Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

24 September 2020 at 14h Rome time/8h New York time
via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	IUCN:	Stewart Maginnis
	Mette Wilkie		Adriana Vidal
	Peter Csoka	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Thais Linhares Juvenal	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Andrew Taber	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
	Theresa Loeffler	UNEP:	Ivo Mulder
CBD:	Alexander Shestakov	UNFCCC:	Peter Iversen
	Blaise Bodin		Jenny Wong
CIFOR:	Jeremy Van Loon	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena		Ryo Nakamura
GEF:	Ulrich Apel	WB:	Garo Batmanian
	Pascal Martinez		Najeeb Khan
	Teayeon Kim		
ITTO:	Hwan-ok Ma	Regrets: ICRAF	
	Youngtae Choi		

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 24 September 2020.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

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

2. Preparations for UNFF16

UNFF shared updates on the status of preparations for UNFF16 (26-30 April 2021, UNHQ, New York), outlining the scope of thematic priorities for UNFF16 and UNFF17, as well as intersessional activities, including the assessment of the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector and the preparation of the flagship publication on progress towards the Global Forest Goals. The thematic priorities for UNFF16-17 are: (i) Reversing the loss of forest cover (GFG1); (ii) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits (GFG2); and (iii) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management and its intersessional work (GFG4, 5 and 6). The UNFF16 documentation will include six substantive documents, including a Note by the Secretariat on impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on forests and forest sector, which will draw on the results of the five regional assessments on the subject matter and the outcome of the expert group meeting to be convened in January 2021 to inform a high-

level panel discussion on this matter to be held during UNFF16. Inputs from partners and stakeholders, including CPF members, will be solicited in due course for inclusion in the relevant respective documents.

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;
- UNFF will solicit inputs from CPF members for inclusion in the relevant UNFF16 documentation.

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

a. Follow-up actions on CPF's role in the COVID-19 crisis- discussion on the draft CPF COVID-19 statement

Following the Chair's introduction of the draft CPF COVID-19 joint statement with members' written comments, members explored possible approaches to reflect members' comments and provided suggestions to highlight a role of forests and the CPF in the recovery efforts in the statement.

Main suggestions and proposals made during the meeting included: use of concepts and terminologies such as "forests", "sustainable forest management" or "nature-based solutions" rather than "forestry" in the title of the statement to highlight and encompass wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 on forests and contributions of forests to efforts to build back better, including in the context of an one health approach to the recovery; integration of a stronger focus on the role of forests, trees and their landscapes beyond the forestry and forest sector; development of a communication plan to widely disseminate the statement; and preparation of a shorter version of the statement targeting non-forestry audiences. It was suggested that the joint statement would be finalized in time for its presentation at the margins of the 25th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry and the 7th World Forest Week (2-12 October 2020, virtual format) and for communication activities.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will further revise the draft CPF COVID-19 joint statement based on the discussion held during the meeting and propose next steps for members' consideration;
- Members will provide updates on their responses to the pandemic for posting on the CPF website (http://www.cpfweb.org/97404/en/);
- Members will propose items for the Communication Strategy, specifying possible actions by each member;
- Members are encouraged to volunteer for the preparation of a shorter version of the statement targeting a non-forestry audience.

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

The Chair recalled discussions held at the last CPF meeting in July 2020 and his proposal to form a working group to develop a template/structure for the CPF Workplan 2021-2024, noting the timeline to prepare a template/structure by the end of October 2020 and a draft workplan by January 2021.

In response, CBD, FAO, GEF, ITTO, IUFRO and UNFF confirmed their participation in the working group. The Chair also proposed an idea to hold a meeting of the CPF principals at an appropriate time to discuss follow-up actions on the CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030 following the development of the CPF COVID-19 joint statement and the CPF workplan 2021-2024. UNFF reminded the importance to prepare the CPF workplan consistent with the UNFF Programme of Work 2022-2024 to be considered for adoption at UNFF16, and advised that it may be opportune to plan the proposed meeting at a later stage in order to allow sufficient time for preparation of a concrete outcome of such a meeting.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to express their interest in participating in the working group to develop a template for the CPF Workplan 2021-2024;
- Members are encouraged to volunteer to chair/lead the working group and to set up its first meeting;
- The Chair/lead member of the working group will propose the date and time of the meeting of the working group to be held in October 2020.

c. Updates on the Joint Initiative

Forest Education

FAO provided updates on its activities in collaboration with ITTO and IUFRO, highlighting: no-cost extension of the project until September 2021; a couple of thousands of responses received for the global forest education survey; an international conference on forest education to be held back to back with the World Forestry Congress in May 2021 following its regional consultations; planning of the organization of a high-level plenary event/technical session/side event on forest education during the World Forestry Congress; planning of webinars of the development of the Online Platform for Forest Education and the Online Learning Course on Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains of Tropical Wood and Tropical Forest Products. Members were invited to nominate their focal points for the Joint Initiative to advance its joint activities, including the preparation of a strategy for a multi-year programme on forest education.

Forest Landscape Restoration

CBD shared updates on its activities on economics for restoration in support of the Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration, and provided an overview of activities to build a standard framework for data collection on costs and benefits of forest landscape restoration in collaboration with 15-20 contributing organizations, noting its potential to become a standalone joint initiative.

Global Forest Expert Panels

IUFRO informed that the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) assessment on forests and poverty alleviation has reached the final proofreading stage and is scheduled to be launched at the virtual event on 15 October 2020. Members were reminded to review the final assessment report and its policy brief for endorsement by 1 October 2020.

Global Forest Information Service

IUFRO shared that its board recently approved the establishment of an expert group to conduct a review on the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) with a view to making recommendations on its future, including in terms of its funding and use of technologies, adding that members of the GFIS steering committee will also participate in the review.

Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes

GEF reported that it is nearing the completion of a review of a proposal submitted by CIFOR and UNEP to fund the initial activities of the Joint Initiative on Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes, noting the expected start of its implementation in the beginning of 2021.

Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

FAO shared that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative provided information on the disruption of wood value chains due to the pandemic and efforts to build back better. It was added that FAO conducted a global survey targeting the SW4SW community, and prepared a policy brief to be launched in October 2020, highlighting the need to raise funds to meet countries' request for SW4SW-related support and to promote its activities. At the national level, Kenya is scheduled to hold a national dialogue on SW4SW in 2020. A learning guide to improve the capacity of small-holder producers' associations

for restoration is scheduled to be launched in late October 2020. ITTO expressed its interest in jointly fundraising for the SW4SW activities.

Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators

FAO provided updates on the status of the Global Core Set (GCS) of Forest-related Indicators, highlighting: revision of existing methodologies and available data sources for the calculation of tier-2 and tier-3 indicators; preparation of a concept note to advance working definitions of "forest-dependent communities"; strengthened partnership with the International Labour Organization on employment statistics for the forest sector to harmonize methodologies for national data collection and analysis; preparation of a study to assess and improve data consistency, coherence and reliability on wood-based energy; preparation of an index assessment on availability, quality and usage of forest-related socioeconomic information in collaboration with WB to be completed by the end of 2020; exploration of the possibility to integrate some GCS indicators into the 2025-2030 joint questionnaire for the Global Forest Resources Assessment.

Wangari Maathai Award

FAO provided updates on the status of preparations for the 2021 Wangari Maathai Award, outlining its forthcoming schedules, including; extended deadline for nominations on 15 October 2020; nomination and selection of the jury members to be completed in October 2020; cash and in-kind contributions from members (CIFOR, ICRAF, IUFRO) to the award prize.

d. Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

FAO provided updates on the status of preparations for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, highlighting: the recent release of the Decade's strategy, including its vision, 3 main goals (enhanced global/regional/national/local commitments and actions, increased understanding of benefits of ecosystem restoration, and application of knowledge) and 3 pathways (global movement, political will, and technical capacity); updating of the Decade's website (www.decadeonrestoration.org); launch of its visual identity, including a logo and a hashtag #GenerationRestoration, as well as its communication toolkit. The Strategy of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is available at: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/strategy.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to put forth their recommendation for the jury members of the 2021 WMA; Members are invited to inform their respective networks of the extended deadline for the 2021 nominations (15 October 2020); Members are invited to indicate their cash and/or in-kind contributions to the 2021 WMA prize;
- Members will review the GFEP assessment report on forests and poverty and its policy brief for endorsement by 1 October 2020.

4. Update on forthcoming meetings of members

25th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (5-9 October 2020, virtual format)

FAO shared updates on the status of preparations for the 25th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO25, 5-9 October 2020, virtual format), providing an overview of the programme, including: high-level dialogue sessions on halting deforestation and the 25th anniversary of COFO; and World Forest Week events (on 2 and 12 October 2020) on Global Forest Resources Assessment, transforming agriculture and food systems, vision and strategy for FAO's work on nutrition, future of forests in Asia and the Pacific, education, COVID-19, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, drylands and one health.

XV World Forestry Congress (24–28 May 2021, Seoul, Republic of Korea)

FAO provided updates on the status of preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC), informing that registration has been open and the information on hotel reservation and visa will be provided shortly, noting the revision of the organization of the programme in light of developments in other fora and considerations to whether the deadline for the submission of side event applications should be further extended. Members were invited to express their interest in organizing events and meetings during the WFC. Members of the CPF Consultative Group were thanked for their input to the last consultation round on the collaboration with the CBD.

In response to the WFC secretariat query, CBD informed that dates for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD are yet to be determined, adding that its Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are scheduled to meet from 9-14 November 2020 and 10-17 December 2020, respectively.

Other meetings of members

ITTO informed that the 56th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-56) is scheduled to be held virtually from 9-13 November 2020.

UNFF provided an overview of its forthcoming webinar "Forests: at the heart of a green recovery from COVID-19" to be held virtually on 28 September, highlighting the participation of high-level speakers, including: Liu Zhenmin Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director; Hiroto Mitsugi, FAO Assistant Director General and CPF Chair; Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, GEF CEO and Chairperson. The two panel discussions of the event will focus on the impacts of COVID-19 on sustainable forest management and on the role of forests in a green recovery from COVID-19 to be moderated by Alexander Buck, IUFRO Executive Director, and Alexander Shestakov, CBD Secretariat, respectively, and will be held with the participation of Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General as a member of the first panel.

IUCN shared that the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress has been postponed to a later timing to be determined, noting the possibility to organize pre-Congress events.

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will provide members with a weblink to the COFO25 sessions of and the World Forestry Week events for their participation;
- Members are invited to express their interest in organizing events and meetings during the XV World Forestry Congress;
- UNFF will provide members with the programme and a weblink to the UNFFS webinar for their participation.

Item 5. Next meeting and any other businesses

The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:20 p.m. Rome time/10:20 a.m. New York time.

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