

In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annagylyjova (virtual)	IUFRO:	John Parrotta (virtual)
	Lisa Janishevski (virtual)		Alexander Buck (virtual)
	Matheus Couto (virtual)	UNDP:	Tim Scott (virtual)
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena (virtual)	UNEP:	Mirey Atallah (virtual)
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Robert Nasi	UNFCCC:	Jenny Wong
FAO:	Zhimin Wu (Chair)		Dirk Nemitz (virtual)
	Tiina Vahanan	UNFF:	Juliette Biao (Vice Chair)
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs		Hossein Moeini Meybodi
	Theresa Loeffler		Ryo Nakamura
GEF:	Pascal Martinez	WB:	Tuukka Castren (virtual)
ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru		Muhammad Najeeb Khan (virtual)
IUCN:	Carole Saint-Lauren (virtual)	GCF:	Petteri Vuorinen (for item 3)
		Regrets:	UNCCD

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ, Rome, in a hybrid format, on 23 February 2023 in conjunction with the CPF Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on the Assessment of the CPF in preparation for the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

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

Mr. Zhimin Wu, Chair of the CPF, welcomed the CPF members to the meeting. In his introductory remarks, he highlighted the importance for the CPF to join forces to support the work of UNFF and its Member States to achieve the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and other forest-related goals and objectives, noting the important time for the CPF to improve its work by taking advantage of the IAF midterm review, and referred to the constructive discussions held at the preceding Organization-led Initiative meeting.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Election of the 2023 CPF Vice-Chair

The Chair thanked Mr. Robert Nasi, CIFOR, for his Vice-Chairpersonship for 2022. In response to the call for nominations, ITTO nominated Ms. Juliette Biao, UNFFS Director, to serve as the CPF Vice-Chair for 2023. Members unanimously elected Ms. Biao as the CPF Vice-Chair for 2023 by acclamation.

Key actions to be taken:

- Ms. Juliette Biao of UNFF will assume the CPF Vice-Chairpersonship for 2023.

Item 3. Consideration of membership request by the Green Climate Fund

A representative of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat made a presentation on its membership request and outlined its vision for enhanced collaboration with the CPF. The presentation highlighted: the GCF's portfolio on forests and land use; the GCF's portfolio on forest finance, including REDD+ and joint mitigation and adaptation; the GCF's interventions across the landscape; the GCF's future priorities, including interlinkages between forests and health, and forest fires; financial instruments; the GCF's existing partnerships; and added value of the GCF to the work of the CPF and its members.

Following the presentation by the GCF, members held a discussion on the GCF's membership request. Some main points raised during the discussion included: i) potential added value that the GCF could make to the work of the CPF on forest finance; ii) promotion of the importance of climate adaptation in forest finance in addition to climate mitigation; iii) ability to discuss strategic issues on finance with the GCF beyond projects and programmes; iv) sharing of thematic and scientific knowledge between the GCF and CPF members; and v) potential opportunities for GCF-accredited members and non-accredited members of the CPF to work more effectively to access the GCF funds.

Following the discussions, members decided unanimously to accept the GCF's membership request and admit the GCF as a member of the CPF.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will send a response letter to GCF to communicate the CPF's decision to admit the GCF as a member of the CPF.

Item 4. Reflection on next steps on the IAF midterm review related to the CPF

FAO proposed to hold a CPF retreat in 2023 to discuss strategic issues of the CPF, building on discussions held during the CPF OLI. The Chair noted the importance to identify key issues prior to the retreat to ensure productive discussions at the retreat.

Members welcomed the idea of holding a CPF retreat, recalled successful CPF retreats of the past suggested an external professional facilitation and strategic focus of a retreat. It was also suggested to explore possible timing and location to hold the retreat, as well as the level of participation. UNFF noted the value of holding the retreat after the UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and implementation of the UNSPF (20-23 June 2023) and before the meeting of the UNFF Ad-hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (October 2023). CIFOR offered to host a CPF retreat at its Indonesia or Kenya campus in case the retreat is not held in New York. Some other members said that the retreat should be held well before AHEG to ensure the results of the retreat are provided timely to the AHEG.

In addition to the proposed retreat of the CPF, members also discussed the possibility to hold a CPF event at the Heads and Principals level in conjunction with the September 2023 SDG Summit.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will propose the date and venue of the CPF retreat;
- Members are invited to propose key strategic issues for discussion at the CPF retreat;
- The Chair will further consult via email with CPF members on the scope, content and possible outcomes of possible High-level event in conjunction with the September 2023 SDG Summit.
- The Secretariat will explore the possibility to hold a high-level CPF event in conjunction with the September 2023 SDG Summit, as a side event or stand alone event, including possible venue.

Item 5. Priorities for CPF work planning in 2023

The Chair encouraged CPF members to provide information on their CPF activities and highlights for detailed CPF work planning in 2023, in addition to updates on the CPF work plan 2021-2024

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members to provide information on their CPF activities and highlights for detailed CPF work planning in 2023 by 20 March 2023;
- The Secretariat will circulate the CPF work plan 2021-2024 for any updates before UNFF18. Members will be invited to provide updates on their respective CPF activities and joint initiatives for inclusion in the updated CPF work plan and priority activities for 2023;
- The Secretariat to compile an overview of the submitted priorities and amend the work plan accordingly to circulate the compilation to CPF members.

Item 6. Suggested date for next meeting

The date and time of the next CPF members meeting will be communicated at a later stage.

Item 7. Any other business

a. Updates on UNFF18 preparations, integration of the UNSPF, the secondment of staff to the UNFFS

UNFF provided updates on preparations for UNFF18, highlighting the main focus of UNFF18 and its programme of work. As a technical session, UNFF18 will discuss its thematic priorities for the 2023–2024 biennium in support of the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF). The thematic priorities for UNFF18-UNFF19 are: (i) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits (based on Global Forest Goal 2); (ii) Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests (based on Global Forest Goal 3); and (iii) Mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management (based on Global Forest Goals 4, 5 and 6). UNFF18 will also consider interlinkages between the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets, the SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2023, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as update on the preparation for the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

UNFF added that the CPF will have a slot to provide an update on the work of the CPF during UNFF18. In addition, two panel discussions will be held during UNFF18 with a focus on forest finance/Global Forest Goal 4 and the private sector, respectively, with the participation of, among others, GEF, Adaptation Fund, regional development banks, and the private sector. There will be a guest speaker on the opportunities and challenges related to the carbon markets in light of growing interest on this matter.

b. Briefing on GEF-UNFFS medium size project

Based on written update circulated prior to the meeting, GEF provided a briefing on the GEF-UNFFS medium size project on primary forests in collaboration with other CPF members, highlighting the objective of the project to support UNFF in producing primary forest related information to their members through donor’s dialogue and information, capacity development and information sharing, and supporting the UNFF Secretariat, and requested this be adopted as new CPF Joint Initiative. He also invited other CPF members to join this initiative. The project proposal is scheduled to be submitted to the GEF Council in June 2023 for its approval. It was added that one of the GEF implementing agencies should be in the lead for the respective CPF Joint Initiative. UNFFS would serve together with other interested CPF members as executing agency for the project.

The CPF endorsed the proposal as the new Joint Initiative and invited Members to provide comments to the concept note shared by email as well as their interest to join this initiative.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to express their interest in joining the proposed Joint Initiative on primary forests. GEF will submit a revised concept note on the Joint Initiative on primary forests.

Item 8. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting. The meeting was concluded at 19:05.
