



## Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

23 February 2018, FAO HQ, Rome

### In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal
	Eva Müller	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Peter Csoka		Alexander Buck
	Dominique Rozas	UNCCD:	Mehmet Demirci
	Khalil Walji	UNDP:	Danae Maniatis
CBD:	Catalina Santamaria	UNEP:	Tim Christophersen
	Blaise Bodin	UNFCCC:	Jenny Wong
CIFOR:	Kristina Roing de Nowina	UNFF:	Manoel Sobral Filho
GEF:	Ulrich Apel		Mita Sen
	Pascal Martinez		Ryo Nakamura
ICRAF:	Ravi Prabhu	WB:	Garo Batmanian
ITTO:	Gerhard Dieterle		Muhammad Najeeb Khan
	Sheam Satkuru		

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ, Rome on 23 February 2018.

### 1. Welcome by the Chair, tour-de-table and adoption of the Agenda

Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, welcomed members to the meeting held in conjunction with the 2018 CPF International Conference on Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area (20-22 February). He highlighted the significance of the first-ever CPF conference and its outcome.

The Chair invited members to introduce themselves. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

### 2. Update on the preparations for UNFF13

The UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for UNFF13 (7-11 May, UNHQ, New York), outlining the provisional agenda and organization of work, including those on: i) ministerial roundtable on forest-based solution for accelerating achievement of the SDGs; ii) panel on forests and SDGs under review at 2018 HLPF; iii) panel on communication; iv) panel on monitoring, assessment and reporting; v) panel on CPF, regional and sub-regional, and Major Groups and other stakeholders. It was added that the Forum will consider guidelines of GFFFN, taking into account the outcome of the expert meeting on the subject matter scheduled to be held from 6-8 March in Chengdu, P.R. China.

The UNFF Secretariat informed that the main outcome of UNFF13 will be the Chair's summary of discussions, including the Forum's input to the 2018 HLPF, and the omnibus resolution. It was informed that four background analytical studies are being prepared to facilitate the discussion, with a focus on forest ecosystem services, forests and water, forests and energy, and consumption and production of forest products.

Members were reminded that the Partnership may wish to consider reporting on the progress made in CPF-related UNFF12 decisions, including: i) the outcome of the CPF International Conference; ii) CPF work on global forest indicators; iii) CPF workplan.

The UNFF Secretariat further informed that the UNFF13 Bureau is planning to hold a one-day event on forests on 8 July prior to the start of the 2018 HLPF to ensure that a focus and priority is placed on forests at the 2018 HLPF. Members noted the importance to highlight the outcome of the CPF conference at the event to promote the role of forests at the 2018 HLPF.

Members considered additional ways to contribute to UNFF13, including through: i) possible role of the CPF and its participation in the ministerial roundtable; ii) possibility of organizing a CPF side event on the outcome of the 2018 CPF conference; iii) possibility of organizing a CPF dialogue. It was noted that while it may be premature to do so in conjunction with UNFF13 due to logistical challenges, the CPF may wish to continue to consider the possibility to hold a CPF dialogue in conjunction with other meetings to be organized by members in light of the focus of the dialogue on major groups, including the private sector and NGOs.

**Key Actions:**

- UNFFS will circulate further information on the UNFF13 ministerial roundtable and panels.
- Members are encouraged to designate their high-level representatives to attend the UNFF13 ministerial roundtable and actively participate in the UNFF13 panels.

**3. Update on recent Joint Initiatives**

Members provided an update on the current status of their respective Joint Initiatives.

Following an update provided by FAO, members considered the outcome of the 2018 CPF Conference, highlighting the need to take follow-up actions on key conference messages, taking into account comments received from participants at the final plenary session during the conference.

Some members felt the need to reduce the overarching messages to 3-4 to enhance their communicability to a wide range of audience outside the conference, and move other messages to under the four main themes in the Co-Chairs' summary. It was suggested to consider clarifying the important role of the Partnership in leading follow-up actions on the outcome of the conference.

Other ideas and suggestions discussed included: i) the need to build on existing momentum made by the value chains and supply chain initiatives and commitments led by the private sector and financing sector; ii) the need to further address mixed signals to enhance policy coherence; iii) the need to scale up best practices and transformative scientific knowledge, including existing activities and initiatives led by members; iv) the need to include the focus on forest degradation in addition to deforestation as a key challenge; and v) the need to enhance the focus on the role of youths.

Members expressed the need to communicate the outcome of the conference to various forthcoming meetings to be organized by CPF members to maximize its impact on the 2018 HLPF discussion on forests, in addition to submitting it to UNFF13. These meetings included: Bonn Challenge Ministerial Roundtable with the Central African Forests Commission (15-17 March); Multi-stakeholder dialogue event on Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform (29-31 May); Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress (25-27 June); Twenty-second meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA22) (2-7 July) and second meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI2) (9-13 July); twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO24) (July); Twenty-six session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) (October); and Fifty-fourth session of the International Tropical Timber Council (November). It was also suggested to contribute an article to the International Institute for Sustainable Development's SDG Knowledge Hub to disseminate the outcome of the conference to a wide audience.

IUCN shared the status of the Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration, highlighting its background, status of project development and its main components. It was added that the project document needs to be finalized and submitted to GEF by the end of March 2018 so that the project is approved and its activities could start in April. A view was expressed to ensure synergies and coordination with the existing forest landscape restoration activities by members, particularly those of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

IUFRO provided an update on the status of the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) scientific assessment on forests and water, highlighting that it completed the draft and sent it to reviewers for comments. It was added that IUFRO is planning to present the findings of the assessment during the forthcoming meetings, including UNFF13, FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 24), and the 2018 HLPF, including through the co-chairs of the assessment panel. It was suggested to ensure linkages to the International Day of Forests and the World Water Day (22 March), to landscape restoration, and to the work of the UN task team on water, among others.

IUFRO also briefed on the status of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS), outlining its revamping plan following the GFIS strategic meeting held in November 2017 with the participation of CPF members that explored and identified ways to fully utilize its potential. It was added that interactive education tools were developed in collaboration with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA).

FAO and CIFOR provided an update on the 2017 Wangari Maathai Award that Brazilian forestry activist Maria Margarida Ribeiro da Silva has been awarded at the ceremony held during the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in Bonn, Germany, thanking those members who pledged their contribution to the cash prize (USD20,000) for the winner. (FAO requested members who offered contribution to confirm the amounts and provided the needed billing information.) It was added that the 2017 GLF attracted over 1,000 participants and a wide range of media coverage, and video interviews and other additional information will be posted on the GLF website. It was noted that the magnitude of the event posed a coordination challenge for the WMA preparations. A view was expressed that the current format of the GLF may not present as many opportunities for collaboration among CPF members as its previous format and former forest days.

FAO shared the status of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators (GCS), outlining the scope of a set of 21 indicators and the process of its development, including an OLI on the subject matter, its first meeting held in March 2017, FRA consultation meeting held in June 2017 and the expert meeting held in December 2017. Members noted the importance to continue to work to enhance the GCS, particularly those currently classified as tier 3, taking into account the social, economic and environmental contributions of forest ecosystem services, including contributions of forests to water, contributions of trees outside forests, forest area under restoration, forests and energy, legality and governance, forest landscapes, among others. While the GCS is expected to provide information to the work of FAO and UNFF, it was noted that it could decrease reporting burden on countries if used broadly and CPF members were invited to consider steps to help to utilize it in other reporting processes and contribute to its further development.

Members shared their planned activities for the 2018 International Day of Forests (IDF). FAO informed that it created a dedicated webpage, a video clip and social media cards, as well as launched a photo contest and social media campaigns, leading up to its IDF event to be held at FAO HQ, Rome with the participation of mayors from Lima, Philadelphia, Ljubljana and Mantova. UNFFS also informed that it will launch social media campaigns prior to its IDF event at UNHQ, New York to be chaired by the UNFF13 Chair and held with the participation of partners and stakeholders from the New York City, as well as representatives from the Permanent Missions, among others.

**Key Action:**

- FAO in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Conference will develop a set of 3-4 overarching messages of the CPF conference and submit the Co-Chairs' summary of discussions to UNFF through a Member State.

#### 4. Implementation of UNFF12 resolution related to the Partnership

##### CPF capacity mapping and focal agency system

Based on the revised note for mapping out existing capacities that had been circulated prior to the meeting, FAO provided an update on the status of the exercise, inviting those members who have not submitted their input to do so to: i) provide a basis for future capacity-related considerations within the CPF; and ii) help develop a new focal agency system and identify the lead and supporting agencies. In this regard, it was suggested to use four different categories (strong capacities, some capacity available, no capacity available, no capacity with no interest in working on the area) of the existing capacities to indicate the level of member's capacity in the respective Global Forest Goal thematic areas for action.

Members noted the importance to conclude the exercise prior to UNFF13. It was suggested to include the linkages to SDG7, 12 and 13 in addition to SDG6 and 15 in assessing members' capacities.

##### **Key Actions:**

- FAO will circulate the revised note on mapping and clustering CPF activities.
- Members are invited to submit their inputs to the revised note by 2 March 2018.

##### Expansion of CPF membership: Decision on membership requests (para 15)

Based on the introduction and updates provided by the Chair and the Secretariat, as well as information provided by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) on benefits and contributions they could potentially bring to the Partnership, members held a discussion on current membership requests by CITES and INBAR. The points discussed included: i) potential added values that CITES and INBAR could contribute to the Partnership; ii) additional elements of criteria for membership; iii) possible ways to decide on current and future membership requests, including the use of the result of the capacity mapping exercise; iv) possible impact of increased number of members on the work of the Partnership; v) potential commitment of resources to actively participate in CPF meetings and JI activities; vi) possible ways to collaborate with non-member partners and stakeholders, including through temporary arrangements. The Secretariat provided an explanation that as per the rules of procedure of the Partnership, in case a consensus cannot be reached or upon request of 2/3 of members, voting will be conducted and decisions will be taken by a two-thirds majority by members present at the meeting if such majority is more than half of the members.

Following the discussion, members<sup>1</sup> decided to take a decision on the two membership requests at the meeting by means of casting a vote.

Subsequently, members considered the membership request by CITES and decided to accept its request and admit as a member of the Partnership.<sup>2</sup>

Members then considered the membership request by INBAR and decided not to accept its request<sup>3</sup>.

##### **Key Action:**

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the consideration on the agenda item on the subject matter, members present at the meeting were: CBD, CIFOR, FAO, GEF, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFF and WB.

<sup>2</sup> Voting record: In favour: 8; Abstention: 3; Against: 0.

<sup>3</sup> Voting record: In favour: 5; Abstention: 4; Against: 2.

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will send a letter to CITES and INBAR to communicate the result of the Partnership's consideration on their respective membership requests.

#### Finalization of the workplan (para 14)

Based on the revised draft workplan that had been circulated prior to the meeting, FAO outlined the remaining areas for discussion to finalize a draft CPF workplan, particularly on budgetary estimated and related information on JI activities. Members considered the need to reflect developments made since UNFF12, particularly possible follow-up actions on the outcome of the CPF Conference. It was suggested to ensure a certain level of flexibility in the workplan so that the activities could be added according to emerging needs.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Members will review the draft workplan following the questions and comments presented by FAO and provide updated information on recurrent activities and JIs, particularly on budget estimates for their respective JIs using the template by 16 March 2018.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will finalize the CPF workplan for its presentation at UNFF13 based on members' inputs.

#### Follow up to the CPF donor meeting of 22 February 2018

Following FAO's introduction on the subject matter, members considered possible follow-up actions on the result of the CPF donor meeting held on 22 February 2018. Members noted the importance to respond to a call by donor countries to consider new ideas and proposals for joint initiatives in support of the implementation of UNSPF, as well as to consider scaling up the existing joint initiatives of the Partnership. The ideas and suggestions discussed included: follow up to the outcome of the Global Meeting "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" (SW4SW); enhanced communication activities to disseminate the outcome of CPF joint initiatives; strengthened support to the CPF secretariat; inputs to the Rio Conventions and joint activities during their COPs; and further streamlining of forest-related reporting.

#### **Key Actions:**

- FAO to prepare a new JI proposal for SW4SW with a view to this document to serve also as a basis for fund raising;
- Members are invited to include follow-up actions to the CPF donor meeting in the revised draft workplan.

### **5. Update from members on recent developments and forthcoming meetings**

Members provided updates on their recent activities and forthcoming meetings.

CIFOR provided an update on the schedule of the 2018 GLF events that the 2018 GLF will be held from 1-2 December in Bonn, Germany while other GLF events will take place in Washington D.C., U.S.A. on investment case (30 May), Nairobi, Kenya on restoration (29-30 August), and Katowice, Poland (6 December).

CBD shared that the second meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) will be held from 9-13 July, and will review progress made in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and consider mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation, including forests. It was added that questionnaire will be circulated to CPF members to gather their views and experiences on the subject matter.

GEF informed that the next meeting for the GEF-7 replenishment will be held in end of April before concluding the replenishment process in June for its final approval at the sixth GEF Assembly scheduled to be held 24-29 June in Da Nang, Vietnam.

ITTO provided an update on its fundraising activities to implement its biennial workplan, which includes substantive contribution to the CPF activities. It was added that ITTO is revising its policy guidelines on gender equality and empowering women.

UNEP shared an update on the status of its partnerships with the private sector financing institutions, including: i) with Rabobank to create a USD 1 billion facility to finance sustainable agriculture using a combination of public and private funding; ii) with BNP Paribas to establish Sustainable Finance Facilities to raise development capital to drive sustainable economic growth in emerging countries. It was added that it launched the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in partnership with religious leaders and indigenous peoples from several countries to make the protection of rainforests an ethical priority for the faith communities.

IUCN informed that it initiated the development of the Bonn Challenge Barometer to assess the progress made in the initiative and identify partnership opportunities, needs and bottlenecks.

IUFRO shared the status of preparation for the XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019, scheduled to take place from 29 September to 5 October 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil.

FAO provided an update on its preparation for the forthcoming twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO24) scheduled to be held in July 2018 at FAO HQ, Rome. An update was added on the online course on halting deforestation hosted on the website of the International Forestry Students' Association, highlighting the need to continuously support youth activities on the subject matter.

Members also considered the importance to promote the role of forests and CPF activities at the forthcoming UNFCCC COP24. It was also suggested to consider possible ways to contribute to the development of the "rulebook" for the Paris Agreement and its implementation, including through UNFF.

## **6. Any other business**

### Election of the 2018 CPF Vice-Chair

Members considered nominations for the 2018 CPF Vice-Chairpersonship and decided by acclamation that Ms. Karin Kemper, Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice at the World Bank, to assume the position effective immediately.

### Next meeting of the Partnership

Members considered possible timing of the next meeting of the Partnership and decided to meet in the afternoon on Sunday 6 May in conjunction with UNFF13.

### **Key Actions:**

- The next meeting of the Partnership will be held in the afternoon on Sunday 6 May 2018 at UNHQ, New York in conjunction with UNFF13.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the time and venue, as well as draft programme of the next meeting.

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