



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

1 July 2021 at 14h Rome time/8h New York time
via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

FAO:	Mette Wilkie (Chair)	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Peter Csoka		Andre Purret
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	UNDP:	Musonda Mumba (Vice-Chair)
	Susan Braatz		Tim Clairs
	Theresa Loeffler	UNEP:	Mario Boccucci
CBD:	Blaise Bodin		Gabriel Labbate
CIFOR:	Michael Allen Brady	UNFCCC:	Xuehong Wang
	Sussane Gutjahr		Jenny Wong
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		Ryo Nakamura
	Teayeon Kim	WB:	Garo Batmanian
ICRAF:	Tony Simons		Muhammad Najeeb Khan
IUCN:	Carole Saint-Laurent	Regrets:	ITTO, UNCCD

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 1 July 2021.

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

The Chair welcomed the CPF members and introduced Ms. Musonda Mumba, CPF Vice-Chair for 2021, to members. The Chair invited the Vice-Chair to chair the meeting. The Vice-Chair highlighted the importance to build on the momentum made through the recent achievements of the CPF such as the launch of the CPF joint statement on turning the tide on deforestation during UNFF16, and the development of the CPF workplan 2021-2024.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Update on preparations and the CPF input to UNFF17, including the 2024 mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests

UNFFS shared updates on the status of preparations for UNFF17 (9-13 May 2022, UNHQ, New York), outlining its main agenda items and the scope of planned intersessional activities, particularly those related to the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). In addition to the regular reporting on the status of the implementation of the CPF work plan, UNFFS noted the importance of the CPF's input to the preparation of a background paper on the scope, elements and issues to be included in the midterm review, including in relation to the CPF. It was added that the background paper would be guided by the provisions of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and ECOSOC resolution 2015/33. This paper would be prepared by the UNFF Secretariat. In preparation of this paper, the Secretariat would solicit inputs through a questionnaire

from Member States, CPF member organizations and relevant stakeholders. This background paper would be the basis for discussions among experts at an intersessional meeting (virtual or physical) before the end of the year. The outcome of the expert group meeting and the relevant suggestions would be incorporated in the relevant official document of the Forum for consideration of UNFF17.

Members held a discussion on issues to be included in the CPF input to the CPF section of the background paper on the preparation for the IAF midterm review, and highlighted the importance to consider including the issues regarding, among others, CPF membership and its criteria, modalities to engage non-CPF members in the CPF activities, and strategic assessment of the effectiveness of the CPF Joint Initiatives.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will continue to share updates on preparations for UNFF17 with members as they become available, including the planned possible expert group meeting on the preparation for the 2024 midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests; and
- FAO, UNDP and UNFF will form a small group (task force) to prepare draft input related to the CPF for inclusion in the background paper on the preparations for midterm review of the IAF for members' inputs.

Item 3. CPF visibility and engagement

a. International events, meetings, fora, including COPs in 2021

2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The Vice-Chair shared updates on the CPF side event “The role of forests in a time of crisis: sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation” to be held on 6 July 2021 in conjunction with the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to actively participate in the event.

UNFCCC COP26

The Chair updated the member about ongoing exploration of possibilities to organize a high-level event on turning the tide on deforestation during UNFCCC COP26, building on a similar event held during UNFCCC COP25 and taking into account a request made during the 42nd FAO Conference held in June 2021.

UNFCCC underscored the importance to synergize with the work of the COP26 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat on their work on nature-based solutions, particularly with regard to the possible alignment of key messages on forests.

Members welcomed the proposed plan to hold a high-level event on turning the tide on deforestation during UNFCCC COP26. There was a suggestion to include a focus on the role of small-scale subsistent agriculture in forests and forest restoration in Africa in the event building up momentum for the COP27 scheduled to be held in Africa.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to express interest in the planning of the proposed high-level event on turning the tide on deforestation to be held during UNFCCC COP26.

International Conference on Forest Education

FAO informed that the CPF Joint Initiative “Forest Education: capacity building and knowledge sharing for sustainable forests” was formally launched on 24 June at the International Conference on Forest Education held virtually from 22-24 June 2021, noting that the conference was organized by FAO, ITTO and IUFRO and brought

together over 1,000 participants. UNESCO played a significant role in the conference in the context of the Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 agenda and the Call to Action on Forest Education was endorsed during the conference.

Members welcomed the outcome of the international conference and the launch of the Joint Initiative on forest education, highlighting the importance to build on the Call to Action in the planning of the activities of the Joint Initiative and approaching prospective donors in the coming months.

- Members are invited to express interest in joining the CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Education and contribute to its activities.

XV World Forestry Congress

FAO shared updates on the status of preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC, 2-6 May 2022, Seoul), highlighting the ongoing planning of a session on forests and COVID-19 with the participation of CPF members and inviting CPF members to consider organizing pre-congress events.

UNFF informed that it is preparing an assessment of the challenges faced by countries, and the strategies, recovery measures and best practices for reducing the impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector in preparation for UNFF17 and the findings of the assessment could provide an input to the proposed session.

Key actions to be taken:

- FAO will share the revised programme of the WFC and concept note for the proposed event on forests and COVID-19 for members' consideration.

IUCN World Conservation Congress

IUCN informed that the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021 (3-11 September 2021, Marseille) will be held in a hybrid format, highlighting the programme and pavilions on nature-based solutions and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

- Members are invited to express interest to IUCN in organizing CPF-related event(s) during the IUCN WCC 2021 as soon as possible.

b. Country engagement and donor meeting

The Chair informed that Germany expressed interest in supporting CPF activities and proposed to hold a meeting of "Friends of the CPF" to provide information on the Joint Initiatives and other CPF activities, including their funding gaps.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will propose to hold a meeting of "Friends of the CPF" at a mutually agreeable time in consultation with interested Member State(s).

c. CPF Joint Initiatives

Global Forest Expert Panels

IUFRO briefed members on the status of preparation for the next assessment of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) on the proposed theme "Forests and human health", including objectives of the assessment, process and tentative timeline leading up to the launch of the assessment report during the International Day of Forests in 2023. As the first step of the preparation, the scoping meeting is scheduled to be held from 25 to 26 August 2021 with the participation of CPF members, scientists and donors.

Members approved the proposed theme "Forests and human health" for the next GFEP assessment.

Key actions to be taken:

- IUFRO will invite CPF members to the scoping meeting of the GFEP assessment on “Forests and human health” scheduled to be held from 25 to 26 August 2021.

Item 4. Strategic discussion on CPF membership

The secretariat provided background information on CPF membership, outlining the International Arrangement on Forests and the CPF, the CPF Policy Document and its guidance on CPF membership, discussions and results of the past membership review, recent discussions on membership, and key points for discussion.

Members held a discussion on key issues on CPF membership and possible next steps to be taken. Members agreed to consider and address CPF membership issues based on the decision on the IAF midterm review to be made in 2024. In this respect, Members agreed to bring issues related to the membership, including the needs assessment and membership criteria as part of its input and contribution to the preparatory work for the IAF midterm review, including the relevant UNFF17 intersessional activities as outlined above. Members also noted the need to respond to the pending membership requests, informing them of consideration of the membership issues following the conclusion of the IAF midterm review, as well as information other possible ways to engage non-members in the CPF activities, including its Joint Initiatives.

Other main ideas and suggestions included: clarification regarding possible modalities of collaboration to engage non-CPF partners in the CPF activities; need for concrete membership criteria and principles; transparency in the membership application process; and connection between membership review and the overall work of the IAF and the needs of the CPF, including the size and scope of the membership.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members will bring up the issues related to CPF membership issues in the context of preparations for the IAF midterm review in 2024, and as part of its input and contribution to the relevant UNFF17 intersessional work; and
- The Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair and the secretariat will draft a response to the pending membership requests to inform them of the respective discussions and conclusions of the CPF on this matter, as well as other potential means for collaboration between CPF and non-CPF partners

Item 5. Next meeting and any other business

Members agreed to hold the next CPF meeting in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Some members expressed concern regarding the branding of the CPF events and documents that the planning, organization and preparation of such events and documents need to be consulted and coordinated with all members well in advance of such events and documents.

The Chair invited members to share their papers prepared for the CBD COP15 regarding the role of forests in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and explore the possibility to propose the inclusion of a focus on forests in the framework. CBD informed that while there was no specific mention of forests in the proposed goals and milestones of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Global Core Set of Forest-related indicators would contribute to the monitoring framework to be adopted.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:45 p.m. Rome time/9:45 a.m. New York time.
