with extensive experience in forest finance (FAO, GEF, ITTO, UNFCCC Secretariat and the World Bank) to form

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13 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(p) and 6(q)
14 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(g), see also paragraph 6(b)
15 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 7(d), see also 7(e)
16 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(b)
17 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 6(y)
18 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 7(s)
19 A/RES/62/98 paragraph 7(r)
20 MYPOW paragraph 19
21 MYPOW paragraph 14
the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF)\textsuperscript{22}. Members of the advisory group were asked to provide technical expertise to UNFF8 preparations on this issue. As part of its contributions, FAO and the NFP Facility carried out a comprehensive update of the CPF Sourcebook on Funding for SFM (see section B – ongoing initiatives for details).

10. The AGF also commissioned a study entitled “Current financial flows and needs to implement the non-legally binding instrument” which identifies financing needs, as well as sources and mechanisms for financing sustainable forest management\textsuperscript{23}. Findings were presented at a meeting of the UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) in November 2008 which was convened to develop proposals for a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/framework.

11. The study provides an objective analysis of the funding sources and gaps related to implementing sustainable forest management (SFM) and the forest instrument. It also shows that international financing arrangements for forests are rapidly evolving, partly targeting SFM and partly targeting efforts to enhance the contribution of forests to climate change mitigation and conservation of biological diversity. The study further points out that current funding is inadequate to implement SFM and the forest instrument. In this regard, it invites the international community to consider whether a new instrument or mechanism could be set up to increase financial resources in a systematic and predictable manner.

**CPF Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change**

12. Since April 2008, all CPF members were involved in developing the *Strategic framework for forests and climate change*, a document which proposes a coordinated forest-sector response to the global climate change agenda. It puts forward a case for the tactical role of sustainable forest management, including forest conservation, rehabilitation and restoration, in achieving long-term climate change mitigation. It also serves as a robust framework for effective adaptation and for combating forest degradation, drawing on the collective expertise of CPF members to deal with complex forest issues such as forest law compliance, support to livelihoods, and conservation in land use planning.

13. The framework was launched in Poznan, Poland during the 14\textsuperscript{th} Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2008. It conveys six key messages:
   1. Sustainable forest management provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation
   2. Forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently
   3. Inter-sectoral collaboration, economic incentives, and the provision of alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation
   4. Capacity-building and governance reforms are urgently required
   5. Accurate forest monitoring and assessment help informed decision-making but require greater coordination at all levels
   6. CPF members are committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.

\textsuperscript{22} http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-finance/en/

14. The CPF strategic framework\(^{24}\) aims to facilitate preparations for the post-2012 climate regime and the development of any future UNFCCC mechanism to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. It also aims to enhance coordinated action and integration of climate change aspects into SFM in a cross-sectoral manner.

**Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change**

15. In 2007, the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change\(^{25}\) was established under what was then known as the CPF Joint Initiative on Science and Technology (see section B – Global Forest Expert Panels). This select group of outstanding scientific experts carried out a comprehensive assessment of available scientific information on the adaptation of forests and forest-dependent people to climate change. The work of the Panel is to facilitate the development of appropriate responses to climate change impacts on forests and trees, based on state of the art knowledge.

16. Building on scientific literature and other relevant sources of information, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Panel reviewed current knowledge concerning the link between forest ecosystems and climate; observed and projected future climate change impacts on forests and the people depending on them, their vulnerabilities, and the options for adaptation in terms of management and policy. Based on the assessment, a Policy Brief has been prepared for the consideration of UNFF8 and the full, peer-reviewed assessment report is scheduled for publication at that time.

**CPF Forest Days at UNFCCC COP**

17. In recent years, forests have featured prominently in discussions at meetings of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. To capitalize on this interest, CIFOR, in collaboration with other CPF members, organized two “Forest Days” at COP13 and COP 14\(^{26}\). The theme at both events was “Shaping the Global Agenda for Forests and Climate Change”, where a range of forest issues central to the climate change debate were discussed: the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD); challenges related to monitoring and data; transaction and opportunity costs in forest and carbon markets; governance, including rights, law enforcement, poverty, and livelihoods; and financial incentives such as payments for ecosystem services. The two gatherings attracted more than 800 scientists, policymakers and representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

**CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Degradation**

18. As a follow-up to previous work on harmonizing forest definitions and streamlining forest-related reporting\(^{27}\), CPF undertook a new joint initiative to identify specific parameters and/or proxy indicators of forest degradation and degraded forests as well as methods to assess and monitor these. The aim is to increase awareness of the many facets of forest degradation and to build country capacity to monitor, assess and report on them, especially given the prominence the issue is now

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\(^{24}\) http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-climatechange

\(^{25}\) http://www.iufro.org/science/cpf-gfep/adaptation-panel/


\(^{27}\) http://www.fao.org/forestry/43155/en/
receiving in the international arena. A questionnaire was sent to countries and forest-related organizations asking them, among other items, to provide the definition and parameters of forest degradation they are using; details on any assessment carried out at national or local level in this area; and information which will help to identify potential case studies.

19. The CPF initiative on forest degradation also builds on the IPCC review of definitions and methodologies to assess emissions from degradation of forests; the recent Informal Expert Consultation of the UNFCCC\(^28\); the activities of the UN-REDD programme; and the ITTO/IUCN/FAO-led event on forest degradation at Forest Day\(^29\); UNEP-WCMC’s work on forest fragmentation and other biodiversity indicators for the 2010 Biodiversity Target; the FAO/UNEP/GEF project on Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands; and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

**B. Ongoing initiatives**

**CPF Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management**

20. The CPF Sourcebook on Funding for SFM\(^30\) is an electronic database of more than 800 funding sources, 15 of which are related to climate change (carbon funds). Although its main aim is to assist countries and practitioners to locate funds for sustainable forest management projects, it was a key tool in assessing the availability of and gaps in funding to support national measures identified in the forest instrument. Information contained in the Sourcebook comes from development agencies, countries, CPF members, other international forest-related organizations and instruments, developments banks, the private sector, regional processes, foundations and international non-governmental organizations. It covers issues ranging from poverty alleviation, market access and forest certification systems to community-based forest management, small and medium-sized forest enterprises, and forest governance.

21. The search system was restructured to improve accuracy and make it more user-friendly. In addition, the Funding Newsletter is now published every 2 months. The database was developed and is maintained by FAO, in collaboration with other CPF members and the National Forest Programme Facility.

**Global Forest Expert Panels (formerly entitled Joint Initiative on Science and Technology)**

22. This CPF initiative led by IUFRO, links existing forests and trees related scientific expertise with information needs of governments and intergovernmental processes\(^31\). It brings together internationally recognized experts to provide independent scientific assessments on issues of high concern to policy and decision makers. These assessment reports are prepared by thematic Expert Panels. The outputs of the Panels include comprehensive, peer-reviewed reports as well as summaries for policymakers.

23. Through timely reports on issues of major concern, reflecting the state-of-the-art understanding of the subject matter, GFEP helps respond to the needs of the Forum and other intergovernmental processes.

\(^28\) [http://www.unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4579.php](http://www.unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4579.php)
processes for sound scientific information. In this way, it supports more informed decision-making at the global level and contributes to the achievement of international forest-related commitments and internationally agreed development goals. Although current focus is on forests and adaptation to climate change through the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change (noted above), potential future themes could include bioenergy, forest and water interactions, landscape approaches, and others.

**Joint Initiative on Streamlining Reporting**

24. In the interest of reducing the reporting burden on countries and improving efficiency in national reporting, CPF members worked to streamline reporting requests, synchronize reporting cycles, harmonize data collection methods, increase data comparability and compatibility, facilitate the accessibility and flow of information, and strengthen national capacity. The CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting created a portal\(^32\) which helps users to find national reports on forests and other information of interest, including a reporting calendar and reporting guidelines. The site is maintained by FAO, in close collaboration with other members of the CPF Task Force.

25. A number of CPF members have taken measures to reduce the reporting burden on countries: FAO, ITTO and CBD are coordinating their information gathering, particularly in the context of FRA. FRA 2010 aims to provide information on the major elements of sustainable forest management and, in doing so, will help to monitor the achievement of the GOFs, the forest instrument, the CBD 2010 target and other targets and objectives of the ITTA, the UNFCCC and other processes. However, the demand for reporting appears to be growing, despite efforts to curtail additional requests. The UNFF secretariat is in the process of preparing a concept note and recommendations in this regard, expected to be available in mid 2009.

**Global Forest Information Service**

26. The Global Forest Information Service, as an internet portal, provides a single entry point to disseminate and share a wide range of forest-related data and information. The CPF joint initiative developed common information exchange standards and is building capacity and enhancing partnerships among providers and users of forestry information. GFIS is led by IUFRO, in collaboration with FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, the UNFF Secretariat, and the Biological Informatics Office of the United States Geological Survey.

27. The GFIS gateway\(^33\) currently receives information from more than 130 partners around the world. Developments are constantly underway to help information providers promote their information resources. At present, GFIS includes a search tool and browsing capability for the latest news, events, publications and job opportunities. The Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) is responsible for the technical development and maintenance of the GFIS gateway.

**CPF Website**

28. The CPF website\(^34\) disseminates and provides access to information on the partnership and its activities, including the CPF Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management and the CPF

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\(^{33}\) [http://www.gfis.net](http://www.gfis.net)

Portal on Forest Reporting. The website makes CPF publications available online, including the CPF brochure, policy documents, progress reports, statements and meeting reports. The site features links to the calendars of various events organized by CPF members and provides contact details for CPF member focal points. The UNFF secretariat maintains the website, in close collaboration with FAO.

IV. Other collaborative activities

Improving forest governance and law enforcement

29. A number of CPF members are actively engaged forest governance and law enforcement activities. The World Bank works with partners to facilitate government discussions and secure commitments. FAO and ITTO work together to build capacity. IUCN works with a wide range of stakeholders through the Global Forest Governance Project and CIFOR works with others to focus on social aspects of the issue.

30. Members have recognized that good governance is more process than an end result and, while there are no concrete indicators of advancement, ongoing efforts and investments are reaping benefits in terms of improved forest management and positive changes to national policies. Good governance has also been recognized as key to an effective REDD mechanism. Other issues of concern identified by members include sustainability vs. legality; collaboration with relevant partners outside the CPF; further engagement of local institutions and the private sector; and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Platform for research in forest landscape mosaics

31. The CIFOR-ICRAF Biodiversity Platform[^35] focuses on multifunctionality in forest landscape mosaics – areas which support a range of forest, agricultural, livelihood and urban activities and are recognized for their high biodiversity value. Working with multiple stakeholders and at different governance levels, research focuses on the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, and equitable benefit-sharing. The platform seeks to generate synergies, promote dialogue and networking, and provide opportunities for sharing lessons across disciplines, sites and scales. It aims to deliver public goods on forest landscape mosaics by examining the relationships between biodiversity and livelihood security in multifunctional landscapes; ecological processes and spatial dynamics of biodiversity in forest landscape mosaics; opportunities and constraints for biodiversity conservation; sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing; and the potential to harmonize customary and statutory rules and laws.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

32. A number of CPF members are building capacity to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting at national and regional levels. FAO, the Government of Japan, the CBD secretariat, ITTO and UNEP, are currently engaged in assisting countries to develop a harmonized national forest monitoring, assessment and reporting system for the Asia and the Pacific region. National networks of focal points have been or are being established for various forest-related processes, conventions and agencies. The initiative also provides training to harmonize remote sensing-based forest classification, build skills for two- and three-dimensional data visualization, develop indicators on forest degradation, deforestation and fragmentation, and standardize information management related to national forest inventories and assessments.

Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands
33. CPF members actively participate in the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration\(^{36}\) to assess the contributions of forest landscape restoration to the implementation of international and regional laws and agreements, conduct case studies, and hold workshops.

34. The Partnership continues to build its learning network, expand publicity efforts, and reinforce legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support FLR. In 2007, IUFRO convened an International Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration to examine the scientific basis for the concept and its linkages to practice and policy. In 2008, IUCN convened an International Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Linkage in Climate Change, in Miyun County, China, to share information on forest landscape restoration, watershed management, and the relationship between forests and climate change.

Public communication and outreach
35. In 2008, the UNFF Secretariat partnered with UNEP and FAO to develop the first edition of Vital Forest Graphics – a visual overview of the state of the world’s forests through graphics, maps and other illustrations. The publication is based on case studies on topical forest issues by a diverse group of authors and is slated for print in 2009.

36. ICRAF, WB, IUCN and ITTO further enhance communication with external partners as members of the steering committee of The Forests Dialogue (TFD) – a platform led by civil society for ongoing multi-stakeholder discussions on global forestry issues\(^{37}\). In addition, CPF drew on the statement which TFD produced on forests and climate change when it developed its strategic framework for a coordinated forest sector response to emerging issues in this area.

Forestry Education synthesis and strategy
37. In 2007, ICRAF in collaboration with ANAFE, FAO, IUFRO, ITTO and the International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE) hosted the First Global Forestry Education Workshop, attracting 90 participants from 29 countries. The rich presentations and strategies developed are captured in a book produced and shared in 2008 and entitled *New Perspectives in Forestry Education*\(^{38}\). A policy brief was also produced entitled Future Forestry education. This will guide policy and education managers on actions to transform forestry education to fit current and future needs.

\(^{36}\) http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/restoration/globalpartnership/
\(^{37}\) http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/
\(^{38}\) http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/af1/downloads/publications/PDFs/B15713.PDF