

In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal*
	Mette Wilkie	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Peter Csoka		Alexander Buck
	Theresa Loeffler	UNEP:	Mihaela Secrieru
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Tony Simons	UNFCCC:	Peter Iversen
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
	Maria Isabel Camarena		Ryo Nakamura
GEF:	Ulrich Apel	WB:	Timothy Brown
ITTO:	Gerhard Dieterle		
* via skype		Regrets:	CBD, UNCCD, UNDP

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ, Rome on 28 January 2020.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, welcomed the members. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Follow up to the Meeting of the Principals

a. Development of CPF workplan 2021-2024

Members explored possible approaches to the development of the CPF workplan 2021-2024. Members considered the possibility to develop the CPF workplan 2021-2024 in the second half of 2020 at its retreat, taking into account the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024 to be adopted at UNFF15. Some members highlighted the importance to capture the entirety of joint activities among members in the CPF workplan, including various bilateral/multilateral activities among members that are not part of the CPF Joint Initiatives. Other members proposed to develop joint activities to elevate the profile of the CPF and promote its work, including through the organization of an event during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Other suggestions discussed include: inclusion of measures and activities in the work plan to support the operationalization of the CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030; inclusion of budgetary implications of the Joint Initiatives in the work plan, possibly less detailed than previously; and inclusion of monitoring measures to keep track of the status of the implementation of the work plan.

b. CPF donor meeting

Members discussed possible options to organize the next CPF donor meeting in collaboration with potential donor countries. Several members noted the importance to continue to regularly hold donor meetings to share updates on resource needs for CPF activities, whereas other members suggested reviewing the purposes and

expected outcomes of the donor meetings and considering different approaches to fundraising if deemed necessary, taking into account the results of the past donor meetings.

Other ideas suggested included: sharing information on resource needs of the CPF activities with potential donor countries in advance of the donor meetings; inviting key donor agencies to the donor meetings in addition to donor countries' focal point ministries; and organization of donor meetings at the location of donor countries and agencies.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will explore the possibility to co-organize the next CPF donor meeting in collaboration with potential donor country(ies) in the margins of UNFF15. Donors will be informed ahead of the meeting about CPF funding needs.
- The CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030 will be acknowledged in the Ministerial Declaration tabled during UNFF15.

3. Preparations for UNFF15

UNFF provided an update on the status of preparations of UNFF15 and its high-level segment, outlining the provisional organization of work and CPF's expected roles under UNFF15 agenda items, including: i) introduction of the UNFF15 information note on CPF activities in support of the UNSPF implementation by the CPF Chair on 4 May; ii) participation in a high-level segment on 7 May, including a forest partnership forum with the participation of CPF, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers; iii) the development of the Quadrennial Programme Work for the period 2021-2024; and iv) discussions on the timing of the second national reporting, further development of the global core set of forest-related indicators, and the planning of a flagship publication on the progress towards the achievement of the Global Forest Goals. It was added that the two expected outcome documents of UNFF15 would be an omnibus resolution and a ministerial declaration of the high-level segment, noting that the UNFF15 Bureau will hold informal consultations on the zero draft ministerial declaration from 3 to 4 March 2020 at UNHQ, New York to advance the preparation.

Members discussed possible ways for the CPF's contribution to UNFF15 and stressed the importance to inform the UNFF global concerns and emerging issues on forests in light of ongoing efforts to combat deforestation and forest fires in many parts of the world, including through the work of the UN Secretary-General's Executive Committee on turning the tide on deforestation. In this regard, members agreed to prepare a one-page document on issues of significant concern for forests to bring to the attention of the UNFF and ministers attending the UNFF15 high-level segment in order to mobilize support to address the issues.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Secretariat will circulate the draft UNFF15 information note on CPF activities for members' inputs; members are invited to provide additional inputs on their bilateral/multilateral activities among members that are not part of the CPF Joint Initiatives by 31 January 2020; the Chair will introduce the information note on 4 May 2020 during UNFF15;
- The Secretariat will circulate information on the informal consultations on the zero draft ministerial declaration scheduled to be held from 3 to 4 March 2020 at UNHQ, New York;
- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will prepare a one-page document on issues of significant concern for forests for members' inputs by 29 February 2020; the Secretariat will bring the document to the attention of the UNFF15 Bureau; and
- The Secretariat will prepare and circulate a draft concept note of the Forest Partnership Forum to be held during the UNFF15 high-level segment for members' comments by 29 February 2020 (see also agenda item 4).

4. Preparations for the first CPF Dialogue

Members explored possible options and next steps to organize the first CPF Dialogue. Members highlighted the importance to ensure a balanced representation of the private sector, academic and research organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders across sectors in the dialogue as the target partners in light of the purpose of the dialogue. Members also explored possible modalities of the dialogue, including issue-based, region-based, stakeholder-based dialogues and panel discussions.

In this regard, members proposed to actively participate in the Forest Partnership Forum to be held during the UNFF15 high-level segment to serve as a precursor to the CPF Dialogue, and consider organizing the first CPF Dialogue in conjunction with other meetings of members' governing bodies such as the forthcoming 25th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO25).

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will prepare and circulate his proposal on the organization of the CPF Dialogue, taking into account the outcome of the Forest Partnership Forum to be held during UNFF15 high-level segment.

5. Strategic discussion on the issue of CPF membership

Based on the note that had been circulated in advance of the meeting, UNFF provided an overview of the CPF policy and rules on membership, as well as recent developments on membership assessment and decisions made by members on membership requests.

Members discussed the importance to take a consistent approach to the membership issue and ensure transparency of the process, noting that collaboration with non-member organizations can take various forms, including through time-bound collaboration in the Joint Initiatives. Some members highlighted the need to periodically conduct membership assessment and gap analysis, including at the time of the mid-term review of the international arrangement on forests scheduled in 2024, whereas some others proposed to expedite the response to the letter by the International Forestry Students' Association.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose an agenda item on the issue of CPF membership for the CPF meeting/retreat scheduled to be held in the second half of 2020.

6. Any other business

a. Updates on forthcoming meetings and other activities of members

GEF shared that the 58th meeting of the GEF Council is scheduled to be held from 2 to 4 June 2020.

ITTO informed that it is organizing a training workshop on forest landscape restoration in cooperation with IUFRO and IUCN from 10 to 14 March 2020 in Myanmar.

IUFRO provided an update on the GFEP assessment on forests and poverty, outlining the upcoming schedules towards the launch of the assessment report scheduled in September 2020 at UNHQ, New York. It was added that the Joint Initiative on Policy Learning Initiative was discontinued. An update was also provided on the forest education initiative co-led by IUFRO, FAO and ITTO, highlighting the organization of an international conference on forest education (27-29 April 2020, Rome) and the development of an open platform on forest education.

CITES informed the schedules of the forthcoming CITES task force on illegal trade of tree species (16-18 March, 2020, Bangkok) and the CITES 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (20-23 July 2020, Geneva).

b. Next meeting of the Partnership

Members considered possible timings of the next meeting of the CPF and decided to meet on 4 May 2020 at UNHQ, New York, on the margins of UNFF15.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the draft programme of the next meeting of the CPF scheduled to be held on 4 May 2020 at UNHQ, New York.
