Collaborative Partnership on Forests
Meeting report
15 November 2019, UN Office at Geneva

In Attendance
FAO: Peter Csoka
FAO: Preeti Sinha
CIFOR-ICRAF: Thomas De Meulenaer
CIFOR-ICRAF: Maria Isabel Camarena
CITES: Thomas De Meulenaer
CITES: Maria Isabel Camarena
GEF: Pascal Martinez
ITTO: Sheam Satkuru
IUCN: Chris Buss
IUFRO: Christoph Wildburger
IUFRO: Andre Purret
UNDP: Tim Clairs
UNEP: Ivo Mulder
UNFCCC: Jenny Wong
UNFF: Hossein Moeini Meybodi
UNFF: Ryo Nakamura
UNFF: Hosny El-Lakany (for item 3)
UNFF: Eduardo Rojas-Briales (for item 3)
Regrets: CBD, UNCCD, WB

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) working group on the development of the CPF strategic vision towards 2030 met at the UN Office at Geneva on 15 November 2019 in conjunction with the UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work for the period 2021-2024.

1. Welcome by the Chair, tour-de-table and adoption of the agenda
On behalf of Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, Peter Csoka, FAO, welcomed members and informed members of the vis major preventing the Chair’s participation. Members agreed to Mr. Csoka moderating the meeting. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Preparations for UNFF15
CPF’s contribution to the preparation for UNFF15; UNFF15 High-level Segment
The UNFF Secretariat provided updates on the status of preparations for UNFF15, including the organization of informal consultation on the zero draft of the declaration for the UNFF15 High-level Segment scheduled to be held in the first half of March 2020 at UNHQ, New York; extended deadline for the submission of key elements/building blocks for the declaration of the UNFF15 High-level Segment by the end of November 2019; organization of work of the UNFF15 High-level Segment scheduled on 7 May 2020, including two parallel roundtables to be held during the morning session and a dialogue with the CPF Heads and senior representatives of major groups, civil society and the private sector to be held during the afternoon session to be followed by the adoption of the declaration of the UNFF15 High-level Segment. It was added that the UNFF15 documentation will include an information note on CPF activities in support of the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

Members discussed the possibility to organize the next CPF donor meeting in collaboration with potential donor countries on the margins of UNFF15. Some members noted the importance to build on the outcome of the previous donor meetings, taking into account the status of planning and implementation of the new and existing joint initiatives that require additional funding. Other members noted the importance to continue to co-organize the donor meetings with potential donors to ensure joint efforts and full participation of donor
countries to the extent possible. The idea of organizing a workshop for CPF Heads and Principals alongside their meeting was raised to discuss joint fundraising for the CPF Joint Initiatives.

CPF Dialogue

Based on the note regarding the proposal for the organization of the first CPF Dialogue circulated prior to the meeting, members explored possible options to organize a CPF dialogue on the margins of UNFF15.

UNFF proposed to convene the dialogue on Friday afternoon or to use the discussion of the UNFF15 High-level Segment with the CPF on Thursday afternoon instead of convening a separate dialogue, noting that it may not be possible to convene such a dialogue during the weekend prior to UNFF15.

Members highlighted the importance to ensure value addition of organizing such a dialogue in terms of the involvement of key target stakeholders from the civil society and the private sector, noting the need to assess challenges associated with the organization of the dialogue both within and outside the Forum sessions due to logistical constraints and time limitations. Among the options considered other events, the FAO COFO25 and the IUCN World Congress were also mentioned.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Secretariat will prepare and circulate a template for CPF members’ inputs to the UNFF15 Information Note on the CPF activities; Members are invited to provide their inputs, particularly on their respective joint initiatives.
- Members will provide their comments on the existing proposal on the organization of the first CPF Dialogue, including options for its dates and venue.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will prepare and circulate his proposal on the organization of the first CPF dialogue, taking into account views expressed at the meeting and in the written comments, for consideration by members.

3. Development of the CPF strategic vision towards 2030

Hosny El-Lakany and Eduardo Rojas-Briales, UNFF consultants, presented their proposal for the CPF strategic vision towards 2030, outlining: introduction and background of the development of the vision, including the discussion held in the previous meeting; strategic goals and objectives; response of CPF vision to GFG6; realization of the CPF vision vis-a-vis the 2030 Agenda; new developments and demand in the broader global forest regime; options for resource mobilization, budgetary implications and implementation through CPF work plans; issues and priorities; and CPF vision statement.

Members stressed the importance to showcase the role, value and commitment of the Partnership in support of the UNSPF 2030 and its GFGs, and the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, taking into account the CPF Policy Document and the work plan. Members underscored the need to provide a framework through the vision to achieve the mission of the CPF and support the achievement of the GFGs, particularly GFG6 and its targets, and relevant SDGs as its point of departure and reference point, taking into account other forest-related goals and objectives such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for 2021-2030, among others.

The CPF Vision should also highlight the role of the CPF in addressing fragmentation, and promoting coherence and synergies among its members, the importance of reaching out to non-forestry partners and stakeholders; and the value of joint initiatives as a key delivery mechanism. It was agreed that the final document should not exceed 2-3 pages and should have a balanced approach, the environmental and socio-economic aspects should be well represented.

Finalization of the proposal and preparation for the meeting of CPF Heads and Principals
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Members confirmed and welcomed the FAO’s offer to host the meeting of the CPF Heads and Principals on 27 January 2020 at FAO HQ, Rome, to endorse the proposed vision. FAO offered to circulate a draft proposal for a sufficiently rich agenda to make the meeting the most useful. It was reminded for those members who are yet to respond to inform FAO of the availability of their heads and principals to attend the meeting to ensure timely preparation of the meeting. It was also noted that the Chair will send a personal letter to encourage timely response. It was suggested to use remote connection for those heads and principals who may not be available to attend in person to ensure the highest level of participation. The idea of organizing a workshop for CPF Heads and Principals was raised to discuss joint fundraising for the CPF Joint Initiatives.

Key actions to be taken:

▪ The consultants will revise their proposal for the vision, taking into account discussions held at the CPF working group meeting;
▪ The Secretariat will, in consultation with the Chair, prepare a zero draft proposal of the vision, taking into account the consultants’ proposal and discussions held at the CPF working group meeting;
▪ The Chair will send the draft programme of the meeting of the CPF Heads and Principals scheduled to be held on 27 January 2019 at FAO HQ, Rome and an invitation letter to the CPF Heads and Principals.

4. Any other business

Update on the forthcoming meetings of members

UNEP informed that it is hosting a Regional Roundtable on Sustainable Finance in Europe from 28-29 November 2019 in Luxembourg to discuss the latest trends and innovations, and share good practice on sustainable finance, noting that the roundtable will be held in conjunction with the GLF Investment Case Symposium scheduled to be held on 30 November 2019 in Luxembourg.

IUFRO provided an update on the status of the GFEP assessment on forests and poverty, outlining the timetable of the assessment, including the second meeting of the expert panel to be held from 29 to 31 January 2020 at ICRAF HQ, Nairobi.

IUCN shared that IUCN World Conservation Congress is scheduled to be held from 11 to 19 June 2020, Marseille, France, highlighting nature-based solutions as integral part of its main themes.

ITTO informed that a trade and market day is scheduled to be held during the forthcoming 55th session of the ITTC from 2-7 December 2019 in Lomé, Togo. It was added that a youth dialogue could be held at the future ITTC session, subject to further consideration.

GEF shared that the GEF Partnership Pavilion at COP25 will host a series of events, briefings, launches and receptions, including those related to the Great Green Wall Initiative, forests and food security and livelihood.

CITES provided an updated on the status of the preparation of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (22-23 July 2020, CITES HQ, Geneva) and 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (17 July 2020, CITES HQ, Geneva), outlining an overview of draft decisions related to forests for consideration at these committee meetings.

UNDP highlighted the recent approval by the Green Climate Fund’s Board of projects and programmes on forests and other nature-based solutions, including REDD+ results-based payments.

UNFCCC outlined the schedules of forest-related events to be held during the UNFCCC COP25 in Madrid, Spain, including: the COP25 President’s high-level event on forests scheduled on 5 December 2019; the UN Secretary-General’s high-level event on forests with support of FAO, UNDP and UNEP tentatively scheduled for 12 December (FAO offered to provide information as it becomes available); UNFCCC REDD+ side event; and UNFF event on forests scheduled on 11 December 2019.

Peer-review of the 2020 State of the World’s Forests report
FAO provided an update on the status of preparation of the next edition of the State of the World's Forests report scheduled to be published in 2020, and invited members to join the peer-review group for the report and thanked ITTO and IUFRO for their availability.

Next meeting of the Partnership

Members considered possible timings of the next meeting of the CPF and decided to meet on 28 January 2020 at FAO HQ, Rome, following the meeting of the CPF Heads and Principals.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to join the peer-review group for the 2020 State of the World's Forests report and inform FAO of their interests.
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the draft programme of the next meeting of the CPF scheduled to be held on 28 January 2019 at FAO HQ, Rome.

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