

#### In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annaglyjova	Pragyan Raj Pokhrel (virtual)
	Matheus Couto (virtual)	IUFRO: John Parrotta (virtual)
	Lisa Janishevski (virtual)	Alexander Buck (virtual)
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero (virtual)	Andre Purret (virtual)
	Maria Isabel Camarena (virtual)	UNCCD: Cathrine Mutambirwa
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Éliane Ubalijoro	UNDP: Wahida Shah
FAO:	Zhimin Wu (Chair)	Tim Scott (virtual)
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	UNEP: Mirey Atallah
	Theresa Loeffler	UNFCCC: Dirk Nemitz
GCF:	Benjamin Singer (virtual)	UNFF: Juliette Biao (Vice-Chair)
GEF:	Pascal Martinez	Hossein Moeini Meybodi (virtual)
	Ulrich Apel (virtual)	Ryo Nakamura
ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru	Tomasz Juszcak
IUCN:	Carole Saint-Laurent (virtual)	WB: Tuukka Castren (virtual)

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) held its retreat at UNON, Nairobi, from 22 to 23 June 2023 in conjunction with the UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

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

The CPF Chair welcomed the CPF members to the CPF Retreat. In his opening remarks, he stressed the importance to implement proposals and recommendations of UNFF18 and the CPF Organization-led Initiative on the mid-term review of the CPF (OLI) to further improve the work of the CPF and make it even more impactful to assist countries with the achievement of the SDGs and GFGs. He also highlighted: i) the importance of the enhanced will to work together among the principals and governing bodies of the CPF members; ii) review/clarify/suggest modus operandi for the work of the CPF for further improvement, considering advisory committees, the work on specific joint initiatives and other collaboration mechanisms as part of the discussions under item 3; and devise a concrete plan of events, joint messaging and activities of the CPF for the remainder of 2023 and 2024.

The CPF Vice-Chair highlighted heightened expectations of Member States towards the work of the CPF and underscored the importance to sharpen the focus of the work plan and enhancing interaction and communication between Member States and the CPF.

The proposed agenda for the retreat was adopted.

#### Item 2. Implementation of the outcomes of the CPF OLI and UNFF18, and response by the CPF

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Following the introduction of the agenda item by the CPF Vice-Chair, the CPF Secretariat provided an overview of the CPF-related proposals contained in the Co-Chairs' summary of the CPF OLI and the Chair's summary of UNFF18.

Members of the CPF held a discussion and exchanged their views and ideas on ways and means to implement the outcomes of the CPF OLI and UNFF18, noting the importance to enhance coherence, acceleration, cooperation and collaboration, inclusiveness, communication and visibility in advancing the work of the CPF.

Some main ideas discussed included: the need to improve the focus of the CPF work plan and the CPF Joint Initiatives on the Global Forest Goals and other forest-related goals and objectives; elaboration of how the CPF Joint Initiatives contribute to the Global Forest Goals and other forest-related goals and objectives; the importance to improve communication of the work of the CPF, particularly the Joint Initiatives, to Member States; managing the expectation of Member States with regard to potential and limitations of the CPF in terms of the CPF's voluntary nature and lack of dedicated funding to the CPF activities; the need to further align the work of the CPF with the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the UNFF thematic priorities, including through the development and implementation of the CPF Joint Initiatives building on each member organization's strengths.

Members of the CPF agreed to review and update the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 with a focus on the addition of its new activities towards the end of 2024 and the inclusion of additional information on how each Joint Initiative contributes to the Global Forest Goals and other forest-related goals and objectives. FAO, IUFRO, UNDP and UNFF Secretariat will co-lead the review and updating of the work plan, taking into account the views of the CPF Members expressed during the retreat. The members agreed that the new CPF work plan 2025-2028 will be drafted on the basis of a new template that should be sharper, with a stronger focus on priorities and impact areas. It will be developed after having a strategic discussion on its main topics and on which joint initiatives can raise the CPF ambitions further.

### Key actions to be taken:

- The CPF will provide a brief report on the outcome of the retreat during the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Preparations for the IAF Midterm Review (AHEG) to be held 10-13 October 2023 in Vienna, Austria.
- FAO, IUFRO, UNDP and UNFF Secretariat will facilitate the process for updating the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 to be circulated by the end of 2023.
- UNFF19 documentation will include information on the status of the implementation of the outcomes of AHEG, the CPF OLI and UNFF18, as well as the response by the CPF, including the outcomes of the CPF retreat.
- The CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 will be prepared considering the discussions of the CPF retreat in regard to the inclusion of additional information on how each Joint Initiative contributes to the Global Forest Goals and other forest-related goals and objectives and the discussion on item 3 regarding improving joint programming.

### Item 3: Discussion on the means to further improve CPF joint programming

Following the introduction of the agenda item by the CPF Chair, CPF Members discussed and exchanged their views on the means to further improve joint programming of the CPF activities, highlighting the importance to avoid duplication, add value, complement with one another among Members, and improve communication with Member States through the Joint Initiatives, among others.

Members of the CPF held a discussion on areas for further improvement and the possible course of action to be taken to further improve joint programming of the CPF activities, highlighting the importance to advance the CPF work guided by its work plans, particularly its collection of the Joint Initiatives, events, and publications.

Main points raised during the discussion included: providing thought-leadership on forest-relevant topics; the issue of communication and visibility with governing bodies of the CPF Members and focal points of Member States, including at the Rio Conventions' COPs to provide added-value and inputs to their forest-related

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discussions; focused communication of the CPF activities around the Global Forest Goals and other forest-related goals and objectives such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, including through policy pieces, joint statements and press releases; thematic focus on key and emerging issues, such as deforestation and forest loss, forest restoration, invasive species, forest and wildfires, valuation of forest ecosystem services; traditional and indigenous knowledge on forests; inclusion of thematic focus in the CPF meetings; revitalization of the taskforce on the global forest-related indicators to assess the possibility of reclassification of tier-3 indicators; and support to the alignment of the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets with forest-related goals and targets.

Members of the CPF also discussed potential priority areas and issues for joint actions, as well as modus operandi to address these priorities, noting the importance of systematically responding to the mandates and demands emanating from the UNFF, the Rio Conventions and other relevant intergovernmental processes, including through the existing Joint Initiatives and analytical work.

Main priority areas and issues suggested by Members of the CPF included: sustainable forest management; socioeconomic benefits of forests; forests and climate change; forest biodiversity; forest restoration; forest education; green growth; fiscal/non-fiscal policies and subsidies; wildfires; collaboration with the private sector and philanthropic organizations; food security; payment for ecosystem services; forests and energy; and supply of wood and wood products. It was also suggested to review and utilize the existing Joint Initiatives as a vehicle to identify and address priority areas and issues.

With regard to the modus operandi to address priorities, main ideas and suggestions included:

- formation of issue-based coalitions among CPF Members for advocacy, strengthening implementation, operational and fundraising/resource mobilization purposes;
- regular updating of the status of the Joint Initiatives, including during the CPF meetings and intersessional briefings with Member States;
- preparation of communication pieces and issue briefs, as well as organization of events on the CPF priorities under the GFGs;
- organization of thematic discussions and briefings on the CPF priorities during the CPF meetings and intersessionally;
- engagement and dialogues of relevant stakeholder groups on thematic issues, and in the context of Joint Initiatives and events;
- preparation of a CPF joint statement/call to action during the 2023 SDG Summit;
- establishment of a technical advisory committee;
- participation of the CPF in the Rio Conventions COPs and subsidiary bodies' meetings;
- strengthening of the communication capacity in the CPF secretariat;
- CPF members making better use of the opportunity to participate in the scoping meetings of the Global Forest Expert Panels' assessments;
- establishment of a Joint Initiative on the private sector to leverage forest investments as a GCF-led project; and
- better use of the CPF website and its promotion to Member States.

### Key actions to be taken:

- The CPF secretariat under the guidance of the CPF Chair will prepare a list of thematic priorities and invite CPF members to contribute to it.
- The CPF Chair will propose the timing of the intersessional briefing for Member States on the Joint Initiatives, as well as for a CPF brainstorming on the collaboration with the private sector e.g. on the sustainable use of wood.
- The CPF will consider participating in the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD) COPs and their subsidiary bodies' meetings and organise forest-related CPF joint events.

- Members of the CPF will continue to be invited to the scoping meetings of the Global Forest Expert Panels' assessments.
- GCF will propose a new Joint Initiative on private sector investment as a GCF project.

### **Item 4. Preparations for a CPF High-level Event during the 2023 SDG Summit**

The CPF Chair introduced the agenda item and outlined an initial proposal for the format of the CPF High-level Event to be held on the occasion of the 2023 SDG Summit (18-19 September 2023, UNHQ, New York). The event was proposed to include an opening speech, messages of the CPF principals, interaction with key forest countries followed by a reception. Preliminary participation of 40-50 people by invitation is envisaged.

Members discussed the next steps to be taken in preparation for the CPF High-level Event to be on the occasion of the 2023 SDG Summit (18-19 September 2023, UNHQ, New York). Members highlighted the importance to mobilize as many principals of the CPF Members as possible and revitalize the political will among the CPF Members to advance its work, noting the importance to invite the CPF principals as swiftly as possible to ensure their availability to attend the event.

Members suggested preparing the joint declaration/statement of the CPF as the main outcome of the event, encompassing its vision and mission in support of the implementation of the outcome of the 2023 SDG Summit. Members also suggested that such joint declaration/statement could be bold and media-oriented, and could outline the role of the CPF and clear priorities, as well as offer forest-based solutions, including through finance and cross-sector dialogue and engagement with the participation of the private sector, subject to internal clearances and due diligence processes.

Members also discussed the possibility to invite a small number of CEOs of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to join the event, if feasible. Such private sector and philanthropic organizations could include information and technology-related companies, forest-based product companies, pension funds, foundations, and university endowment funds mainly based in the US. Private sector entities should have a proven track record of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. One possible option suggested was to use the list of the NYDF Endorsers to identify and create a list of invitees from the private sector and philanthropic organizations, pending further consultations on the feasibility provided the limited time for the organisation of the event.

#### **Key actions to be taken:**

- The CPF Chair will send a letter of invitation to the CPF principals to the CPF High-level Event to be held on the occasion of the 2023 SDG Summit.
- The CPF Chair with support from the secretariat will prepare a draft concept note of the event.
- Members are asked to suggest possible other invitees.
- A few colleagues volunteered to form a small drafting group w to prepare a zero draft of the outcome document of the CPF high-level event on the occasion of the SDG Summit.

### **Item 5. Any other business, date and venue of the next CPF meeting**

Following the introduction by the CPF Chair, CPF Members discussed and explored possible ways to organize a CPF Forest Day at UNFCCC COP28. Members noted that the idea to apply for a CPF Pavilion may not be feasible at this time due to various constraints, and considered options to organize a CPF Forest Day at a CPF Member's Pavilion, taking into account that several CPF Members will have their own Pavilion, including DESA, FAO, GEF, UNDP, and UNEP, among others. It was suggested to hold a CPF Forest Day at the FAO Pavilion and organize a selected number of events branded as CPF events with a focus on CPF Joint Initiatives.

UNEP provided an update on preparations for the Three Basins Summit, outlining its background, expected scope and modality. The preparation of the summit is led by the Republic of Congo in cooperation with Indonesia and Brazil and with technical support from the UN system led by UNEP and UNDP. The summit is scheduled to be held

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in the Republic of Congo in the third week of October 2023, and is expected to bring together 1,500 participants. It was added that UNEP will share its calendar of events for the remainder of 2023 and 2024.

ITTO shared that ITTC-59 will be held from 13 to 17 November 2023 in Pattaya, Thailand, and invited CPF members to attend the CPF panel to be convened during the session. It was added that the CPF Members will be invited to respond to a questionnaire to provide their views regarding the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006 and the performance of ITTO in preparation for the session.

FAO informed that the theme of the 2024 State of the World's Forests would be forest-related innovations, and invited the CPF Members to provide their inputs on case studies to highlight innovations in products, processes, technologies, policies, and partnerships. The CPF Members will also be invited to nominate reviewers for the publication.

The CPF Chair proposed to communicate the date and time of the next CPF meeting in due course.

### Key actions to be taken:

- The CPF secretariat with the guidance of the Chair will prepare a draft concept note for the CPF Forest Day at UNFCCC COP28;
- CPF members are invited to brand events that are co-organized by several CPF members at the UNFCCC COP as CPF events;
- Members of the CPF are invited to provide information on the schedule of their events for inclusion in the event calendar on the CPF website;
- The CPF Chair will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting.

### Item 6. Closing

The CPF Vice-Chair reflected on the discussions of the retreat, highlighting the CPF members' willingness to further promote integration and collaboration, inclusiveness and communication and visibility in advancing the work of the CPF.

The CPF Chair closed the retreat.

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