

In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annagylyjova	IUCN:	Chetan Kumar
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Robert Nasi		Pragyan Pokhrel
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero (Vice-Chair)	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno		Christoph Wildburger
FAO:	Zhimin Wu (Chair)		Andre Purret
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Katherine Clyne	UNDP:	Tim Scott
	Theresa Loeffler	UNFCCC:	Dirk Nemitz (virtual)
GEF:	Pascal Martinez	UNFF:	Ryo Nakamura
ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru	WB:	Tuukka Castren (virtual)
	Jennifer Conje		
	Lee Soon Min	Regrets:	GCF, UNEP

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 6 May 2024 at UNDP Headquarters, New York, during UNFF19.

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

The CPF Chair welcomed CPF members to the meeting noting that UNFF 19 is a milestone event in the history of the International Arrangement on Forests. The midterm review of the Arrangement is an important opportunity to take stock and identify key forest-related challenges and solutions. He noted that since the establishment of the UNFF, we have seen growing recognition of the importance of the world's forests and their role in addressing multiple challenges in a rapidly changing world. This is also thanks to the work of the CPF which has made major contributions since its establishment and its strong advocacy made it possible to launch a UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, have forests included in UNFCCC decisions, enhance biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry, and advance in decoupling forest loss from value chains and many more. Following the opening of the meeting the proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Updates on UNFF19 and CPF's engagement and events

UNFF provided an update on UNFF19, outlining schedules and arrangements for the UNFF19 informal consultations on the draft High-level Segment Declaration and the draft omnibus resolution on 7 and 8 May, as well as arrangements for the High-level Segment on 9 May, including its opening, the High-level Segment Roundtable "Forest-based solutions to the triple planetary crises: A focus on people, science, technology, and finance" and the High-level Segment Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF partners "Achieving globally agreed goals

on forests, climate change, and biodiversity”. UNFF also shared an update on the arrangements and run of show for the CPF High-level Event “Harmonizing Efforts for Forest Action by 2030: Strengthening the CPF” to be held on 9 May. It was noted that the CPF has an impressive number of events and engagements in the UNFF19 week with 9 side events that are led or co-led by CPF members.

The CPF Chair informed that based on the proposal put forth by the CPF Communicators' Network, the proposed themes for the International Day of Forests in 2025 and 2026 would be “Forests and Foods” and “Forests and Culture”, respectively.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members will participate in the UNFF19 High-level Segment Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF partners “Achieving globally agreed goals on forests, climate change, and biodiversity” in the afternoon of 9 May.
- CPF members will participate in the CPF High-level Event at UNFF19 “Harmonizing Efforts for Forest Action by 2030: Strengthening the CPF” to be held during lunchtime on 9 May.
- The CPF Chair will announce the proposed theme for the International Day of Forests 2025 on 9 May.
- The CPF Chair will announce the proposed theme for the International Day of Forests 2026 in due course.

Item 3. Decisions on new and ongoing Joint Initiatives

Following the introduction by the CPF Chair, CPF members held discussions on new CPF Joint Initiatives. These new Joint Initiatives included: Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests proposed by ITTO; Forests for Food Security and Nutrition proposed by FAO; CITES-listed Tree Species proposed by CITES; and Protect, Restore and Sustainably Use Forest- mainstreaming forest biodiversity across sectors proposed by CBD.

Regarding the Joint Initiative on the Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests, CPF members noted the importance of considering other types of forests, such as temperate forests, for inclusion in the initiative in addition to tropical forests, taking into account suggestion made by a UNFF Member State during the UNFF19 discussions on 6 May.

Following the discussions, CPF members approved the new Joint Initiatives on the Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests with inclusion of temperate forests, and Forests for Food Security and Nutrition, respectively. In addition to the approval of the two new Joint Initiatives, CPF members recommended the development of full proposals for the proposed new Joint Initiatives on CITES-listed Tree Species, and Protect, Restore and Sustainably Use Forest- mainstreaming forest biodiversity across sectors, respectively.

CPF members also considered the assessment of the ongoing CPF Joint Initiatives, and took note of the results of self-assessment undertaken by the lead CPF members for the respective Joint Initiatives¹.

Regarding the Joint Initiative on Forest Education, ITTO and IUFRO informed their respective withdrawal from the initiative as its co-lead members, noting the current shift towards training activities as the focus of the initiative. With respect to the Joint Initiative on Strengthening the conservation of primary forests through enhanced partnerships and coordination of support, GEF provided an update regarding the schedule of the approval for a medium-sized GEF project in support of this initiative. ITTO expressed an interest in joining the initiative. On the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World, FAO recommended to consider planning the second phase of the initiative. Regarding the Joint Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation, members considered possible redirection of the initiative, and shared their views. These views and suggestions included: focus on harmful subsidies and deforestation-free supply chains; focus on forests and other ecosystems; focus on linkages

¹ See Annex I.

with the Nationally Determined Contributions and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; focus on data and trends on deforestation; and merger of the initiative with the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World.

It was decided to continue the following Joint Initiatives: Communicators' Network (CIFOR-ICRAF, CITES, FAO, and UNFFS); Wangari Maathai Award (FAO); Forest Finance Facilitation/GFFFN (UNFFS); Global Forest Expert Panels (IUFRO); Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting (FAO, UNFFS); Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (FAO, ITTO); Turning the Tide on Deforestation (FAO, UNEP, UNDP); Strengthening the conservation of primary forests through enhanced partnerships and coordination of support (GEF, IUCN, FAO, UNFFS); and Forest Education (CIFOR-ICRAF, FAO).

The Joint Initiative Pathways for designing a mechanism to incentivize deforestation-free landscapes and value chains for green growth (CIFOR-ICRAF, GEF, UNEP) was completed.

Key actions to be taken:

- ITTO will initiate the implementation of the new Joint Initiative on Integrated Fire Management in Tropical and Temperate Forests in collaboration with other CPF members who expressed interest in joining.
- FAO will initiate the implementation of the new Joint Initiative on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition in collaboration with other CPF members who expressed interest in joining.
- CITES will develop a full proposal for the new Joint Initiative on CITES-listed Tree Species for consideration by CPF members.
- CBD will develop a full proposal for the new Joint Initiative: Protect, Restore and Sustainably Use Forest - mainstreaming forest biodiversity across sectors for consideration by CPF members.
- Lead/co-lead members of the ongoing Joint Initiatives will take into account the results of the respective assessment in their implementation.
- Interested CPF members are invited to provide inputs to consider the redirection of the Joint Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation taking into account the discussions on this matter during the CPF meeting held on 6 May.

Item 4. Next steps following UNFF19

CPF members discussed next steps to prepare the CPF Work Plan for 2025-2028. Members noted the importance of considering the eventual UNFF19 decisions, including the outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF, and the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work 2025-2028. The CPF Work Plan for 2025-2028 would be presented at UNFF20 in 2025. Members were invited to join the task force to prepare a zero draft of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are invited to join the *ad hoc* task force to be co-facilitated by FAO and UNFFS to prepare a zero draft of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 by the end of 2024 for consultations among CPF members before subsequent consideration and endorsement at a CPF meeting before UNFF 20.

Item 5. Date and venue of the next CPF meeting

CPF members discussed the possible timing for the next CPF meeting. It was suggested to consider scheduling a retreat in January or February 2025, to be hosted by one of the CPF members. The next CPF members meeting will be held in the second semester of 2024. The Secretariat and Chair will share a proposal for the date and time of the meeting.

Key actions to be taken:

- The CPF Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat will confirm the date, time, and location (if consensus reached on in-person modality) of the next CPF meeting in the second semester of 2024 and a possible retreat in January or February 2025.

Item 6. Any other business

ITTO informed that they will hold the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2024 from 11 to 12 September 2024 in Macao SAR, China, and invited CPF members to attend. It was added that ITTO is planning to organize a panel of CPF members during the forthcoming ITTC-60 in December 2024 in Yokohama, Japan.

FAO invited CPF members to COFO27 to be held from 22 to 26 July 2024 at FAO HQ, Rome.

Item 7. Closing of the meeting

The CPF Chair closed the meeting at 7:45pm EDT.

Annex I.

Assessment of the CPF Joint Initiatives²

1. Communicators' Network (FAO, UNFFS)

FAO's input- The CPF Communicators' Network is a long-standing, continuous joint initiative of the CPF. The network discusses and proposes the annual global theme for the International Day of Forests based on communication and outreach considerations. The network brings together communication focal points from all CPF member organizations and is throughout the year used for the cross-promotion of CPF and its member's materials. The Network is further supporting outreach for other forest-related international days as well as the CPF Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award. The network will launch a Grow the Solution coalition during UNFF19 to encourage greater use of products made from sustainably grown wood as a key strategy for combating climate change, with a range of multimedia products made available for all CPF partners. It is recommended to continue this joint initiative.

UNFFS' input- The CPF Communicators' Network was created to increase the communication impacts of the Partnership including through advice on global communication and outreach activities, campaigns, and events, including the International Day of Forests and the selection of annual themes in this regard. Furthermore, the JI provides supports the implementation of the Communication and Outreach Strategy of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, in highlighting the multi-faceted contributions of forests to the 2030 Agenda and other global forest-related commitments. The recommendation is for the JI to be continued as it contributes to all areas of CPF core functions, and particularly since the IAF MTR has flagged communications and outreach to be an area of work that should be strengthened in the IAF beyond 2024.

2. Forest Education (CIFOR-ICRAF, FAO, ITTO, IUFRO)

The CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Education was established in June 2021 as part of the Global Forest Education Project. IUFRO believes the program did not gain considerable momentum, despite constant efforts, which were informal and not officially part of the Joint Initiative, owing mostly to a lack of projected funding.

Given the current global issues, the FAO considers that it would be imprudent to cancel this essential endeavor. Forest education is beyond the capabilities of any single school, needing a joint effort. FAO, as one of the Joint Initiative's co-leaders, intends to proceed with its initial phase by conducting a project titled "Strengthening Institutional Capabilities to Train the Next Generation of Forest and Farm Producers." The project, which will receive USD 1 million in funding from Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), aims to improve the capacity of forest and farm producer associations, as well as training institutes.

The project's overarching goal is to deliver improved practical training and capacity development solutions to attract the next generation of small-scale forest and farm producers in Guatemala, Togo, and Vietnam. The project is currently in its last consultation phase and will be implemented from September 2024 to August 2026, working closely with numerous FAO units and significant organizations such as ITTO, IUFRO, and CIFOR, among others. Furthermore, it intends to mobilize extra resources to expand forest education and capacity development efforts.

In conclusion, FAO recommend a redirection in this initiative. This could entail repositioning its strategic orientation from formal education to non-formal and practical training while maintaining engagement with formal and tertiary-level education. We welcome any suggestions in this regard.

² Further information of the Joint Initiatives, including their latest updates, is contained in the [updated CPF Work Plan 2021-2024](#).

3. Forest Finance Facilitation (UNFFS)

The Joint Initiative on **Forest Finance Facilitation** was established in response to the requests of the Forum for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) to work closely with CPF members. It was created to increase the collaboration of CPF members in mobilizing finances for sustainable forest management, in particular through the nexus of the GFFFN activities. This JI has leveraged close partnerships with relevant CPF members, increased the effectiveness of joint activities by partners and provided valuable support to the GFFFN. Examples include the joint development of project concept notes and national forest financing strategies, as well as the valuable inputs provided by members to the development of the Clearing House.

The recommendation is that the JI be continued as it fulfills the practical needs of the GFFFN and the continued requirement of the Forum for the GFFFN to work closely with CPF members. The JI is expected to continue to contribute to the implementation of the GFFFN activities including the Clearing House, where feasible. It is also expected to include activities for mobilizing resources for the joint initiatives. Furthermore, the JI will continue to promote synergies among CPF members in actions to mobilize finance for forests and in supporting countries to mobilize forest finance.

4. Global Forest Expert Panels (IUFRO)

The Joint Initiative [Global Forest Expert Panels \(GFEP\)](#) was launched in 2007 to support UNFF and other forest-related intergovernmental processes by assessing available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open, and transparent way and produce reports on forest-related issues of global concern, including emerging issues. The assessments are carried out by thematic expert panels. GFEP is a continuous CPF JI with IUFRO as the lead agency and involvement of all CPF members.

- IUFRO has carried out an internal self-evaluation of GFEP. Some of the key achievements of this Joint Initiative are:
GFEP has completed eight scientific assessments on issues of high concern and published respective peer-reviewed reports as well as accompanying policy briefs:
 - 2023: [Forests and Trees for Human Health: Pathways, Impacts, Challenges and Response Options](#);
 - 2020: [Forests, Trees and the Eradication of Poverty: Potential and Limitations](#);
 - 2018: [Forest and Water on a Changing Planet: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Governance Opportunities](#);
 - 2016: [Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade - Dimensions, Drivers, Impacts and Responses](#);
 - 2015: [Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition](#);
 - 2012: [Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives](#);
 - 2010: [Embracing complexity: Meeting the challenges of international forest governance](#);
 - 2009: [Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change](#).

In 2023, the ninth assessment on [Forests for Social and Economic Resilience](#) has been initiated (to be launched in mid 2025).

- Each GFEP report has received considerable international media attention and has had a significant impact on international policies. The assessments have provided inputs to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Forum on Forests, and to other international forums considering forest-related issues, such as the COPs of the CBD and the UNFCCC.
- GFEP is contributing to:
 - GFG 4 (target 4.5) and GFG 6 (target 6.2);

- SDG 17 to targets 17.6, 17.14, and 17.16. Additionally, GFEP's thematic panels addressed specific SDGs and contributed to their implementation including SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 13, 15.
- Members of the Expert Panels have reflected not only the required scientific expertise but also diversity, balance between North/South, and gender. The assessments were able to leverage the expertise of almost 400 scientists and experts (around 43% of those women) from over 190 different institutions.

GFEP has greatly benefitted from the expertise and engagement of CPF members concerning the identification of topics of high concern, framing of the assessment scope, carrying out the assessments and outreach activities. Non-IUFRO CPF affiliated scientists and experts account for around 15% of the authors or reviewers in the completed assessments.

Given the successes to date and ongoing scientific information needs of intergovernmental processes and institutions concerning forests and trees, IUFRO strongly recommends that GFEP should continue as a CPF JI.

5. Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting (FAO, UNFFS)

FAO's input- This JI focuses on improving the quality, accessibility, and transparency of global forest-related data to enhance monitoring of progress toward internationally agreed goals and targets.

The initiative has been successful in developing a Global Core Set of Forest-Related Indicators and reducing the reporting burden on countries. Concrete examples of the latter include collaboration between FAO and UNFF in synchronizing data collection cycles and utilizing quantitative data collected through the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment process for flagship publications of both organizations. Furthermore, the Joint Initiative has contributed to enhancing collaboration among CPF members in reporting on and conserving primary forests. The [Global Workshop on Reporting on Progress towards the Global Forest Goals and Targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030](#) was another example of successful collaboration between UNFFS and FAO to identify possible sources for data collection, and methodologies for monitoring and reporting on the Global Forest Goals and their targets. Finally, the JI serves as a formal umbrella for all joint monitoring activities among CPF members. Considering the above, we strongly recommend continuing the Joint Initiative and mobilizing CPF resources for its further strengthening.

UNFFS' input- Joint Initiative on streamlining forest-related reporting is a long-standing, initiative of the CPF with the main objective to continuously reduce the forest-related reporting burden, through further synchronizing reporting, harmonizing data collection methods, increasing data comparability, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information. Since 2017 until now many activities took place within this JI. A task force established within this JI helped to develop a Global core set of forest related indicators (GCS).

Most recent event that contributed to work of this JI took place last year (March 2023). The UNFFS and FAO jointly organized a global workshop: "Reporting on progress towards Global Forest Goals and Targets of the UNSPF 2030". Among the proposals coming from this workshop, the Co-Chairs summary had one which was specific to this JI: the members of CPF and its Joint Initiative on Streamlining forest-related reporting were invited to review the classification of GCS indicators per tier, as well as lead entities per indicator.

While a specific lack of funding dedicated for this JI/activity makes it challenging to notice substantial progress in some streams of work. For instance, the GCS indicators classified as tier 3 (socioeconomic GFG2 and GFG4) cannot become more operational due to the need for further work on concepts and the methodology. Despite these challenges, the overall value of this initiative remains high. It is recommended to continue this joint initiative.

6. Strengthening the conservation of primary forests through enhanced partnerships and coordination of support (FAO, GEF, IUCN, UNFFS)

UNFFS' input- The over-arching objective of this JI is to prioritize the conservation of tropical primary forests by elevating their importance in global policy discussions and processes. Main focus of this JI is dialogue and information sharing with donors, capacity development, and coordinating CPF members' work on primary forests. This JI is funded through a GEF Medium Sized Project, with IUCN being the Implementing Agency and UNFFS and FAO as executing agencies. The timeframe for this JI is 2024-2026. It is recommended to continue this joint initiative.

7. Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (FAO, ITTO)

This JI is led by FAO with ITTO as co-lead and participation of CIFOR, the World Bank, and WWF International as a non-CPF organization. In 2019, the CITES Secretariat joined the initiative, and in 2023, IUFRO joined. Since its inception the initiative has raised awareness of the importance of wood value chains to achieve the SDGs, the relevance of sustainable wood products to accelerate the achievement of climate change goals, the opportunity to align sustainable wood production to restoration and conservation strategies with improvement of livelihoods and has mobilized financial and political actors to support sustainable wood production and use.

The initiative has pioneered an agenda in the international forest arena which has now been followed by other organizations, governments, and the private sector. In 2022, the Ministerial Call for Sustainable Wood was signed in Seoul, Korea, and the Grow the Solution campaign was launched in collaboration with the Forest Communicators Network. The SW4SW has had an important role in raising awareness of the multiple contributions of wood as a renewable, low-carbon material. A multilingual video spot was produced for the International Day of Forests 2022, reflecting the IDF theme "Sustainable Production and Consumption," reaching over 1.2 billion households via traditional broadcast media and garnering over 1.2 million views on social media platforms.

In a policy dialogue promoted by the initiative in March 2024, the UN-Habitat highlighted the importance of the SW4SW work to address the housing deficit. Moreover, the initiative produced critical normative work to ensure the sustainable wood agenda is supported by evidence. The regional and country roadmaps generated by the SW4SW policy dialogues were capable of influencing country action towards strengthening inclusive sustainable wood value chains in many countries and identified actions were picked up by other initiatives such as the Forest and Farm Facility, and Forest Land Restoration (e.g. in Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia).

Technical cooperation among the organizations is vibrant and has generated solid knowledge products. The initiative has become a reference for work on sustainable wood value chains, legal and sustainable supply chains, and mainstreaming wood in the bioeconomy and climate neutral societies. There is growing recognition of the value of the SW4SW through country and stakeholder demands and donor support, however not yet translated into funding. FAO, ITTO and IUFRO have received seed money from Japan, Austria, Canada and China, as support to the initiative in 2024-25. It is now time to renew the collaboration among the SW4SW partner organizations and donors to scale up the initiative's work to build on the increasing demand and make more impactful contributions.

It is recommended to launch a second phase of the SW4SW building on the lessons learned.

8. Turning the Tide on Deforestation (FAO, UNDP, UNEP)

The CPF joint initiative on "Turning the Tide on Deforestation" is essential for keeping the momentum in addressing world's deforestation. It focuses on advocacy and scaling up ongoing efforts within and beyond the UN system to halt deforestation, following up on the UN Secretary-General's initiative. The initiative has published several relevant products ([Challenges and opportunities in turning the tide on deforestation](#), 2021; [Turning the](#)

[tide on deforestation](#) - Flagship initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, 2021) and organized high level advocacy events in the context of the UNFCCC (COP25, COP26, COP27, COP28) and other fora to keep forest high on the global climate agenda and support inclusion of forest-sector solutions into countries' Nationally Determined Contributions.

Efforts will continue for forest assessments to build transparency, while supporting countries' monitoring and decision-making, empowering local communities, and delivering on forest and agriculture in a complementary manner. This will also include a greater focus on leveraging synergies within and across the UNFCCC COPs/NDCs support and efforts with CBD/NBSAPs and UNCCD/LDN targets.

We assess the joint initiative as a success with potential for upscaling and further activity implementation and recommend continuing it.

9. Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award (FAO)

This JI recognizes inspiring individuals who have helped to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage forests.

The WMA has been a successful initiative and has awarded six incredible forest champions: forestry movement leader Narayan Kaji Shrestha (2012), Mexican environmental campaigner Martha Isabel 'Pati' Ruiz Corzo (2014), Ugandan forestry activist Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi (2015), Brazilian forestry activist Maria Margarida Ribeiro da Silva (2017), Burundian forestry activist Léonidas Nzigiyimpa (2019), and Cameroonian activist and social forester Cécile Ndjebet (2022). The next awardee will be announced in 2024.

The awardees and their achievements are a great source of inspiration and an active contribution of the CPF to grassroots movements. The award is not only a recognition for individuals who have contributed to sustainable forest management, but also an incentive and motivation for them to go further and upscale their work. For each edition, hundreds of nominations are received showcasing the increasing popularity and success of the initiative.

The value of this joint initiative is high. Forest Champions are needed to address the climate challenges, advocate for change, and inspire others to follow in their exemplary path. This joint initiative is not only giving visibility to the awardees but also to the CPF. The CPF is known in the communities through the award and the champions who remain ambassadors for the CPF. Previous WMA Champions have received high attention and invitations to advocacy events, in their country as well as on a regional and global level.

Hence, we strongly recommend continuing this joint initiative.
