



Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

6 May 2018, UNHQ, New York

In Attendance

FAO: Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)

Peter Csoka

CBD: Catalina Santamaria

Blaise Bodin

CIFOR: Steve Lawry

CITES: Milena Sosa Schmidt

GEF: Ulrich Apel

Pascal Martinez

ITTO: Sheam Satkuru

IUFRO: John Parrotta

Andre Purret

UNDP: Jamison Ervin

Kimberly Todd

UNFF: Manoel Sobral Filho

Hossein Moeini Meybodi

Mita Sen

Benjamin Singer

Ryo Nakamura

Yan Lang

WB: Karin Kemper (Vice-Chair)

Garó Batmanian

Regrets: ICRAF, IUCN, UNCCD, UNEP, UNFCCC

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at UNHQ, New York on 6 May 2018.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the Agenda

Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, welcomed members to the meeting held in conjunction with UNFF13 (7-11 May). The Chair also welcomed CITES as a new member of the Partnership and invited members to introduce themselves.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. CPF at UNFF13

Based on the provisional agenda and organization of work, the UNFF Secretariat provided an update on the UNFF13 organization of work and expected contributions from CPF, including: i) Ministerial Roundtable on forest-based solution for accelerating achievement of the SDGs, and report on the CPF conference under agenda item 3a on policy dialogue; ii) voluntary announcement of the Voluntary National Contributions under agenda item 3b; iii) panel on communication under agenda item 3d on development of the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy; iv) CPF work on the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators under agenda item 4 on monitoring, assessment and reporting; v) presentation of the CPF Work Plan during the panel on CPF, regional and sub-regional, and Major Groups and other stakeholders under agenda item 3c on the UN system-wide contributions; and vi) development of the guidelines for the operation of the GFFN and measures to increase its effectiveness and efficiency under agenda item 5 on means of implementation. It was added that 22 Ministers and 7 Vice/Deputy Ministers confirmed their participation in the Ministerial Roundtable and Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO and Chairperson, will deliver the keynote speech at the roundtable. It was also added that 9 side events were scheduled to be held during UNFF13, including those organized by CPF members.

The UNFF Secretariat informed that the expected main outcome of UNFF13 is the Chair's Summary of discussions on agenda item 3 on policy dialogue, which will serve as the Forum's input to the 2018 HLPF, and the omnibus resolution on respective agenda items, including: the Forum's contribution to the HLPF review in 2018; the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy; the format and cycle for voluntary national reporting to the Forum; the flagship publication on progress towards achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets; and the guidelines for the operation of the GFFFN and measures to increase its effectiveness and efficiency, among others.

Members discussed possible ways to maximize the Partnership's contributions to UNFF13, including through: the Chair's statement during the Ministerial Roundtable; presentation of the outcome of the CPF conference; presentation of the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators; and sharing of the CPF Work Plan with UNFF13 participants in advance of its presentation scheduled on Thursday afternoon. Other ideas and suggestions discussed included: inclusion of the reference to UNSPF and the proposed new JI on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World in the Chair's statement; further development of remaining indicators of the Global Core Set; and contribution to the development of the clearing house function of the GFFFN.

Key Actions:

- The Chair will finalize his statement for the Ministerial Roundtable, presentation slides of the outcome of the CPF conference, presentation slides of the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators based on members' comments and suggestions;
- FAO will share information on the possible next steps to further develop remaining indicators of the Global Core Set;
- UNFFS will share information on the possible next steps to develop the GFFFN clearing house.

3. Contributions to the HLPF

FAO provided an update on the outcome of the CPF conference held in February 2018, highlighting that the Co-Chairs' summary of the conference has been submitted to the UNSG by Canada and published as a UNFF13 official documentation in six UN official languages. It was added that the conference outcome will be presented to COFO24 as part of the formal documents and brought to the attention of the forthcoming session of the FAO Council in June.

Members considered possible ways to further promote the outcome of the CPF conference and stressed the importance to bring the outcome to the attention of the members' governing bodies, including through its inclusion in the official documentation and organization of event at the forthcoming meetings.

UNFF provided an update on the preparatory status for a one-day event on forests scheduled to be held on 8 July 2018 at UNHQ prior to the HLPF 2018 under the initiative of the UNFF13 Bureau, outlining its background, objectives, format, participation and expected outcome. It was added that the ECOSOC President confirmed her participation and FAO expressed its interest in launching its forthcoming report State of the World's Forests 2018 at the event.

UNFF also shared information on the forthcoming two-day Expert Group Meeting on SDG 15 organized by DESA (14-15 May, UNHQ, New York), outlining its background and the list of moderator and lead presenters for the session on forests scheduled on 14 May, including Manoel Sobral Filho, UNFFS Director, Eva Muller, Director of FAO Forestry Policy and Resources Division, John Parrotta, Vice-President of IUFRO, and Steffen Dehn, International Forestry Students' Association and UNFF Major Group Focal Point for Children and Youth.

IUFRO informed that the GFEP assessment report and its policy brief on forests and water is scheduled to be launched at its proposed side event during HLPF 2018, noting the large number of side event applications submitted by countries, partners and stakeholders and limited availability of time slots.

Key Actions:

- Members are encouraged to bring the outcome of the CPF conference to the attention of their governing bodies, including through its inclusion in the official documentation and organization of event at the forthcoming meetings.
- Members are encouraged to actively participate in the forest session to be held during the SDG15 Expert Group Meeting (14-15 May, UNHQ, New York).
- UNFFS will share further information on the one-day event on forests to be held prior to the HLPF 2018 (8 July 2018, UNHQ, New York).

4. CPF Workplan

Based on the revised draft workplan that had been circulated prior to the meeting, FAO outlined the remaining areas for discussion to finalize the CPF work plan, highlighting lack of information and its consistency on resource implications for some Joint Initiatives.

Members considered the importance to share information on the workplan at the donor meeting scheduled on 8 May, and circulate the workplan to UNFF13 participants by 9 May before its presentation scheduled on 10 May in view of the interest expressed by some countries.

Key Actions:

- Members will meet on 7 May on the margins of UNFF13 to finalize the workplan; once finalized, UNFFS will circulate the workplan to UNFF13 participants;
- The Chair will circulate presentation slides of the CPF workplan and finalize it based on members' comments and suggestions.

Update on recent Joint Initiatives

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

Based on the concept note that had been circulated prior to the meeting, FAO and ITTO jointly presented a new JI proposal for adoption on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) to serve as a follow up to the Nov 2017 SW4SW conference, outlining its background and rationale, objectives and approach, expected results and outputs, as well as main tasks and resource needs. It was suggested that this proposal could be presented to the informal donor meeting on 8 May for consideration.

Based on the concept note that had been circulated prior to the meeting, GEF presented a new JI proposal on Green Finance, outlining its background and proposed activities, as well as possible synergies with other JIs related to forest finance. WB informed that its ongoing study on tax incentives and fiscal regimes for long-term financing may provide a useful input to finance-related JIs. ITTO informed that it is considering jointly with WB the development of a new JI proposal on Pathway for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth. CIFOR added that the GLF Investment Forum (30 May, Washington D.C.) will focus on the application of sustainable finance for land management.

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 drafting and is awaiting comments from reviewers. The assessment report and its policy brief will be circulated to members by 13 May and 26 May, respectively. It was added that the next GFEP assessment will be initiated after the completion of the current assessment and members were invited to suggest ideas for its topic.

Members considered proposals for JIs and endorsed a JI proposal on SW4SW.

Key Actions:

- FAO, CIFOR and ITTO will advance the preparation for the launch of the new JI on SW4SW at COFO, and share updates on its status at the next meeting of the Partnership.
- GEF will circulate the full JI proposal on Green Finance for members' consideration;
- ITTO and WB will circulate the full JI proposal on Pathway for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth for members' consideration.
- IUFRO will share the final manuscripts of the GEFP assessment report on forests and water and its policy brief for members' consideration.

CPF Donor Meeting

Following FAO's introduction on the subject matter, members considered new ideas and proposals for JIs in support of the implementation of UNSPF, and scaling up the existing JIs in preparation for the CPF Donor Meeting scheduled to be held on 8 May 2018 on the margins of UNFF13.

Members highlighted the importance of developing concrete JI proposals and match them with donors' thematic interests and scope of potential support.

Key Action:

- Members are encouraged to take part in the CPF Donor Meeting scheduled on 8 May 2018 and its follow-up.

5. Membership and stakeholder participation

Results of the capacity mapping

Based on the revised note on CPF capacity mapping that had been circulated prior to the meeting, FAO provided an update on the status of the exercise, highlighting the remaining task to develop a new focal agency system and identify the lead and supporting agencies.

Members took note of the progress and considered possible next steps to be taken to advance the capacity mapping exercise. It was suggested to consider a focal agency system that covers all aspects of the UNSPF and its Global Forest Goals, as well as SDGs in support of their implementation.

Next steps on stakeholder involvement

Following FAO's introduction on the subject matter, members explored ideas and possible next steps on stakeholder involvement.

Members highlighted the importance to establish a CPF Dialogue to facilitate collaboration and communication with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, including major groups and other stakeholders. It was suggested to identify the opportunity to establish the CPF Dialogue to be held in conjunction with the forthcoming UNFF sessions and/or other governing bodies' meetings of members.

Key Action:

- Those members who have not submitted input to the capacity mapping exercise are encouraged to signal their interest in taking a role in a new focal agency system for consideration.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will revise and circulate the note containing his suggestion for a new focal agency system and stakeholder involvement.

6. Any other business

CPF at COFO24, ITTC-54, CBD COP14 and UNFCCC COP24

FAO provided an update on its preparation for the 24th session of its Committee on Forestry (COFO24, 16-20 July 2018, FAO HQ, Rome), outlining its provisional agenda, including key findings of the State of the World's

Forests 2018, forests and the 2030 Agenda, and contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF. Members were invited to actively participate in the session and events, including through organization of side events and putting publications on display in addition to those used in the CPF conference in February.

ITTO provided an update on the current status of preparation for the 54th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (5-9 November 2018, ITTO HQ, Yokohama) and its 55th Session (2-7 December 2019, Lomé, Togo), noting the possibility to include a slot for the presentation of CPF workplan and JIs.

CBD shared the status of preparation for the second meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI, 9-13 July, CBD HQ, Montreal) and CBD COP 14 (10-22, 13-21 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt), highlighting its provisional agenda, including cooperation through UNFF and the Partnership, as well as mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors. Members were invited to provide comments on the note on “alignment of action from the CPF with the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity- New opportunities in the context of consolidated global objectives for forests, climate and development” prepared based on inputs from members through the survey.

Members also noted the importance to promote the role of forests and CPF activities at the forthcoming UNFCCC COP24 (3-14 December, Katowice, Poland).

Update and forthcoming meetings of members

CIFOR shared an update on the forthcoming GLF Investment Case (30 May, Washington D.C., U.S.A.).

CITES informed the schedule of its forthcoming meetings, including: the meeting of the Plants Committee (20-26 July 2018, CITES HQ, Geneva); the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (1-5 October, Sochi, Russia); and 18th COP (2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka), inviting active participation of members, including through organization of side events.

GEF provided an update on the schedule of the forthcoming sixth GEF Assembly (23-29 June, Da Nang, Vietnam).

IUFRO shared the status of preparation for the 15th IUFRO World Congress 2019 (29 September-5 October 2019, Curitiba, Brazil).

ITTO informed that it is planning to organize an event in the margins of the forthcoming INBAR Congress (25-27 June, Beijing, China) and the schedule of the CITES-ITTO Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Central and South America and the Caribbean (10–14 September, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

Next meeting of the Partnership

Members considered possible timing of the next meeting of the Partnership and decided to meet during the forthcoming FAO COFO24 and the 6th World Forestry Week (16-20 July 2018, FAO HQ, Rome).

Key Actions:

- CPF members to signal their interest in holding a side event or displaying publications by 20 May to the COFO secretariat (FAO will send a registration form for those interested).
- The next meeting of the Partnership will be held on 18 or 19 July 2018 at FAO HQ, Rome, on the margins of the FAO COFO24 and the 6th World Forestry Week.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the date, time and venue, as well as draft programme of the next meeting.
