



## Collaborative Partnership on Forests

### Meeting report

23 January 2024, 8:00-10:00 EST/14:00-16:00 CET

Virtual

#### In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annagylyjova	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Lisa Janishevski		Nelson Grima
	Matheus Couto	UNDP:	Tim Scott
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Robert Nasi	UNEP:	Mirey Atallah
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero (Vice-Chair)	UNFCCC:	Dirk Nemitz
	Thea Henriette Carroll	UNFF:	Juliette Biao
	Maria Isabel Camarena		Minoru Takada
FAO:	Zhimin Wu (Chair)		Ryo Nakamura
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	WB:	Tuukka Castren
	Theresa Loeffler		Klas Sander
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		

Regrets: GCF, ITTO, IUCN, UNCCD

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 23 January 2024 in a virtual format.

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

The CPF Chair welcomed CPF members to the meeting. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the importance of the CPF to continue to provide strategically policy-relevant inputs contributing to global forest-related processes in 2024.

Opportunities for CPF engagement event and processes were mentioned, such as UNEA-6 (26 February-1 March, UNON, Nairobi), International Day of Forests (21 March, worldwide), UNFF19 (6-10 May, UNHQ, New York), 26th IUFRO World Congress (23-29 June, Stockholm, Sweden), High-Level Political Forum 2024 (8-17 July, UNHQ, New York), FAO COFO 27 (22-26 July, FAO HQ, Rome), including the World Forest Week and the Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award ceremony, Summit of the Future (22-23 September, UNHQ, New York), CBD COP16 (21 October-1 November, Colombia), UNFCCC COP29 (11-22 November, Baku, Azerbaijan), ITTC-60 (1-6 December, Yokohama, Japan), and UNCCD COP16 (2-13 December, Saudi Arabia).

For 2024 CPF priorities, emphasize was put on the UNFF19 policy session where the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives will be concluded. This was a pertinent topic for the CPF work during 2023, with the Organization-led Initiative (22-23 Feb 2023) meeting to consult with Member States about the future of the CPF following the results of an independent assessment, and the CPF strategic retreat (22-23 June 2023), were thematic priorities for 2024 and proposed modus operandi for CPF activities were discussed (see Annex I).

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

## Item 2. Election of the 2024 CPF Vice-Chair

The Chair thanked Ms. Juliette Biao, UNFF Director, for her Vice-Chairpersonship in 2023. Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General of CITES was elected by acclamation as the CPF Vice-Chair for 2024.

### Key actions to be taken:

- Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General of CITES, assumed the CPF Vice-Chairpersonship for 2024.

## Item 3. Updates and arrangements for UNFF19 and the CPF preparations towards UNFF19

UNFF provided an overview and update on the status of preparations for UNFF19, outlining its expected outcomes, the UNFF19 High-level Segment, the forthcoming informal consultations on the zero draft outcomes of UNFF19, UNFF19 documentation, and call for applications for UNFF19 side events. In particular, it was highlighted that UNFF19 is a policy session and will adopt an omnibus resolution and a declaration of its High-level Segment. The omnibus resolution will include the outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests, and the UNFF quadrennial programme of work for the period 2025-2028. It was noted that while the draft provisional organization of work and modalities of the UNFF19 discussions has yet to be confirmed subject to further discussions by the UNFF19 Bureau, the UNFF19 High-level Segment would include a series of roundtable discussions, and one of the roundtables is expected to focus on the work of the CPF with the participation of CPF Heads of Agencies on 9 May 2024. It was added that Member States, CPF members and partners would be invited to submit voluntary commitments at UNFF19 in support of the UNSPF and its Global Forest Goals.

Members of the CPF stressed the importance of engaging and making contributions to the discussions of the informal consultations in preparation for UNFF19, noting the opportunity to bring the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030<sup>1</sup> to the attention of Member States. Members also noted the importance of joint messaging around the role of forests in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, and work towards further developing joint initiatives and activities in time for UNFF19 and Rio Conventions' COPs to be held in 2024. It was also suggested to continue the practice of making a joint CPF statement during the UNFF19 discussions and to hold a single joint CPF side event during UNFF19 to ensure effective interaction and exchange with Member States with a focus on the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030 and forest-based climate action.

### Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are invited to participate in the informal consultations on the zero draft outcomes of UNFF19 to be held virtually on 30-31 January, 28-29 February, and 26-27 March 2024;
- Ms. Mirey Atallah, UNEP, will coordinate the CPF's participation and joint messaging for the first round of informal consultations and report back on its results;
- CPF members are reminded to respond to the invitation letter by the ECOSOC President regarding the availability of their respective heads to attend the UNFF19 High-level Segment;
- UNFF will provide information and updates on the topic and modalities of the UNFF19 High-level Segment for the participation of CPF Heads;
- UNFF will inform the CPF about the modality for delivering the joint statement by the CPF;
- The CPF Secretariat with guidance of the Chair will prepare a proposal for the CPF side event for UNFF19; and
- CPF members are invited to submit their side event proposal(s) for UNFF19 by 29 February 2024.

## Item 4. Priorities for the CPF work in 2024, including CPF's participation and involvement in major events and conferences, as well as post-mortem of UNFCCC COP28

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/news/joint-call-to-action-for-forests-towards-2030/en>

## Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests | 23 January 2024

Following the introduction of the item by the Chair, members of the CPF discussed priorities for the CPF work in 2024.

Members highlighted the importance of raising the visibility of forests and the work of the CPF through: developing new CPF Joint Initiatives; implementing the outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF; developing a new CPF Work Plan for the period 2025-2028; and participating and contributing to major events and conferences. In addition to the development of new CPF Joint Initiatives, it was suggested to conduct the assessment of the ongoing CPF Joint Initiatives to identify potential gaps and priorities for the CPF activities.

Other suggestions discussed included: joint messaging at the forthcoming UNEA-6, HLPF and COPs of CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC in 2024; and establishment of a CPF Forest Day at COPs of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC; development of a new CPF Joint Initiative on inclusion of forests in the revised Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets; development of a new CPF Joint Initiative on forest restoration; development of a new CPF Joint Initiative on wildlife/forests/food; and development of a new CPF Joint Initiative on tree species. It was also suggested to hold a meeting dedicated to the Joint Initiatives to assess the ongoing CPF Joint Initiatives and further discuss ideas for new CPF Joint Initiatives. The importance of sharing updated information on the status of the ongoing CPF Joint Initiatives and proposals for the new Joint Initiatives at their early stage of development was noted to ensure inclusiveness and wider participation by CPF members.

CPF members also shared updates on their ongoing CPF Joint Initiatives and other joint activities, including: the CBD-UNFF pilot initiative on synergies between the revised NBSAPs and the Global Forest Goals; CBD-FAO joint study on the linkages between forest biodiversity and the GBF; the Joint Initiative on primary forests, including its expected launch in time for UNFF19. It was suggested to update the CPF policy document.

Regarding the CPF's engagement in the future UNFCCC COPs, in addition to the organization of the CPF events, the importance of following up and supporting the implementation of the forest-related outcome was highlighted, particularly concerning the policy coherence and the inclusion of forests in the revised NDCs, NBSAPs, and LDN targets at the global and country levels and progress towards a goal to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

It was noted that the most important forest-related events are published on the CPF website, and additional ones can be included at any point.

### Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are invited to express their interest in developing new CPF Joint Initiative(s) to the secretariat by 6 February 2024;
- The CPF Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair and the secretariat will propose the date for a virtual meeting on the Joint Initiatives;
- CPF members are asked to provide inputs for inclusion in the list of priorities for the CPF work in 2024; the CPF secretariat under the guidance of the Chair will revise the draft based on discussions held during the meeting and inputs received from members;
- The secretariat to arrange the process of updating the CPF workplan 2021-2024 before UNFF19 to inform delegates before the session about the CPF's activities; and
- UNEP will share a concept note of the UNEP-UNFCCC UNEA-6 side event on raising ambition and better integration of nature-based solutions in NDCs and the interface between NDCs and NBSAPs.

### Item 5. CPF Work Plan 2025-2028

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Following the introduction of the item by the CPF Chair, CPF members exchanged their views on possible approaches to the development of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028, and agreed to the proposal made by the CPF Chair to form a taskforce on the preparation of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 to prepare the zero draft of the work plan for consideration by all members. Members noted the importance to implement the outcome of UNFF19 with regard to the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF in developing the CPF work plan.

### Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are invited to express their interest in joining the taskforce on the preparation of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 by 6 February 2024; and
- The taskforce will prepare a zero draft of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 for consideration by all CPF members, taking into account the outcome of UNFF19 with regard to the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF.

### Item 6. Date and venue of the next CPF meeting

CPF members discussed the possibility of holding the next CPF meeting during UNFF19. It was suggested to hold the meeting and/or dinner for the CPF Heads during UNFF19.

### Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held during UNFF19 and the possibility for the meeting and/or dinner for the CPF Heads.

### Item 7. Any other business

UNFF provided an update on the status of the planning of and preparations for the Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP29 and COP30, outlining its main objective to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for events and discussions on forests and their interlinkages, noting that the concept note for the Forest Pavilion will be shared with CPF members in due course.

### Item 8. Closing of the meeting

The CPF Chair closed the meeting at 10:00am EDT/4:00pm CET.

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Annex I

List of thematic priorities for CPF activities in 2023 and 2024

- a. Sustainable forest management
- b. Halting deforestation
- c. Socioeconomic benefits of forests
- d. Contribution of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- e. Reduction in/halting of loss of forest biodiversity
- f. Wood for energy and fuelwood, including sustainable use of woody biomass
- g. Forest landscape restoration
- h. Forest-related education
- i. Forests and food security
- j. Forests and green growth
- k. Forest finance
- l. Payments for ecosystem services
- m. Fiscal/non-fiscal policies and subsidies
- n. Wildfires prevention, control and management
- o. Mitigating the impact of invasive alien species
- p. Valuation of forest goods and services
- q. Collaboration with the private sector and philanthropic organizations
- r. Traditional and indigenous forest-related knowledge
- s. Supply of wood and wood products
- t. Forests and innovation

Proposed modus operandi of CPF activities

- Preparation of a CPF joint statement/declaration to be released during the 2023 SDG Summit
- Preparation of communication pieces and issue briefs, as well as organization of events on the CPF priorities around the GFGs
- Development of new Joint Initiatives
- Review of existing Joint Initiatives
- Formation of issue-based coalitions/focal agency systems
- Organization of intersessional briefings for Member States on the Joint Initiatives and the priorities of the CPF
- Inclusion of the thematic discussions in the CPF meetings
- Reporting of the CPF activities around the GFGs during the UNFF sessions
- Participation of the CPF in the Rio Conventions COPs and subsidiary bodies' meetings
- Engagement of relevant major groups in the Joint Initiatives and events, including through the CPF Dialogues
- Coordination of schedules of members' events by sharing them for inclusion in the event calendar of the CPF website