



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

16 July 2020 at 14h Rome time/8h New York time
via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal
	Mette Wilkie	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Peter Csoka		Alexander Buck
CBD:	Alexander Shestakov	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Blaise Bodin	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
CIFOR:	Michael Brady	UNFCCC:	Jenny Wong
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
GEF:	Gustavo Fonseca		Ryo Nakamura
	Pascal Martinez	WB:	Garo Batmanian
	Teayeon Kim		Najeeb Khan
ICRAF:	Tony Simons		
ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru	Regrets:	UNEP

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 16 July 2020.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the CPF members. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Update on the outcome of UNFF15

UNFF provided updates on the adoption of the UNFF15 resolution by UNFF on 30 June 2020 for consideration and adoption by ECOSOC on 16 July through the silence procedure, noting progress made in the UNFF's work on key substantive and operational areas despite the challenges caused by the pandemic. It was highlighted that several provisions of the resolution contain reference to the CPF's roles, including: the programme of work for UNFF16 and agreement on making the proposal for the programme of work for 2022-2024 for consideration at UNFF16 (OP 1); invitation to the UNFF Bureau of the Forum to decide on the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 based on the Global Forest Goals (OP 2); simple format for countries to communicate their voluntary national contributions to the secretariat (OP 4); synchronization of future national reporting with the five-year Forest Resources Assessment process, beginning with the next assessment cycle (OP 8); further advancement of the CPF's work on the global core set of forest-related indicators and its reporting on progress at UNFF16 (OP 9); invitation to the CPF to strengthen its Joint Initiative on forest finance facilitation, in particular in support of the clearing house (OP 12); compilation of an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and its presentation at UNFF16 (OP 14); and invitation to the CPF to develop its workplan for the period 2021–2024 in line with the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work for the period 2021–2024 and to report to UNFF at its annual sessions on the progress achieved in implementing the workplan (OP 15).

FAO welcomed the UNFF's decision on the synchronization of future national reporting with the Forest Resources Assessment cycle, noting that the forthcoming twenty-fifth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO25, 5-9 October 2020) will consider the possibility of more frequent updating of FRA-related information than its current five-year cycle.

There was a suggestion to consider a focus on forest ecosystem restoration for UNFF16 and its thematic priorities, taking into account the planned launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 in 2021. UNFF added that the UNFF Bureau will consider the UNFF16-17 thematic priorities based on the Global Forest Goals, taking into account the programme of work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as well as relevant international forest-related developments.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will continue to share updates on its intersessional activities and preparations for UNFF16 with members as they become available.

3. Follow-up on the outcome of the May CPF meeting

a. CPF's role in the COVID-19 crisis and follow-up actions

The Chair shared that the COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week held from 22 to 25 June 2020 brought together over 250 participants in its each session and representatives of several CPF members actively contributed to the discussions held during various high-level events and technical thematic sessions. It was added that the Chair's summary of discussions will be shared in due course and will be presented during the forthcoming COFO25, including the possibility of organization of a side event on its outcome. As part of follow-up actions, it was proposed to prepare the CPF's joint message/statement drawing relevant messages and elements from the Chair's summary.

Members welcomed the outcome of the COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week and provided their views and suggestions on the proposed follow-up actions. These inputs and suggestions included: prioritizing the role of forests and their landscapes in reducing the risk of zoonoses' emergence in the joint message/statement; preparation of a limited number of key messages from the respective webinar sessions to feed into the Chair's summary. One member shared its news article on the outcome of the webinar week published on its website (<https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/202006/forest-sector-responds-pandemic-insights-cameroon-mexico-nepal-and-south-korea>).

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will share the draft CPF's joint message/statement drawing relevant messages from the Chair's summary of discussions held during the webinar week for members' consideration.

b. Next steps for development of CPF Workplan 2021-2024

The Chair recalled discussions held at the last CPF meeting in May 2020 and proposed to initiate the preparation of the draft CPF workplan for the period 2021-2024.

Members discussed initial ideas to prepare the draft workplan. It was suggested to prepare a draft framework for the CPF workplan 2021-2024 for consideration by members, drawing lessons learned from the current CPF workplan and consistent with the UNFF Programmes of Work 2021 and 2022-2024 to be considered at UNFF16. Other suggestions included the development of a monitoring and reporting measure on CPF activities as part of potential areas for improvement in the workplan.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will invite members to join a small group to prepare a draft framework for the CPF workplan for the period 2021-2024.

c. Updates on the Joint Initiative

FAO provided updates on the status of preparations for the 2021 Wangari Maathai Award (WMA), outlining its schedules and planned activities, including: the announcement of the 2021 WMA in July 2020; nomination deadline in September/October 2020; nominations for the jury in October 2020; jury decision in December 2020; announcement of the winner in February 2021; and organization of a special panel of all previous WMA winners and the 2021 WMA ceremony on 27 May 2021 during the closing dinner of the XV World Forestry Congress. FAO thanked CIFOR and IUFRO for their indication to financially contribute to the 2021 WMA prize of \$20,000 and invited other members to indicate their respective contributions.

CIFOR informed that the project document for the Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes has been prepared with a focus on landscapes and deforestation-free agriculture and is scheduled to be submitted to GEF for its funding in July/August 2020.

IUFRO shared updates on the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) assessment on forests and poverty, highlighting: its relevance to SDG1, SDG2 and SDG10; over 20 panel members and numerous contributing authors; and development of final drafts following successful conclusion of four panel meetings. The final report and related policy brief are expected to be shared with CPF members in September 2020 for their endorsement before its planned launch on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2020. It was added that a regional policy brief, possibly on Africa, will be developed based on the outcomes of the assessment.

IUFRO also shared updates on the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) that it continued to develop the enhanced Open Platform for Forest Education in collaboration with FAO and ITTO and the joint IUFRO-International Forestry Students' Association Task Force on Forest Education, noting the initial steps taken to initiate a review of the GFIS long-term strategy envisaged for the fourth quarter of 2020.

FAO informed that a global survey on forest education has been launched to gather information and data to feed into six regional assessment reports on the state of forest education and a global synthesis report to be prepared by late 2020. The reports will explore strengths, limitations and opportunities to improve the delivery of forest-related curriculum, providing inputs to the development of a vision and a strategy to improve forest education globally. It was added that the pilot version of the open platform on forest education is scheduled to be launched before the end of 2020 and an international conference on forest education is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the XV WFC in May 2021. There was a suggestion to circulate information on the global survey on forest education to members.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to recommend the name for the jury of the 2021 WMA;
- Members are invited to indicate their financial contributions to the 2021 WMA prize;
- FAO will share information on the global survey on forest education.

4. Update on forthcoming meetings

Update on COFO25 schedule and meeting modalities

FAO informed that 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO25) has been rescheduled to be held virtually from 5-9 October 2020, outlining its draft programme of work, including: mandated meetings of COFO, two high-level dialogues and the World Forestry Week, presentation of the State of World's Forests (SOFO) 2020 and the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020; and events on forests and biodiversity, role of forests in enhancing ambition levels to address climate change, reduction of deforestation through transformation of food systems, the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. It was added that the main report of FRA 2020 and country reports is scheduled to be launched on 21 July 2020.

Update on the World Forestry Congress preparations

FAO shared updates on the status of preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC), highlighting the recent finalization of its draft theme and subthemes, the forthcoming call for abstracts of papers and side events in July 2020 and the opening of registration in August 2020. The Consultative Group and Advisory Group of the XV WFC will consider detailed draft programme and organization of work in due course, including identification of speakers and planning of special events, as well as an alternative scenario in case of continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the event organization. Members noted the overlapping schedules of the XV WFC and CBD COP15 and suggested exploring possible ways to organize its programme of work to ensure synergies between the two meetings.

CBD informed that the thematic consultation on sustainable use of biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is scheduled to be held from 27 July to October 2020 through organization of webinars and online forum. CBD further informed that the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24, 2-7 November 2020) will consider, among others, the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including goals, targets and indicators, inviting CPF members to contribute to the peer review of the draft monitoring framework to be held from 25 June to 25 July 2020. It was added that the virtual launch of the Global Biodiversity Outlook report was scheduled on 15 September 2020 in advance of the UN Biodiversity Summit and the Co-Chairs of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will present the updated draft framework on 18 September 2020.

IUCN provided updates on the status of preparations for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress, outlining organization of the Congress' forest programme at the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration pavilion and inviting CPF members to consider submitting event proposals once the call for events is open in early October 2020. The Nature-based Solutions pavilion will host ecosystem-related events and the call for events is currently open.

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will share draft programme of COFO25 and the World Forestry Week events;
- FAO will invite members to disseminate information on the XV WFC to their respective networks.

Item 5. Next meeting and any other businesses

The Chair proposed to hold the next meeting of the CPF in September 2020 in advance of the forthcoming COFO25.

FAO shared that its Council at its last session decided on the FAO's structural and programmatic adjustments to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, highlighting a modular and flexible structure of the new organigramme to allow for cross-sectoral collaboration and adjustments to managerial assignments and reporting lines. It was added that technical departments were restructured into divisions headed by the Directors and the Assistant Director-Generals would be tasked to focus on supporting high-level activities of key importance, noting that no change would be made to the arrangement of COFO and the FAO's participation in the CPF as its Chair and in the UNFF. It was further added that the FAO Council at its next session will assess the effectiveness of the restructuring in the context of its new biennium strategic framework to be developed in late 2020 and early 2021 for adoption by the FAO Council. There was a suggestion for the CPF and/or its members to consider sending a letter to the FAO Director-General to express its support to FAO's role in and contribution to the CPF.

GEF informed that its Council at its last session held in June 2020 selected Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Environment and Energy Minister of Costa Rica as its next Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson. Members welcomed his selection for his leadership experience on forests and previous contribution to CPF activities such as his participation in the 2018 CPF Conference.

Key actions to be taken:

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- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held in September 2020;
- FAO will share information regarding its Council decision on the FAO's structural and programmatic adjustments.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:00 p.m. Rome time/10:00 a.m. New York time.
