



## Presentation on IAF MTR -- Assessment C: “Actions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests”

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## Presentation outline

- Scope and Methodology
- Findings and Conclusions
- Recommendations



# CPF



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## Scope and Methodology



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## Actions related to the CPF Assessment C (Annexe to ECOSOC Resolution 2022/17)

1. **Assess the progress** made by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in carrying out its functions towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in Council resolution 2015/33.
2. **Assess the effectiveness, impact and added value of the activities** of the Partnership as outlined in its work plan, including about its resources; output delivery; joint initiatives, including how the Forum can provide input to it; and recurrent activities to foster the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for forests 2017–2030 and the achievement of the global forest goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Consider the **suitability of establishing criteria for membership** in the Partnership.
4. Assess how the Partnership **could provide greater support to the policy development work of the Forum and assist countries** in strengthening their implementation of the strategic plan, Forum resolutions and decisions on the ground, including the means to further benefit from the capacities of other international and regional stakeholders and partners.
5. Assess the **efficacy of internal communications** within the Partnership to promote mutual synergies, reduce duplication and enhance the Partnership's communications and outreach externally to promote awareness-raising of the multiple benefits of forests and raise the visibility of the strategic plan and the global forest goals within other forest-related processes.



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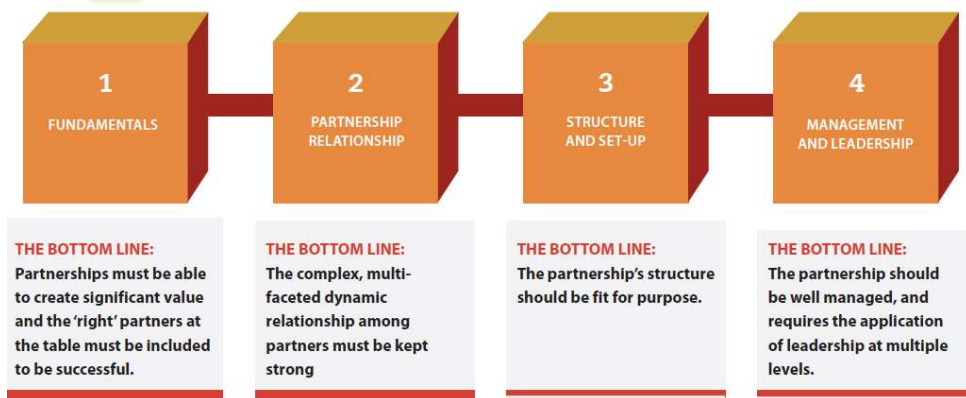
## Our approach

- Desk review of UNFF and CPF documents, including CPF meeting notes, UNFF resolutions etc.
- UNFFS Questionnaire; Low response rate (less than 10%)
- 26 semi-structured interviews: 11 organizations  
13 countries



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## Building blocks of effective partnerships



The building blocks and their elements are used to identify underlying issues that could keep the Partnership from making progress and ultimately impact and identify potential solutions



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## Findings & Conclusion



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## Progress in carrying out its functions

- Significant progress in supporting the work of UNFF and its member states by providing scientific and technical advice to the Forum as captured in its first and second core functions
- The Joint Initiatives are valued and visible activities of the Partnership.
- CPF's progress, including the Joint Initiatives, is determined to a large extent by the available of resources provided by its members, and to a lesser extent additional funding by donor countries.
- The current strategic framework doesn't provide insight into how these activities contribute towards the objectives of the IAF and the strategic thematic priorities of the Forum.
- The opinions differ on whether the Partnership is making 'satisfactory' progress, or in other words, is 'on track', with different interviewees stating that more could be achieved by the CPF



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## Progress: Significant Achievements

- Significant number of publications and reports that have enriched the understanding of the relationships between forests and water, climate, biodiversity, energy, food security, poverty alleviation, education, and health
  - The CPF has emphasized advocacy on turning the tide on deforestation through its joint statement “Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation” (2021)
  - Examples of Joint Initiatives mentioned by many respondents include the Communicators Network, Forest Landscape Restoration, Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP), The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN)
  - Member countries recognize good progress in reducing the reporting burden through the work of the Forum in particular the CPFs JI on Monitoring Assessment and Reporting
- > CPF activities contributed to creating awareness of the importance of forests and their role in contributing to the SDGs.



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## Effectiveness of CPF and its activities

### ***Alignment and added value***

- CPF continues to create a valuable space for member organizations to build and maintain relationships, exchange information and network, and interact.
- Although much goodwill exists to work together, doubts about the effectiveness and added value keep members from engaging more actively.
- The CPF Strategic Vision, Policy Document and Workplan contributed to clarifying and better structuring CPF's approach and ways of working but have not led to an agreed focus.
- There are different views on the extent to which the mandates given by the governing bodies of individual members keep them from engaging effectively with the CPF and how this needs to be addressed.
- CPF initially started as a Head of Agency partnership, where policy-related issues were discussed, with now emphasis on providing scientific and technical advise.

*Quote: 'CPF is less effective and impactful than it has been in its first ten years'*



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## Effectiveness of CPF and its activities

### *Set-up and functioning*

- The voluntary and informal nature of CPF is an essential element of CPFs success that should be maintained. The informal character makes it difficult, though, to follow up on commitments.
- The current institutional arrangements are not stimulating joint action and innovation.
- Competition for financial resources and sometimes visibility between members drives fragmentation.
- Participation in the activities of the CPF is often limited to a few members, which raises trust issues within the membership of the CPF.



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## Suitability Of Establishing Membership Criteria

- The CPF Policy Document specifies criteria for membership sufficiently; making criteria too prescriptive affects flexibility and ability to respond to request.
- There is agreement on the criteria currently used; global scope of the organization, forest-related mandate and expertise, and added value to CPF through expertise, networks, and thematic focus
- A membership review every four years, linked to a mapping and gap analyses limits CPF's flexibility to respond to developments or upcoming requests.
- It emerged from the assessment that it would be helpful to clarify the application process for new members.



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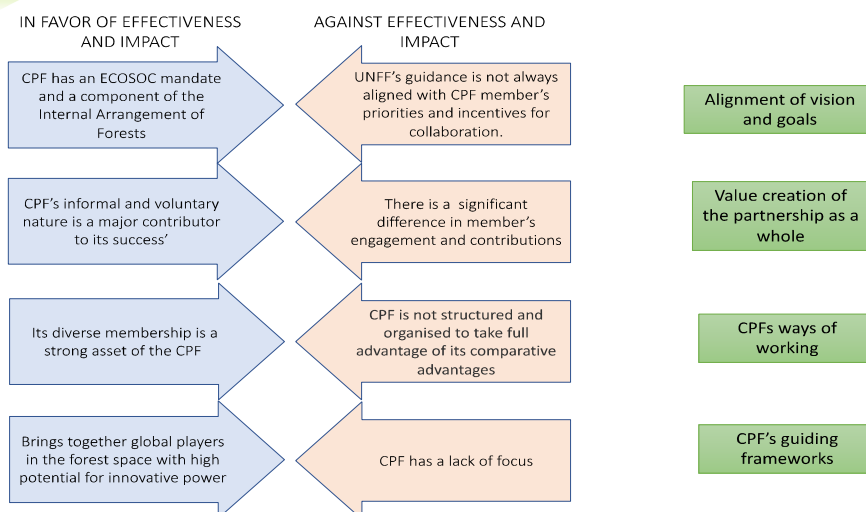
## Support to Forum and Assisting Member States

- There is a broad acknowledgement of the work of the CPF, especially by member states that get support from CPF members.
- Most member states appreciate the information, data and assessments provided by CPF to facilitate discussions at the Forum.
- Countries that financially support the CPF are more critical about its performance and effectiveness.
- There is limited direct interaction between member states that are interested in the work of CPF and CPF members.
- Member states and major groups often see CPF events as those of the member organisations rather than that of the CPF.
- The recent attention to and investments in CPF communication and branding has contributed to greater awareness and visibility of CPF activities.



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## Underlying Issues Impacting Effectiveness



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## Top level observations

- CPF's progress and contribution is broadly recognized; many things worked well and contributed to substantial achievements. Critical facilitating and supporting roles of respectively FAO and UNFFS.
- A lack of engagement and commitment of its members hampers progress, related to doubts about organizational incentives, CPF's value adds, and ways of working.
- Many of the findings of the assessment are not new. For various reasons, the partnership has not made much progress in addressing these issues satisfactorily



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## CPF's challenges

Although good progress has been made, challenges remain, affecting CPF's effectiveness.

- Limited resources provided by CPF member organizations and, to a lesser extent, external funding by donor member states
- No clarity on CPF's focus and role. The CPF's guiding frameworks do not provide sufficient direction for CPF future work.
- The UNFF guidance is not necessarily aligned with the CPF member organizations priorities and incentives for collaboration.
- CPF's ways of working are perceived as formal with limited flexibility and not making optimal use of the diversity of its membership.
- There is not enough collective leadership.



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# Recommendations



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## Recommendations for the CPF

Central to the recommendations is that the Partnership should stimulate collaborative ways of working to address the elements mentioned in the assessment, through open and honest interactions, focusing on aligning interests and strengthening engagement and accountability.

### *Clarify focus and alignment*

- Developing a more consistent guiding framework around a shared focus, indicating how the CPF joint work creates value, and reflect this in the work plan.
- Explore a practical way forward on how the CPF member organizations can demonstrate their alignment with GFGs.
- To support senior level commitment, use the regular Head of Agencies meetings to review the progress, address challenges, align expectations, and identify member's contributions to the partnership and its planned activities



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## Recommendations for the CPF

### **Broadening its resource base**

- Strengthen CPF donor coordination mechanisms and introduce a structured approach to attract funding for the CPF and its related activities
- Develop a ToR to facilitate CPF secondments to the CPF

### **Suitability of establishing criteria of membership**

- Consider developing a transparent and unambiguous application process for new members, including how often CPF membership should be reviewed.

### **Stimulating collaborative ways of working and shared learning**

- Invest the time to ensure the relationship and communication between CPF member organizations and member states remains healthy, mutual expectations are managed, and actions are taken when things don't work as expected.
- Undertake a regular review of completed JIs and other joint activities and share the learning



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## Recommendations to UNFF and Member States

### **The Forum may wish to consider:**

- In close collaboration with the CPF members, define a practical way forward related to the alignment of mandates and programmes of work with the UNSFP and the GFGs.
- Provide increased support to the CPF secretariat (UNFFS) to support its work, including its work on major groups and the GFFFN

### **Member States are encouraged to:**

- Enhance coordination in capitals between UNFF focal points and CPF member organizations that have a presence at the regional, sub-regional, and country level in promoting the implementation of the UNSPF, GFGs.
- To actively participate in CPF events, in particular, strengthening its engagement at the national level and the promotion of the IDF and its related activities.
- Additionally, member states should seek use the IDF as a platform for promoting the UNSPF, GFGs and the forest related goals of the SDGs.



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# Thank You!

A copy of this PPT is available on the UNFF website at:  
[www.un.org/esa/forests/events/cpf-oli-feb-2023/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/cpf-oli-feb-2023/index.html)