

In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Mette Wilkie		Andre Purret
	Peter Csoka	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Theresa Loeffler	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
CBD:	Blaise Bodin	UNEP:	Abdelkader Bensada
CIFOR:	Michael Brady	UNFCCC:	Peter Iversen
	Jeremy van Loon		Jenny Wong
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
GEF:	Ulrich Apel		Mita Sen
	Pascal Martinez		Ryo Nakamura
ITTO:	Gerhard Dieterle	WB:	Garo Batmanian
	Sheam Satkuru		Najeeb Khan
IUCN:	Stewart Maginnis		
	Adriana Vidal	Regrets:	ICRAF

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually via Skype for Business on 29 April 2020.

1. Welcome by the Chair

Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Partnership, welcomed the members and provided updates on the publishing of the CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030 on the CPF and UNFF websites and postponement of the upcoming meetings, including UNFF15 and COFO15, as well as the CPF donor meeting.

It was added that the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was scheduled to be launched during the World Environment Day on 5 June, and CPF members were reminded to provide comments on the draft strategy of the Decade and consider participating in the relevant workstreams of the Decade activities such as the one on the restoration of productive ecosystems.

2. Update on UNFF15, expected modalities and outcome

UNFF provided an update on the status of preparations of UNFF15, outlining the scaled-down format of the session proposed by the UNFF15 Bureau to adopt an omnibus resolution on key operational matters as the main outcome of the session, and the Bureau's proposal to convene the scaled-down session for up to two hours during the period of 10-12 June 2020, subject to consultation with the ECOSOC Bureau, taking into account guidance from the host country authorities and calendar of meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. In the event that the organization of a physical meeting is found not possible due to the restrictions, an alternative format would be considered to formally adopt the resolution through additional measures.

UNFF reminded that Members of the Forum and relevant stakeholders were invited to submit their concrete input to on the revised draft by 8 May, after which the Bureau will further revise the draft resolution and share with Members and stakeholders on 12 May. Members of the Forum and stakeholders will then be invited to submit their final input on the second revised draft by 26 May, after which the Chair will circulate the final draft resolution on 1 June and place it under silence procedure for agreement until 4 June. It was added that the CPF may wish to consider developing its workplan for 2021-2024 in line with the eventual adoption of the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work for 2021-2024 at UNFF16, except for the 2021 programme that will be considered for adoption at UNFF15.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Secretariat will share further updates on UNFF15 as they become available;
- Members are invited to provide concrete inputs to the revised draft UNFF15 resolution by 8 May 2020.

3. CPF's role in the current crisis related to the COVID-19; opportunities for enhanced contribution to solutions

The Chair highlighted the importance for the CPF to identify opportunities on how the CPF can collectively contribute to the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and resilience building, and invited members to share their views and perspectives.

Members discussed possible areas of opportunities for CPF's contributions, including: importance of forests in providing employment and livelihood opportunities to rural communities; impact of commercial food production and global supply chains on forests and other natural resources; the need to include forestry employment and activities in stimulus packages; role of women's associations and community forest management; impact of changes in public sector budget and expenditure on forests and forestry; impact assessment of post-recovery efforts on forests and their products, including illegal wildlife trade; impact of deforestation on wildlife and emergence of infectious diseases; urban to rural migration; and the role of forests in the health sector.

Members considered a two-track approach to prepare its immediate and long-term responses to the current crisis, and suggested communication activities and the preparation of a press/release/joint message/joint statement targeted to countries and policymakers. It was proposed to prepare a brief key message focusing on the role of CPF and forests in the post-pandemic recovery, and the preparation of recommendations to reduce the risk of the future emergence of infectious diseases and pandemics.

FAO informed that it will organize a webinar session in the week of 22 June 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on forests.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose next steps for the CPF to contribute to the post-pandemic recovery for consideration by members;
- Members are invited to share material prepared in relation to the COVID-19 crisis with the network.

4. Updating of the CPF Workplan 2020

Based on members' updates on their CPF activities for inclusion in the revised CPF workplan 2017-2020, members reviewed and endorsed the CPF Workplan for 2020. FAO highlighted the possibility to provide CPF's input to the formulation of a strategy under the UNSG's initiative on turning the tide on deforestation.

a. CPF at global events

Members also provided updates on the status of the preparation of their respective global events and meetings scheduled in 2020, including: 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (postponed to October 2020 or

later dates to be determined, subject to formal decision); FAO-ITTO-IUFRO International Conference on Forest Education (postponed to later dates to be determined); 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and meetings of its subsidiary bodies (postponed to dates to be determined); UNFCCC technical assessment related to REDD+ reference levels (to be held virtually in June 2020); IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 (postponed to 7-15 January 2021, Marseille, subject to formal decision); UN Biodiversity Summit (22-23 September 2020, UNHQ, New York); 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (provisionally rescheduled to Q2 2021, Kunming, China) and meetings of its subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA 24/SBI 3, provisionally rescheduled to 17-29 August at CBD HQ, Montreal); 56th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (9–14 November 2020, Yokohama, subject to confirmation); and 58th GEF Council Meeting (to be held virtually from 2-3 June 2020).

CBD provided updates on the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that an invitation will be sent to CPF members for their input on forest-related aspects of the framework.

b. Update on the ongoing Joint Initiatives

Members provided updates on their respective ongoing Joint Initiatives.

FAO presented an initial proposal for a Joint Initiative on forest education, inviting members to express interest in joining the initiative.

ITTO informed of the extension of timeline for its project activities to be undertaken for the Joint Initiatives on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World and Forest Landscape Restoration in view of the continuation of current restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNEP shared updates on the status of the Joint Initiative on Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes, highlighting the planned submission of the project identification form to the GEF in the period May-June 2020.

IUCN provided updates on the Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration, noting the request made to the GEF to allow 9-month no-cost extension to ensure completion of project activities.

IUFRO reported that the GFEP assessment on forests and poverty is on schedule with the scientific assessment to be concluded by the end of 2020, noting the launch of the assessment report has been postponed to be held virtually around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Secretariat will circulate the final version of the updated CPF Workplan for web-posting;
- Members are invited to express interest in joining the proposed Joint Initiative on forest education.

5. Endorsement of the IDF2021 topic

Following the UNFF's introduction of a proposal for the 2021 theme of the International Day of Forests put forth by the CPF Communicators' Group, members considered two proposals: "Forests and Ecosystem Restoration" and "Forests and Health".

Some members supported "Forests and Ecosystem Restoration" to be the theme of the 2021 IDF in support of the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, other members highlighted the need to integrate the "Forests and Health" aspect into the theme on "Forests and Ecosystem Restoration" in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and roles of forests in addressing the pandemic and taking into account the proposed theme and SDGs to be reviewed in depth by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021. Members also highlighted the need to simplify the eventual theme and its message to the extent possible to maximize its communicability to the public.

It was proposed to revisit and consider the theme at the next CPF meeting scheduled in May, taking into account any developments on the COVID-19 pandemic situation that may arise in the coming days.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Communicators' Group will consider a modified proposal for the theme of the 2021 International Day of Forests for members' consideration based on its two proposals and views expressed by members during the meeting;
- Members will consider for endorsement a theme of the 2021 International Day of Forests, taking into account the modified proposal by the Communicators' Group, at the next CPF meeting scheduled in May 2020.

6. Update on forthcoming meetings

FAO presented a proposal to establish a CPF Consultative Group to support the preparatory work of the FAO secretariat for the XV World Forestry Congress, outlining its expected roles and functions, as well as indicative timeline to contribute to the development of the general structure of the Congress' programme, communication topics and review of expert papers.

Members welcomed the proposal, stressing the need for good coordination of the work between the work of the Consultative Group and the Advisory Committee of the Congress to ensure optimal support to the preparation and organization of the Congress.

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will invite CPF members to nominate their representative to join the CPF Consultative Group for the XV World Forestry Congress.

7. Next meeting and any other business

The Chair proposed to virtually hold the next meeting of the CPF on 13, 14, 15 or 20 May 2020.

In response to member's inquiry, the Chair recalled the discussion on the issue of CPF membership held at the last CPF meeting and shared that he intends to acknowledge receipt of the letter from the International Forestry Students' Association.

FAO shared that key findings of the 2020 Global Forest Resource Assessment will be virtually launched on 7 May 2020 to be followed by the launch of the full report in June 2020. It was added that the main focus of the State of the World's Forests 2020 is forests, biodiversity and people, and the report will be launched on the International Day of Biological Diversity on 22 May 2020.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members will confirm their availability and preference for the date of the next CPF meeting to be held virtually on 13, 14, 15 or 20 May 2020; the Secretariat will circulate the draft provisional agenda and other meeting documents;
- The Chair will acknowledge receipt of the letter from the International Forestry Students' Association.
