



Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Meeting report

28 March 2024, 8:00-10:00 EDT/13:00-15:00 CET

Virtual

In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annaglyjova	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Robert Nasi		Andre Purret
CITES:	Ivonne Higuero (Vice-Chair)		Viola Stella Belohrad
	Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno	UNEP:	Mirey Atallah
FAO:	Zhimin Wu (Chair)	UNFCCC:	Dirk Nemitz
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	UNFF:	Juliette Biao
	Theresa Loeffler		Minoru Takada
GEF:	Pascal Martinez		Hossein Moeini Meybodi
ITTO:	Sheam Satkuru		Ryo Nakamura
	Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu	WB:	Tuukka Castren
IUCN:	Chetan Kumar		Muhammad Najeeb Khan

Regrets: GCF, UNCCD, UNDP

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 28 March 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 remarks, he noted many events and activities organized by members to celebrate the 2024 International Day of Forests under the theme “Forests and innovation– *New Solutions for a Better World*” – a theme chosen by the CPF. He highlighted special events organized by UNFF and FAO in New York and Rome, respectively, as well as the FAO’s production of a short film in 35 languages and was aired on news channels reaching millions of households, and bringing the image of a modern, innovative and forward-looking forest sector to the public. He noted that this was a good start of the year for the CPF, and the CPF is now ramping up for the UNFF 19 session in May. It is crucial to showcase a united, innovative, and strong CPF. It is time that the CPF becomes more visible and showcases better its work. He also underscored the importance of communicating and sharing information on the CPF activities with Member States during UNFF19, and providing the CPF’s inputs to other global forest policy processes in the remainder of 2024, noting the need to further prioritize and strategize the CPF activities.

The CPF Vice-Chair highlighted the value of the partnership for the CPF activities and the need to further strengthen it, building on the existing cooperation and collaboration among CPF members in various areas.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Updates on UNFF19 and CPF’s engagement

UNFF provided an overview and update on the status of preparations for UNFF19, outlining the expected participation of Prime Minister/Ministers and other senior officials of Member States, as well as the CPF Heads and Principals in the UNFF19 High-level Segment, the UNFF19 briefing for Member States on 4 April, and the draft provisional organization of work of UNFF19, including the schedule of negotiations on the UNFF19 outcomes, and discussions and panels to be held during UNFF19. It was noted that the time limit will be strictly enforced during the UNFF19 discussions, particularly for the High-level Segment, due to time constraints and other restrictive measures currently in place at the UN.

With regard to the expected engagement of the CPF in the work of UNFF19, it was noted that the CPF Chair would deliver a statement on behalf of the CPF during the joint general discussion on items 3, 4, 5, and 7 to be held in the morning of 6 May. The CPF meeting is scheduled to be held in the evening of 6 May at UNDP premises. The UNFF19 High-level Segment Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF partners on “Achieving globally agreed goals on forests, climate change, and biodiversity” will be held from 3:00-5:30pm on 9 May with the participation of the CPF Heads and Principals. The CPF side event has been provisionally scheduled to be held during the lunchtime of 9 May. It was also confirmed that the FAO Director-General will address the High-level Segment on behalf of the CPF at its opening.

Members of the CPF noted the importance of ensuring effective communication and dialogue during UNFF19 with Member States on the CPF activities to follow up on the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests Towards 2030 and consider the future direction of the CPF based on the eventual outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests at UNFF19.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will share the concept note of the UNFF19 High-level Segment Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF Partners; UNFF will also share the questions for the UNFF19 High-level Segment Dialogue with the participating CPF Heads;
- UNFF will organize a coordination meeting for the moderator and speakers of the UNFF19 High-level Segment Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF Partners;
- UNFF will inform the date of the CPF side event and other UNFF19 side events to be organized by CPF members;
- The CPF Chair and the CPF Secretariat will draft and share the draft concept note of the CPF side event with CPF members for their inputs; and
- The CPF Chair and the CPF Secretariat will prepare the draft joint statement of the CPF and share it with CPF members.

Item 3. Initial discussions on the development of new Joint Initiatives and assessment of current Joint Initiatives

Following the introduction of the item by the CPF Chair, CPF members held discussions on the next steps to be taken to develop new Joint Initiatives (JIs) and assess current/existing/ongoing JIs. These existing JIs include Forest Communicators’ Network; Forest Education; Forest Finance Facilitation; Global Forest Expert Panel; Green finance for Sustainable Landscapes; Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting; Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World; Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award; Turning the Tide on Deforestation; and Primary Forests.

Regarding the assessment of current JIs, it was suggested that lead/co-lead members of the respective JIs undertake a self-assessment of their performance vis-a-vis the delivery of the respective mandate to determine their continuation or termination at the next CPF meeting.

Concerning new proposals for the new CPF JIs, ITTO proposed a new JI on integrated fire management in tropical forests with a focus on data, guidelines, training and capacity building based on its written proposal shared with CPF members before the meeting. An expert meeting on this matter will be held in July 2024 on the sidelines of the forthcoming 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. FAO mentioned the importance of the

complementarity between this JI and the recently launched Forest Fire Hub. FAO and UNFFS expressed their respective interest in partnering with ITTO for the preparation of the proposed JI.

CITES proposed to explore the possibility of developing a new JI on CITES-listed tree species with a focus on their contributions and potential to address climate change, based on its four-year programme funded by Germany.

UNEP and UNFCCC proposed to redirect the JI on turning the tide on deforestation to support countries to raising ambitions and strengthen forest actions in their Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs) and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), taking into account the outcomes of the recent COPs, the meeting of the UN Executive Committee and Deputies Committee and preparations for the SDG13 review at the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

CBD proposed to explore the possibility of a new JI in support of the national forest planning in support of the Global Forest Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets particularly in primary forest countries as a pilot, as well as support to the forest-related national targets for the implementation of the GBF, building on the existing work in related areas, including the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of CBD and UNFF.

FAO proposed a new JI on forests for food security and nutrition with a focus on joint production of an evidence-based “Global Report on the Contribution of Forests to Food Security and Nutrition”, which will include the compilation of regional, sub-regional, country and community-level case studies for the role of wild-harvested forest foods including wildmeat; and key identified challenges and opportunities in putting in place sound policies and programmes that enhance the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition, and organization of the second International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition in the period 2025-2026.

It was agreed to review and make decisions on continuation, termination or redirection of the existing JIs and endorsement of new JIs at the next CPF meeting, in preparation for the next cycle of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028.

Key actions to be taken:

- Lead/co-lead members of the JIs are asked to self-assess the performance of their respective JIs for CPF members to determine their continuation or termination at the next CPF meeting; and
- Interested CPF members are asked to prepare and share proposals for new CPF JIs for consideration by CPF members at its next meeting.

Item 4. Updating of the CPF Work Plan for 2024

Following the introduction of the item by the CPF Chair, the CPF Secretariat provided an update on the status of updating the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024. CPF members were invited to provide their updates on their respective joint activities, particularly the Joint Initiatives (JIs), by 12 April to ensure that the work plan would be updated in time for UNFF19. It was added that there may be additional tasks and activities to be added to the work plan following the final outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF after UNFF19.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are asked to provide updates on their respective joint activities, particularly the Joint Initiatives (JIs), by 12 April for inclusion in the updated CPF Work Plan; and
- CPF members are invited to express their interest in joining the taskforce on the preparation of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 to prepare a zero draft, taking into account the outcome of the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests related to the CPF.

Item 5. Date and venue of the next CPF meeting

The CPF Chair informed that the next CPF meeting will be held on 6 May 2024 at the UNDP Office, New York, after the conclusion of the afternoon session of UNFF19 on that day at 6:00pm.

Key actions to be taken:

- The CPF Secretariat will confirm the location of the meeting room.

Item 6. Any other business

CBD proposed to consider at the next CPF meeting ideas and proposals for forest events at the forthcoming Conference of Parties to CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC in 2024 to promote the CPF's common message based on the relevant UNFF19 outcomes.

Item 7. Closing of the meeting

The CPF Chair closed the meeting at 10:00am EDT/3:00pm CET.
