



CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF 14 Panel

“Enhancing cooperation, coordination and cross-sectoral engagement in support of the implementation of the UNSPF 2030 and other forest-related international agreements”

Items 7 a, b, and c of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda

Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues

Thursday, 9 May 2019, morning session

Introduction

Agenda Item 7(a) focuses on activities of the CPF in support of the UNSPF 2030 and the Forum’s 4POW 2017-2020; Item 7(b) focuses on implementation of the Paris Agreement; and Item 7(c) focuses on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

CPF activities. CPF Joint Initiatives are the main delivery mechanism for strengthening collaboration within and beyond CPF in support of the GFGs, SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) and in mobilizing political, scientific, technical and financial support in this regard. The CPF Work Plan 2017-2020 identifies 9 Joint Initiatives¹ which CPF has continued to advance since UNFF13. CPF is in the process of preparing additional Joint Initiatives².

FAO’s 24th Committee on Forestry (COFO 24) stressed the importance of CPF’s work in supporting implementation of the UNSPF and other global forest-relevant instruments. COFO24 suggested to strengthen further integration with the UNSPF and the Forum’s 4POW. COFO24 also requested FAO to recognize the contribution to the UNSPF as a FAO’s core function and include the UNSPF in the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. The FAO Council endorsed this request.

Paris Agreement. The UNFCCC COP 24 also met as the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1-3). CMA 1-3 took stock of collective efforts towards the goal of the Paris Agreement, considered Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to help meet that goal, and agreed on a five-step process or “rulebook” going forward. About 75% of the NDCs submitted included a forest component, which suggests many NDCs may also serve as VNCs. To the extent there is commonality/overlap between NDCs and VNCs, it is likely that the same information could be used for reporting to both the Paris Agreement and the Forum.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets. COP 14 of the CBD concluded that, despite positive actions by Parties and others, many ABTs (including ABT 7³ and other forest-related targets) are not on track to be achieved by 2020. This will be taken into account in defining the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which will be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and, with regards to forests, will reflect the UNSPF 2030 and the GFGs. COP 14 invited Parties that are also members of the Forum to consider aligning relevant actions under their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and their VNCs reported to the Forum.

¹ CPF joint initiatives: Communicators Network, Forest Finance Facilitation, Global Forest Expert Panels, Global Forest Information Service, Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting, Wangari Maathai Award, Policy Learning Initiative, Forest Landscape Restoration, and Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World.

² i) Green finance, ii) Pathway for designing a mechanism to incentivize deforestation-free landscapes and value chains for green growth and iii) Voluntary guidelines for the design and implementation of successful forest landscape restoration initiatives in the tropics.

³ ABT 7: “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity”



Land degradation neutrality (LDN). In response to SDG 15.3⁴, COP 13 of the UNCCD adopted the Convention's new Strategic Framework 2018-2030 as a comprehensive global commitment to achieve LDN by 2030. COP 13 also launched the LDN Fund, an independent impact investment fund blending resources from public, private and philanthropic sectors, with the European Investment Bank and French Development Agency as anchor investors. The aim is to leverage long-term non-grant financing to invest in financially viable private projects on land rehabilitation and sustainable land management worldwide, including sustainable forestry.

Intersessional work

As the Secretariat to the CPF, the UNFF Secretariat has been engaged in preparation and follow up for all CPF meetings convened since UNFF13, including the CPF retreat in December 2018. The Secretariat organized side events during the UNFCCC COP 24 and the UNCCD COP 13. Paragraphs 4-68 of the Note by the Secretariat on Agenda item 7 provide additional information on intersessional activities. Paragraph 86 contains suggestions and proposals⁵.

Panel objective, modalities and output

This panel complements Panel 4 under Agenda item 3.c. The purpose of the panel is to identify interlinkages between the UNSPF/GFGs and other internationally agreed goals and targets and ways to strengthen collaboration and synergies among the organizations represented on the panel to support these interlinkages. Panelists will address the following questions from their organization's perspectives:

1. How are CPF Joint Initiatives contributing to the achievement of the GFGs and associated targets? What more can CPF do in this regard?
2. What measures can be taken to strengthen coherence and synergies between the UNSPF, the Paris Agreement, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Land Degradation Neutrality, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?
3. How can we promote greater collaboration and synergies among UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD, including through their respective secretariats?

Key points and proposals on the way forward emerging from the presentations and discussion will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair's summary report to UNFF15.

Panel composition

Moderator: Mr. Rob Busink, Vice-Chair of the UNFF14 Bureau

Panelists:

1. Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, CPF Chair/FAO Assistant Director General
2. Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division, CBD Secretariat
3. Mr. Ulrich Apel, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility Secretariat
4. Mr. Peter Iversen, Programme Officer, Mitigation, Data and Analysis, UNFCCC Secretariat
5. Mr. Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat
6. Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Adjunct Professor of Forest Resources Management Department/Director of International Forestry Program, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia

Panel Coordinator

For further information, please contact Mr. Ryo Nakamura (nakamura@un.org) at the UNFF Secretariat.

⁴ SDG 15.3: "By 2020, "combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world"

⁵ Sec. Note on item 7: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/043/55/PDF/N1904355.pdf?OpenElement>