



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

13 December 2021 at 14h Rome time/8h New York time
via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

FAO:	Mette Wilkie (Chair)	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal
	Peter Csoka	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs		Andre Purret
	Theresa Loeffler	UNDP:	Musonda Mumba (Vice-Chair)
CBD:	David Cooper		Josep Gari
	Jamal Annagylyjova	UNEP:	Tim Christophersen
	Lisa Janishevski		Gabriel Labbate
	Blaise Bodin	UNFCCC:	Dirk Nemitz
CIFOR:	Robert Nasi	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena		Ryo Nakamura
GEF:	Pascal Martinez	WB:	Muhammad Najeeb Khan
ITTO:	Tetra Yanuariadi	Regrets:	ICRAF, UNCCD

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 13 December 2021.

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

The CPF Chair welcomed the CPF members to the meeting. She also welcomed the recent appointment of Sheam Satkuru as a new ITTO Executive Director and announced her retirement from FAO by the end of 2021.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Updates on preparations for UNFF17 and intersessional activities, including the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests and discussion on the CPF preparations

UNFFS shared updates on the status of preparations for UNFF17 (9-13 May 2022, UNHQ, New York) and its intersessional activities, noting that the modalities of UNFF17 will be considered and decided by the UNFF17 Bureau at its next meeting scheduled to be held in January 2022. UNFF17 will consider, among others, the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), taking into account the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on this matter held in November 2021. The EGM identified key proposed actions in preparation for the IAF midterm review, including those actions related to CPF such as the need to carry out a study to assess the progress made by the CPF in carrying out its functions and the need to consider the suitability of establishing criteria for CPF membership. Subject to the UNFF17 decisions, such a study could be conducted following UNFF17 and its findings could inform discussions of a CPF Organization-Led Initiative to make proposals to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the IAF midterm review to be held in late 2023. The main outcome of UNFF17 will be an omnibus resolution that guides intersessional activities on the IAF midterm review and national reporting, among others.

UNFFS also informed that it will virtually organize an expert group meeting on “Reporting on progress towards the implementation of the UNSPF” from 13 to 14 December 2021 in collaboration with FAO to provide suggestions, proposals and modifications for the reporting format, initiate discussion on the scope, objectives and time frame of the next flagship publication on the Global Forest Goals, and discuss ways to increase the number of national reports in the next reporting cycle. It was added the expert group meeting on the second assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and forestry would be held in January 2022.

Members noted the importance of CPF’s participation in the IAF mid-term review including a possible self-assessment, independent study and/or a study as explained above, subject to the outcomes of UNFF17.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFFS will continue to share updates on preparations for UNFF17 with members as they become available, including the report of the expert group meeting on the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests and UNFF17 documents.
- Members agreed to continue the discussion regarding the CPF assessment for the IAF midterm review at their next members meeting prior to UNFF17.
- FAO inquired about the possible modality to communicate the key messages of the XV World Forestry Congress during UNFF17. UNFFS responded that it will consult with the UNFF17 Bureau at its next meeting and share its outcome.

Item 3. CPF activities

a. Reflections on the CPF activities in 2021

The Chair presented a summary of CPF activities undertaken in 2021 and highlighted the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 presented during UNFF16, publishing of the summary of the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 in three languages, the preparation of the CPF Joint Statement “Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” in three languages, the preparation of the CPF Joint Statement “Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation” presented during UNFF16 and its publishing in six languages, and the CPF brochure “Turning the tide on deforestation: Flagship initiatives of the CPF” prepared for UNFCCC COP26. In 2021, CPF also held its events during UNFF16, the 2021 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and UNFCCC COP26.

The Chair also recalled that the CPF in 2021 decided that the 2022 and 2023 themes of the International Day of Forests would be “Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption” and “Forests and Health”, respectively, issued seven news articles, and reopened the latest edition of the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award (WMA). In preparations for the 2022 WMA ceremony to be held during XV World Forestry Congress in May 2022, the selection of the jury members is currently underway. 59 nominations for the awardee have been received to date. It was announced that the CPF website migrated to a new webpage at <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests>.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to recommend candidates for the jury of the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award by 17 December 2021, taking into account regional and gender balance of the jury members.

b. Strategic opportunities and events in 2022

The Chair highlighted strategic opportunities and events in 2022 for the CPF to plan its activities and events, particularly during XV World Forestry Congress, UNFF17, Stockholm +50 Summit, 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, CBD COP15, UNCCD COP15, UNFCCC COP27, UNEA-5 and COFO26.

Members discussed the possible role that the CPF could play in the forthcoming conferences and events, and stressed the importance to support the implementation of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use to ensure to address turning the tide on deforestation, forest restoration and sustainable forest management, including through the enhanced Nationally-determined Contributions and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CBD informed that the meetings of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework were postponed from January 2022 to a later timing due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the possibility of changes to the dates of CBD COP15.

UNEP shared that the resumed session of UNEA-5 (28 February-2 March 2022) will be held back-to-back with the event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UNEP to consider a number of resolutions, including the one on the definition of nature-based solutions.

FAO provided an update on the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (2-6 May 2022) that a slot has been secured to organize a CPF dialogue with major groups and other stakeholders, and invited members to volunteer to join a working group to plan and prepare this event and provide suggestions regarding its main topics and themes.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to express interest in leading the planning of the events to be held alongside the forthcoming conferences and events in 2022.
- Members were invited to suggest possible main topics and themes for the CPF Dialogue at the WFC. FAO, CBD, IUFRO and other interested members will form a working group to prepare for the organization of a CPF Dialogue to be held during XV WFC.
- Members are invited to provide updates to the new CPF website, especially the events section.

Item 4. Updates on selected Joint Initiatives

a. Implementation of the EXCOM Decision on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and the CPF JI in the pipeline

UNEP presented background information and updates on the status of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Executive Committee (EXCOM) Decision on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and the CPF JI in the pipeline, highlighting the mandate of EXCOM, progress and next steps to be taken to implement its decisions, noting that the CPF Joint Statement "Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation" will be included in the progress report to be considered at the next meeting of EXCOM scheduled to be held in February 2022.

With regard to the implications and next steps for the CPF, it was highlighted that the CPF could play a key role in advancing the implementation of relevant decisions, particularly through the further development of activities under the planned Joint Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation. Such contributions could include regular mapping of climate and forest-related events, advocacy and organization of relevant events, and strengthening of collaboration with the New York Declaration on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. UNEP noted that it will circulate the latest version of the progress report to other members of the EXCOM Working Group prior to its next meeting.

b. Pathways for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth

ITTO shared that there has been no progress in securing budget for the planned CPF JI on Pathways for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth.

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Members noted the importance to ensure synergies with the ongoing work of the CPF, particularly the planned Joint Initiative on turning the tide on deforestation.

Item 5. Election of the CPF Vice-Chair for 2022, next meeting and any other business

The Chair thanked Musonda Mumba, UNDP, for her Vice-Chairpersonship for 2021. Members considered the election of the CPF Vice-Chair for 2022, taking into account that CIFOR, CITES, UNFCCC and UNFF have yet to assume this role. Members elected Robert Nasi, CIFOR as the CPF Vice-Chair for 2022 by acclamation.

The Chair proposed to hold the next CPF meeting by mid-March 2022 prior to XV WFC and UNFF17.

Key actions to be taken:

- Robert Nasi of CIFOR will assume the role of the CPF Vice-Chair for 2022.
- The Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held by mid-March 2022.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 3:20 p.m. Rome time (CET)/9:20 a.m. New York time (EST).
