

In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	ITTO:	Gerhard Dieterle
	Eva Muller		Sheam Satkuru
	Peter Csoka	IUCN:	Adriana Vidal*
	Thais Linhares-Juvenal	IUFRO:	Alexander Buck
	Anssi Pekkarinen		Andre Purret
CBD:	Alexander Shestakov*	UNCCD:	Sven Walter
	Catalina Santamaria*	UNDP:	Wahida Shah
CIFOR:	Vincent Gitz	UNEP:	Abdelkader Bensada
	Alexandre Meybeck	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero		Ryo Nakamura
	Tom De Meulenaer		Stephanie Caswell
GEF:	Paul Hartman	WB:	Garo Batmanian

* via audio-conference

Regrets: ICRAF, UNFCCC

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ in Rome from 10 to 11 December 2018 for the 2018 retreat of the Partnership.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the Agenda

Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, welcomed members and highlighted the timeliness and importance of the retreat for the Partnership's preparation towards the UNFF14. He specifically welcomed Ivonne Higuero, the new CITES Secretary-General, and invited members to introduce themselves.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Tour de table and update on recent developments from members

CITES informed that the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP18) to CITES will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 May to 3 June 2019, highlighting possible areas of cooperation with CPF and its members, particularly on tree species specific matters in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of forest-related SDGs.

UNEP shared that the fourth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA4, Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019) will consider several draft resolutions related to forests, including a resolution on deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains submitted by the European Union and its Member States. It was added that UNEP is partnering with Rabobank for the Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture Fund.

CIFOR provided that CIFOR and ICRAF have agreed to merge to maximize their synergies and programme impacts, effective 1 January 2019, outlining a single board with subsequent implementation of a single leadership team and unified policies, processes and systems, as well as honouring of existing commitments and contracts with donors, stakeholders and host countries.

IUFRO provided an update that John Parrotta was elected as its new President and is scheduled to begin his term in October 2019. It was added that the fourth International Congress on Planted Forests was held in Beijing, China from 23-27 October 2018, and the twenty-fifth IUFRO World Congress will take place in Curitiba, Brazil from 29 September-5 October 2019. The planning is also underway for the twenty-sixth IUFRO World Congress to be held in Stockholm, Sweden in 2024.

GEF briefly introduced the GEF-7 focal area strategies related to forests, outlining its Impact Programs and other programmatic approaches related to food systems, land use, and restoration, sustainable cities, and sustainable forest management, highlighting the important role of the relevant CPF members to support the implementation of these programmes.

ITTO highlighted the outcome of the recently concluded fifth-fourth session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-54) and its progress made on strategizing its new programme directions in support of the sustainable and green supply chains, including through the Global Green Supply Chain initiative in partnership with a group of the Chinese timber companies.

UNCCD informed of the status of preparation for the forthcoming seventeenth session of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC17), highlighting the progress made on national voluntary targets on land degradation neutrality (LDN) in over 120 countries, initial operation of the LDN Fund in partnership with Mirova, synergies with the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators, partnership with IUCN on forest landscape restoration.

WB underscored the synergies established between its Forest Programme and PROFOR and highlighted its recently-approved Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project in Brazil, as well as joint efforts with ITTO on the compendium on Pathway for Designing Fiscal Mechanisms to Incentivize Deforestation-Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth.

3. Policy matters

Discussion and decision on the new focal agency system

Based on the working draft note “Possible clusters of CPF activities and lead agencies” circulated prior to the meeting, members discussed possible approaches and next steps to decide on the new focal agency system of the Partnership.

Members considered the need to define the implementation mechanism/modus operandi of the focal agency system, as well as the role of focal agencies, taking into account the mandates and strengths of member organizations, noting the need to ensure its synergistic linkages with Joint Initiatives and the workplan of the Partnership.

Other ideas and proposals discussed included: the importance to ensure linkages with the Global Forest Goals, including through clustering the focal agencies around the six GFGs; clustering focal agencies around the type of members’ mandates and strengths; use and promotion of the system as a communication tool; and linkages with funding proposals and use of the system as a fundraising tool.

Key actions to be taken:

- CITES will provide their input to the capacity mapping and focal agency system survey.

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will propose a new focal agency system for members' consideration based on discussions held at the retreat, taking into account the strategic vision of the Partnership beyond 2020 and the work plan of the Partnership 2021-2024 (see agenda item 7).

Discussion and decision on stakeholder involvement

Based on a summary of related discussion circulated prior to the meeting, members considered possible approaches and next steps to decide on stakeholder involvement.

Members explored the possibility to organize a CPF Dialogue at the UNFF session and other major meetings and events organized by members such as the Global Landscapes Forum and the ITTC session. Members stressed the need to identify target stakeholder groups to partner with for the organization of the dialogue.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are encouraged to continue to partner with relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of their respective Joint Initiatives; and
- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will develop and circulate a concept note of the first CPF Dialogue for members' consideration.

CPF approach to fund raising and collaboration with Donors

Following the introduction of the subject matter by FAO, members considered possible approaches and next steps on fundraising and collaboration with donors, building on the momentum built through the two meetings with donors held in 2018.

Members highlighted the importance for the Partnership to take an initiative to organize the next meeting with donors as soon as possible. It was suggested to develop a clear agenda of the meeting to provide an overview of the workplan of the Partnership and ensure structured discussions based on concrete Joint Initiative proposals corresponding to donors' priority funding areas. It was suggested to consider an issue of forests and education as a possible focus for the next round of new Joint Initiatives. It was also suggested that these meetings should become regular events in the future.

Other ideas and proposals discussed included: initial consultation with key donors prior to the donor meeting; establishment of regular contact with target ministries and funding agencies at the capital level; identification of target countries and intervention areas for JI programming; the need for a mechanism to avoid duplication of fundraising efforts among members; and bundling of activities into large-scale JI proposals.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will prepare an agenda of the donor meeting and invite donors to the donor meeting to be held in conjunction with UNFF14;
- Members will continue to develop their respective Joint Initiatives in the pipeline and present them to donors at the donor meeting; and
- Members will continue to develop new Joint Initiatives proposals, taking into account donors' interests and funding opportunities.

4. Update on progress in the implementation of UNFF13 decisions and UNFF14 preparations

Update on intersessional activities

The UNFF Secretariat provided updates on intersessional activities and preparations for UNFF14, including: i) outcome of the Workshop on Reporting on Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests 2030 (14-16 November 2018, FAO HQ, Rome); ii) preparations for the Expert Group Meeting on Regional and Sub-Regional Input to UNFF (7-8 January 2019, UNESCAP, Bangkok) and Expert Meeting to review progress in implementation of the major groups workplans and input to UNFF14 (9-11 January 2019, UNESCAP, Bangkok);

and Expert Group Meeting on the Clearing House of the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) (9-11 January 2019, UNHQ, New York).

The UNFF Secretariat also informed of the outcome of its forest event held on 4 December during the UNFCCC COP24 “Promoting synergies between the UNSPF, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs” with the participation of CPF members, adding that it will hold another forest event on 13 December “Advancing forest-based climate action: interlinkages between the Nationally-determined Contributions and the Voluntary National Contributions” with the participation of representatives from countries, CPF members and other stakeholders.

CPF’s contribution to the implementation of the UNFF13 decisions and preparation for UNFF14

The UNFF Secretariat informed the status of the implementation of the UNFF13 decisions and preparation for UNFF14, outlining UNFF14 agenda items and their issue areas for the Partnership’s contribution, including: i) technical discussion on UNFF14 thematic priorities; ii) monitoring, assessment and reporting; iii) activities and operation of GFFFN; iv) enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues; v) enhanced global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management.

On technical discussion on UNFF14 thematic priorities, UNFF14 will focus on three thematic priorities, taking into account the 2019 HLPF and the 2019 IDF, as well as the relevant GFGs: i) forests and climate change; ii) forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and employment; and iii) forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education and inclusive institutions at all levels.

On monitoring, assessment and reporting, explanatory notes on monitoring and reporting to UNFF have been developed through the November EGM. The EGM also considered the further development of the global core set of indicators, particularly indicator 13 and 14, and possible sources/availability of forest-related data and agreed data-sharing arrangements, for which the Partnership is invited to report the progress at UNFF14.

The UNFF Secretariat provided that updates on the progress made in the implementation of the workplan of the Partnership and its activities could be included for the relevant UNFF14 documents on “Implementation of the UNSPF” and “Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues”, noting the deadline of 17 January 2019 to finalize all the documents.

Members explored the possibility to further promote CPF’s work at the future UNFF sessions, including through an allocation of a document dedicated to activities of the Partnership in the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum for the period 2021-2024 to be adopted at UNFF15 (as a successor of the former CPF Framework document).

It was added that the UNFF14 Bureau will consider the organization of work for UNFF14 at its meeting scheduled on 8 January 2019. In view of the scope of UNFF14 as the session for implementation and technical advice, it is expected that the UNFF14 Chair’s summary will cover the outcome of discussions on all agenda items to provide inputs and proposals to UNFF15.

Enhanced global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management

Based on the report circulated prior to the meeting, the UNFF Secretariat presented an overview of the review of responses to the UNFF survey on “Enhanced global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management”, highlighting overview of survey responses by question, general conclusions, and proposals and options for action.

Members noted the opportunities to discuss possible future actions on the subject matter at UNFF14, and suggested not posting survey responses from CPF members or the report on the UNFF website in light of the

informal nature of the former and respondent attributions contained in the report, to avoid misinterpretation of conclusions and options for action drawn from the survey.

It was agreed that the UNFF14 documentation on agenda item 6 would provide information to facilitate a useful discussion at UNFF14 without attribution to members. Interested members were invited to provide specific comments on the report. Such comments would be collated by the UNFF Secretariat for future CPF reference, as appropriate.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will circulate the template for inputs to the UNFF14 documentation on: i) Implementation of the UNSPF; and ii) Enhancing cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues.
- Members are invited to provide their inputs to the UNFF14 documentation by 19 December 2018;
- Members are invited to provide comments and suggestions on the report on survey responses by 19 December 2018; and
- UNFF will provide information on the UNFF14 organization of work upon its finalization and invite CPF members to participate in relevant panel discussions.

5. CPF Work Plan: implementation and revision 2019-2020

Response to the invitations by other governing bodies of member organizations

Members provided updates on responses to the invitations made by other governing bodies of member organizations.

FAO provided updates on the outcome of COFO24 related to CPF and its approval by the FAO Council, particularly its support to the implementation of the UNSPF as part of its core activities, continued work on the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators and the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative, contribution to CPF, provision of inputs to UNFF sessions, and the recommendation on regional cooperation with UNFF by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions through flexible approaches.

ITTO outlined its new approach to its projects and programmes in support of sustainable and green supply chains and landscapes, highlighting its focus on partnership with the private sector, market information and trade, forest landscape restoration in the tropics in the context of its current two-year workplan.

UNEP shared the status of its activities, including the GLF Landscape Academy launched at the 2018 GLF in partnership with other CPF members, the 2018 Emissions Gap Report, the new edition of the Global Environment Outlook to be launched at the forthcoming UNEA4, and a UNEA4 resolution for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. It was added that it currently operates under the UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021.

CBD provided updates on the outcome of the CBD COP14, highlighting the decisions related to CPF, including the updating of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 14 and 15, as well as the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It was added that members were invited to provide inputs to the initial framework for global biodiversity framework by 15 December 2018.

UNCCD informed that the implementation of its new workplan and national land degradation neutrality will be considered at the seventeenth session of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC17, 28-30 January 2019, Georgetown, Guyana) and the UNCCD COP14 (October 2019, India).

CITES provided updates on the status of preparation of its COP18, its project activities on timber trade in partnership with ITTO and EU, its collaborative efforts undertaken through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). It was added the COP18 will consider new tree species and non-timber forest products.

IUFRO shared that it periodically assesses the effectiveness and impact of its research work against its strategy 2015-2019, including their impact on the global forest policy processes such as UNFF.

CIFOR also shared that its priority areas are captured in the three-year workplan and the 2016-2025 strategy.

GEF informed that its programme activities are guided by the focal area strategies for the Seventh Replenishment Cycle (GEF-7), including the new impact programmes.

UNDP shared that its work is guided by the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which contains a focus on forests and climate in terms of support to the Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs) and the implementation of the New York Declaration on Forests.

WB highlighted its new numerical target related to forests in terms of area of forests supported through its work for the period 2020-2025.

Update on recent Joint Initiatives

Members provided an update on the current status of their respective Joint Initiatives.

i. Global Forest Expert Panels

IUFRO informed that the next Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) assessment is expected to start early 2019 on a topic of bioenergy, urban and peri-urban forestry, or forest and sustainable livelihoods, inviting members to host its scoping meeting and expert consultations. The result of the assessment and its final report is expected to be launched in the second half of 2020.

Some members suggested bioeconomy and forests and education as future topics for the GFEP assessment. It was also suggested to undertake follow-up exercise on the past GFEP assessment reports to assess their impacts.

ii. Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

FAO provided an update on the recent activities undertaken under the umbrella of the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW), outlining its target areas, financing of activities, and the ongoing planning of a joint work plan for the initiative. It was added that the FAO's existing programmes such as FLEGT and the Forest and Farm Facility were aligning their respective activities with the initiative.

Members noted the importance of joint fundraising efforts to advance its planned activities. It was suggested to ensure a linkage with the ITTO's work in this area, including its voluntary guidelines for forest landscape restoration in the tropics, as well as its high-level dialogue scheduled to take place in Africa in 2019.

iii. Global Core Set of forest-related indicators

FAO provided an update on the recent activities of the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators (GCS), highlighting its progress made in socioeconomic indicators, including the development of their methodological guidance and platform, and the planned use of GCS for FRA2020. The updates were also provided on the status and schedule of the FRA2020 preparation, which will include a series of technical meetings and regional capacity development workshops on FRA reporting, desk studies, review and validation of the submitted country reports, data analysis and report writing in cooperation with other forest-related national and international organizations, including members of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ).

Members discussed the importance of focusing on tier-2 indicators of GCS as a priority to advance its work in time for the forthcoming reporting activities, including the UNFF national reporting.

iv. Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award

FAO shared its proposal to hold the next edition of the Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award (WMA) in 2019 to be followed by another edition in 2021 at the fifteenth World Forestry Congress, inviting members to express an interest in hosting the 2019 WMA at their respective meetings, noting the six-month-period required for the preparation of the award.

Members considered an expression of interest from IUFRO and ITTO to host the 2019 WMA at the IUFRO Congress (29 September-5 October 2019, Curitiba, Brazil) and ITTC-55 (2-7 December 2019, Lome, Togo), respectively, and suggested that the two organizations provide additional input on the modalities offered by their events.

iv. International Day of Forests

FAO informed of the status of the preparation of its activities for the 2019 International Day of Forests (IDF), including an event scheduled to be held in Rome with the participation of Rome-based Missions and stakeholders, a video contest on best practices on forest-related teaching, as well as a T-shirt designing contest.

UNFF shared its plan to organize an event for the 2019 IDF scheduled to be held in NY with the participation of the UN officials, New York-based Permanent Missions and stakeholders.

IUFRO provided that a global competition for forest education will be organized in cooperation with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and the University of Helsinki and in collaboration with FAO and UNFF. It was added that the winners of the competition will be invited to the 2019 IUFRO Congress and a field study to Finland.

CITES informed that it planned to produce materials on endangered tree species and wildlife to raise public awareness about their importance in the context of international trade.

UNEP shared that it was supporting the launch of the one trillion trees campaign scheduled in 2019 in partnership with a youth-led group, building on a success of its Billion Tree Campaign.

v. Forest Landscape Restoration

IUCN provided updates on the status of activities supported under the JI on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), outlining the outcome of the virtual inception workshop held in September 2018, the status of executing agreements with project partners, as well as the status of 22 activities to be undertaken by different CPF members.

IUFRO shared the outcome of the IUFRO-led international knowledge-sharing workshop “Best Practices for Implementing Forest Landscape Restoration in South Asia” (August 2018, Chilaw, Sri Lanka), which contributes to component 1 on mainstreaming FLR into national, regional, and international policy frameworks.

Key actions to be taken:

- IUFRO will share the concept note of the next Global Forest Expert Panel assessment;
- FAO will provide further information on the 2019 Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award, including the decision on the venue of the award ceremony;
- FAO and UNFF will share further information on their respective events for the 2019 International Day of Forests;
- The Communicators’ Network will meet to discuss collaborative actions and proposals for IDF 2020-2021.

Update on Joint Initiatives in the pipeline

i. Green Finance

Based on the concept note that had been circulated prior to the meeting, GEF shared an update on the status of the initiative, noting the positive feedback received from members on the initial proposal and the possibility of co-financing from donor countries. It was suggested that GEF will coordinate with CIFOR and UNEP to develop a full project proposal as a next step in order to present the initiative to donors at the next donor meeting.

ii. Pathway for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation-Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth

WB and ITTO informed that they jointly organized a workshop on fiscal mechanisms for a sustainable forest sector (Washington DC, October 2018) to discuss fiscal policy mechanisms that can reduce deforestation and forest degradation and contribute to sustainable forest management. The workshop report and the compendium of studies is scheduled to be published in early 2019. It was added that the project activities have been included in the ITTO's biennial programme and the eventual mechanism will be applied to 2-3 producer countries in Africa to assist in developing green supply chains.

iii. Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of successful Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Tropics

ITTO highlighted the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics (14-16 November 2018, Bangkok), noting the importance of social and economic aspects of the landscape restoration with a focus on value chains and supply chains, building on the existing guidelines and tools that focus on environmental aspects. It was shared that two workshops were scheduled in 2019 to be followed with validation workshops in Asia, Africa and the Latin America.

Key actions to be taken:

- GEF, CIFOR and UNEP will develop and circulate the full JI proposal on Green Finance using the JI proposal template for members' consideration prior to the donor meeting;
- WB and ITTO will develop and circulate the full JI proposal on Pathway for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth using the JI proposal template for members' consideration prior to the donor meeting; and
- ITTO will develop and circulate the full JI proposal on Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of successful Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Tropics using the JI proposal template for members' consideration prior to the donor meeting.

Steps and timetable for updating the Work Plan

Members considered possible steps and timetable for updating the Work Plan of the Partnership, noting the need to update the recurrent activities and Joint Initiatives by January/February 2019 so as to present the revised work plan at the donors meeting and provide a progress report at UNFF14. Members noted the possibility to add the reporting of the Partnership's achievements to the Forum for inclusion for the period 2021-2024.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will circulate the draft revised work plan of the Partnership, seeking further information by end January;
- Members will provide updates on their respective Joint Initiatives and other activities for 2019-2020 for inclusion in the revised work plan.

6. Operational issues

CPF's participation in forthcoming major events

Members explored the possibilities to organize joint events and provide joint inputs to maximize the visibility of the Partnership at the forthcoming major events. The meetings and events considered included: CITES COP18 (23 May-3 June 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka); the UN climate summit (23 September 2019, UNHQ, New York); the IUFRO Congress (29 September-5 October 2019, Curitiba, Brazil); UNCCD COP14 (October 2019, India); UNFCCC COP25 (Chile, 11-22 November 2019); and GLF.

Some members noted the low level of the Partnership's involvement and participation in the Global Landscapes Forum (GLFs) in the last several years and it was suggested to hold a joint event at the future GLFs. It was also suggested to reinstate "Forest Day" (or a successor arrangement) at the future UNFCCC COPs under the initiative of the Partnership.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the respective members will explore the possibility to hold a joint event of the Partnership and a "Forest Day" at the UNFCCC COPs.

Vice-Chair for 2019

The Chair thanked for the excellent Vice-Chairpersonship by Karin Kemper, WB in 2018 and invited members to nominate their candidates for the 2018 Vice-Chair. Members considered the nomination for the 2019 CPF Vice-Chairpersonship and decided that Gustavo Fonseca, GEF, to assume the position effective 1 January 2019.

Key actions to be taken:

- Gustavo Fonseca, GEF, will assume the 2019 Vice-Chair.

7. Strategic discussion on future directions of the CPF beyond 2020

Members discussed future directions of the Partnership beyond 2020 and explored possible approaches and options to develop a strategic vision of the Partnership and the work plan of the Partnership for the period 2021-2024 in support of the implementation of the UNSPF.

Members noted the importance to ensure a clear linkage between the vision of the Partnership, the work plan of the Partnership 2021-2024 and the new focal agency system based on the six Global Forest Goals. Some members proposed to develop an overarching theme and chapeau for the strategic vision, taking into account emerging issues. Other members suggested considering the scope and strengths of members when developing the strategic vision. It was also suggested to consider budget implication and fundraising aspects, building on the model of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

Members agreed to establish a working group of the Partnership to develop a draft strategic vision of the Partnership towards 2030 to be considered and decided at a meeting of the principals of the Partnership in the second half of 2019. It was also agreed that the work plan 2021-2024 will be considered, taking into account the scope of the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum for the period 2021-2024 to be considered intersessionally after UNFF14 and decided at UNFF15 in 2020, as well as the new cycle of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) beginning in 2020.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the secretariat will propose the modality of the working group on the strategic vision of the Partnership, and the draft programme of the principals' meeting to be held in the second half of 2019, as well as the schedule for the development of the work plan of the Partnership 2021-2024.

8. Any other business

Next meeting of the Partnership

2018 CPF Retreat | 10-11 December 2018, FAO HQ, Rome

Members considered possible timings of the next regular meeting of the Partnership and decided to meet in conjunction with UNFF14 (6-10 May 2019, UNHQ, New York).

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date, time and venue, as well as draft programme of the next regular meeting.
