



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

4 February 2021 at 14h Rome time/8h New York time
via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

FAO:	Mette Wilkie (Chair)	ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru
	Peter Csoka	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Susan Braatz		Andre Purret
	Andrew Taber	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Thaís Linhares-Juvenal	UNDP:	Josep Gari
	Anssi Pekkarinen	UNEP:	Abdelkader Bensada
	Maria DeCristofaro		Ivo Mulder
	Theresa Loeffler	UNFCCC:	Peter Iversen
CBD:	Alexander Shestakov		Jenny Wong
	Blaise Bodin	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
CIFOR:	Robert Nasi		Peter Gondo
	Michael Brady		Mita Sen
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero		Ryo Nakamura
	Maria Isabel Camarena		Tomasz Juszcak
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		Yan Lang
	Teayeon Kim		
ICRAF:	Tony Simons	Regrets:	WB

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 4 February 2021.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the CPF members and provided an overview of main CPF achievements in 2020, highlighting: the CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030 adopted at the January 2020 meeting of the CPF principals; the CPF joint statement “Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” released at the margins of the twenty-fifth Session of FAO Committee on Forestry; and the assessment report of the Global Forest Expert Panels on forests and poverty launched in October 2020.

The Chair shared her views on priorities and outlook for the CPF in 2021, underscoring the importance of maintaining forests high on the agenda of the forthcoming events to be held in the “super year of nature” and in the minds of the general public, particularly through follow-up actions on the outcome of the 2018 CPF Conference “Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area” and contributing to the implementation

of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and the UN Secretary-General initiative on turning the tide on deforestation.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Election of the CPF Vice-Chair for 2021

The Chair thanked Stewart Maginnis, IUCN, for his Vice-Chairpersonship for 2020, and informed that ITTO and IUFRO were nominated as candidates for the 2021 Vice-Chair, adding that CIFOR, CITES, UNDP, UNFCCC and UNFF, were yet to assume the Vice-Chairpersonship. Members considered the candidates and decided UNDP to assume the 2021 Vice-Chair. It was added that the candidacy of nominated members and those members who have not held the Vice-Chairpersonship would be considered in 2022 and its following years.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNDP will assume the 2021 Vice-Chair.

Item 3. Preparations for UNFF16

Updates on UNFF16 and intersessional activities, including expected modalities, outcome and the CPF's role

UNFF shared updates on the status of preparations for UNFF16 (26-30 April 2021), outlining expected modalities and outcome of UNFF16, and the CPF's role. The modalities of UNFF16 and its provisional organization of work are expected to be adopted informally by Member States by 9 February. If adopted as proposed, the UNFF16 would be held in a virtual format. The advance unedited version of the UNFF16 documents is expected to be made available by the end of February 2021.

The draft programme of UNFF16 includes a high-level round table with the participation of several senior UN officials, including some CPF members, to consider major forest-related developments, particularly the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and interlinkages with other key issues such as biodiversity and climate change. In addition to the participation of some CPF members in the high-level round table, CPF members are expected to take part in and contribute to the panel discussions on contributions to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests to be held on 27 April, subject to the organization of work to be decided in due course.

UNFF16 will also consider the adoption of the UNFF programme of work for 2022-2024, taking into account the discussion of the UNFF16 high-level round table and the result of the expert group meeting on the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector, including its recommendation with regard to the second assessment to identify the broad range and long-term impacts of the pandemic on sustainable forest management, potential solutions and recovery measures.

Some members expressed their interest in organizing side events during UNFF16.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will continue to share updates on preparations for UNFF16 with members as they become available, including for the UNFF16 high-level round table, panel discussions and side events.

Item 4. Plans for 2021 for the ongoing Joint Initiatives and those in the pipeline

Lead/co-lead members of the Joint Initiatives provided brief presentations on main achievements in 2020 and plans for 2021 for their respective initiatives.

a. Communicators' Network

UNFF provided an overview of main achievements of the Communicators' Network initiative in 2020, highlighting the promotion of members' activities related to forests and the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the creation of a dedicated webpage on the CPF website, and those related to the 2021 theme of the International Day of Forests on forest restoration – a path to recovery and well-being. Plans for 2021 include finalization of the theme of the International Day of Forests for 2022 and 2023, taking into account interlinkages between forests and other priority issues such as sustainable consumption and production, health and culture. The Communicators' Group recommended the IDF themes "Sustainable Consumption and Production" for 2022 and "Health" for 2023 and explained that this proposal was the outcome of a CPF Communicators' Group meeting, held on 29 January 2020, and a following poll where all 15 CPF members voted for their priority themes.

CITES shared information on its upcoming event in 2021 to be held on the occasion of the World Wildlife Day (3 March) in cooperation with other CPF members, and expressed an interest to work closely with the Communicators' Network to organize and promote events related to CITES-listed tree species.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members will consider the proposed theme of the International Day of Forests for 2022 and 2023 for their agreement. The proposed themes are: "Sustainable Consumption and Production" for 2022; and "Health" for 2023. In case no objections are received one week after the dissemination of this report, the proposed themes for 2022 and 2023 will be considered agreed.

b. Forest Finance Facilitation

UNFF shared a summary of activities of the initiative on Forest Financing Facilitation carried out in 2020 to support countries in designing national forest financing strategies and mobilizing financial resources in partnership with FAO, IUCN, UNEP, UNCCD and UNDP. It was highlighted that an online platform of the Clearing House of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) was developed in 2020, including its website and databases on funding opportunities, information and learning materials for accessing resources, and lessons learned and best practices. Plans for 2021 include establishment of a network of accredited entities' focal points, review of the online platform and its launch during UNFF16, as well as establishment of a network of CPF members' liaison focal points for the GFFFN Clearing House.

CITES and UNEP expressed an interest in exploring the possibility for collaboration to advance planned activities of the initiative in 2021.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will invite members to nominate their focal points for the GFFFN clearing house.

c. Forest Landscape Restoration

IUCN provided a snapshot of activities undertaken under the Forest Landscape Restoration initiative in 2020 in the areas of finance and investment, knowledge products, CPF impact enhancement, and events and outreach carried out mainly by FAO, ITTO and UNFF, noting that the project period for the initiative has been extended to 31 July 2021 to complete its remaining planned activities to be undertaken by CIFOR, ICRAF, IUCN, IUFRO, UNDP, UNEP And UNFF.

FAO reported that it completed the development of a framework for data collection on economics of restoration, and plans to reach out to CPF members for data collection and dissemination in support of the initiative.

d. Global Forest Expert Panels

IUFRO briefed members on main achievements of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative in 2020, highlighting the finalization of the global assessment on forests and poverty, publication and launch of the

assessment report, the policy brief, and dissemination of results. Plans for 2021 include the continued dissemination of results, including through the organization of side events during the forthcoming meetings and events, and the initiation of a new global assessment. The GFEP team is currently exploring potential themes and will propose a topic and ask for approval at the next CPF meeting. Following the approval of a topic, the scoping meeting for the new assessment is planned for the second/third quarter of 2021 with the participation of CPF members to contribute to the framing of the assessment to be carried out by the expert panel.

CITES expressed an interest in partnering with IUFRO to advance the work of the Global Forest Expert Panels.

Key actions to be taken:

- IUFRO will propose a topic for the next GFEP assessment and ask for members' approval at the next CPF meeting.

e. Global Forest Information Service

IUFRO shared that the Global Forest Information Service gateway and the global database of forest-related university programs continued to be operational in 2020, which served as a basis for developing the online platform for forest education in the frame of the joint IUFRO-FAO-ITTO project on global forest education. In 2021, a group of external experts is scheduled to review IUFRO's knowledge and information management systems with a view to developing a strategy on how best to continue participating in global forest knowledge and information sharing and dissemination, including through the Global Forest Information Service.

f. Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes

UNEP provided an overview of planned activities of the Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes (GF4SL) initiative in 2021 in the areas of: seeking commitments from financing institutions and other corporations on agriculture and forest value chains; standardizing, identifying, measuring and monitoring positive investments; and enhancing capacity of community-based forest and agribusiness producers' groups. CPF members were invited to express interest to undertake activities with CIFOR, GEF and UNEP, including through the preparation of events to be held in conjunction with the forthcoming meetings in the second half of 2021 such as the UN Food Systems Summit, CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP26 and the Global Landscapes Forum investment case event. It was added that UNEP is collaborating with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) on a "State of Finance for Nature" report to track investment in nature-based solutions.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to express interest to undertake the GF4SL activities in collaboration with CIFOR, GEF and UNEP; and
- Members are invited to participate in a workshop on the State of Finance for Nature report to be held virtually on 25 February 2021.

g. Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting

FAO provided an overview of achievements made under the initiative in 2020 for improved reporting on primary forests through preparation of background papers and organization of online consultations. The first workshop on reporting was held for boreal forest countries, with more workshops planned to be held for countries in Asia and Latin America.

FAO shared the initiative's plans for 2021, outlining: the consultation for the next Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) to be held in September 2021 with the participation of a team of experts and CPF members to discuss the scope and modality of the future FRAs; ongoing development of the open access FRA database

(<https://fra-data.fao.org>); and activities on tier-3 indicators of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators (GCS), including a study on forest-related employment and an analysis on the uptake and impact of the GCS.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to provide comments and suggestions on the open access FRA database (<https://fra-data.fao.org>).

h. Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

FAO presented a summary of main activities undertaken under the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative since 2018, highlighting: organization of national, regional and international policy dialogues on production and trade sustainable wood and their linkages with the SDGs; country-level activities in support of inclusive wood value chains, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, capacity building of SMEs to access private finance, and promotion of biocircular economy, sustainability and legality of international trade, and forest education. Plans for 2021 will focus on promotion of wood as sustainable material, including through production and analysis of biophysical and socioeconomic data, improved knowledge on timber species and their monitoring, media campaign to raise awareness on wood-based value chain; and fundraising to address the funding gap for its planned activities.

i. Wangari Maathai Award

FAO shared updates on the Wangari Maathai Award (WMA) initiative, outlining: postponement of the 2021 WMA award ceremony to 2022 to be held during the XV World Forestry Congress; reopening of call for nominations in 2021 for a short period; and nominations of jury members for the 2021/2022 WMA in the third quarter of 2021. It was added that the 2023 edition of the WMA would be held in 2023 as planned.

ICRAF suggested to consider organizing the 2021/2022 WMA award ceremony in conjunction with the Stockholm+50 event on the 50th anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment planned to be held in June 2022.

j. Forest education (in the pipeline)

FAO briefed members on the status of the initiative in the pipeline on forest education, highlighting its 2020 and 2021 activities, including: results of the global forest education survey; preparation of six regional assessments on forest education; ongoing regional consultations to review the finding of regional assessments; international conference scheduled to be held in May/June 2021; establishment of the CPF Steering Committee on Forest Education with the participation of CIFOR, UNFCCC and UNFF; development and launch of online learning course on legal sustainable supply chains and tropical wood products; prototype of online platform for forest education "Forestra".

k. Pathways for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth (in the pipeline)

ITTO shared updates on its activities in support of the initiative in the pipeline and highlighted the preparation of six country case studies on how to promote investments in production forests in support of deforestation-free landscapes. Plans for 2021 include organization of workshops and case studies in three ITTO producer countries, building on the recovery scenario and analysis on supply-demand gap prepared by ITTO.

Item 5. Preparation of the CPF work plan 2021-2024

a. Finalization of the work plan

IUFRO, the Chair of the Working Group, presented an overview of the progress made towards the finalization of the work plan, highlighting: main considerations in the development of a template; template proposed by the Working Group; added value of the new Work Plan template; possible challenges when filling the work plan template; and suggested next steps for finalizing/distributing the work plan.

Members thanked the Working Group and its Chair, and provided their views on next steps, including: importance to finalize and provide the work plan to Member States well in advance of UNFF16; importance to incorporate the UNFF programme of work 2022-2024 to be adopted during UNFF16 into the CPF work plan 2021-2024; importance to connect the CPF work and its network to the wider audience, including through using the categories of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; possibility of promoting and linking CITES' forest-related activities to one or more Joint Initiatives; importance to clarify in the work plan how it intends to advance the implementation of the CPF Strategic Vision, a suggestion to include the preparation of an action plan on halting deforestation, and provision of inputs to the forthcoming events such as the UN Food Systems Summit, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UNFCCC COP26.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to review the draft CPF work plan 2021-2024 and provide additional inputs by 18 February 2021.

b. Engagement of CPF in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration / Launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

UNEP informed that the FAO-UNEP campaign and preparation activities are scheduled to start two weeks prior to the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration on 5 June 2021 during the World Environment Day, including launching and sharing of materials on ecosystem restoration, and dissemination of key messages to relevant networks.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to identify relevant materials and activities in preparation for the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; and
- Members are invited to express interest in joining the Decade's task Forces on monitoring and good practices to prepare guidelines and protocols for restoration.

c. Proposals for new Joint Initiatives

FAO proposed a new Joint Initiative on halting deforestation.

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will share its proposal for a new Joint Initiative on halting deforestation for members' consideration.

Item 6. Update on forthcoming meetings of members

XV World Forestry Congress

FAO shared updates on the status of preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC), and informed that the new dates and modality of the WFC will be proposed by the host country in due course, noting the opportunities to incorporate the outcome of the forthcoming meetings such as the Rio Conventions' COPs, the IUCN Congress and the UN Food Systems Summit, into the XV WFC.

International Conference on Forest Education

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FAO stated that the International Conference on Forest Education is tentatively scheduled to be held virtually for approximately four days between 24 May and 11 June 2021, noting that the details of the conference, including its programme, expected outputs, communication and donor-related activities, will be decided in due course. The virtual organization of the conference would allow to attract a larger number of stakeholder participants than originally anticipated. It was added that it would be important to identify activities of CPF members on forest education to ensure that they would be linked to follow-up actions resulting from the conference.

Other meetings of members

CITES informed that its Plants Committee and its Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of listed trees species are scheduled to be held virtually in June 2021.

UNEP shared that the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) is scheduled to be convened virtually on 22-23 February 2021 under the theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” with a streamlined agenda that will focus on urgent and procedural decisions. Substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations will be deferred to a resumed in-person session of UNEA-5 in February 2022 in a format to be defined and agreed on at a later stage.

CBD provided an update on the preparation of its next COP (COP15) that the host country is considering the possibility to postpone the conference from May 2021 to the fourth quarter of 2021, subject to final decision on this matter, adding that the dates for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework would be decided accordingly in due course.

Item 7. Next meeting and any other businesses

Based on the recommendation put forth by UNFF, the Chair proposed to hold the next CPF meeting in May 2021 following the conclusion of UNFF16 to consider the impact of the UNFF16 outcome on the CPF work, and prepare its input to the UN Food Systems Summit.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held in May 2021 after UNFF16.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:15 p.m. Rome time/10:15 a.m. New York time.
