



In Attendance

CBD:	Jamal Annagylyjova	IUFRO:	Daniela Kleinschmit
CIFOR-ICRAF:	Robert Nasi		Alexander Buck
	Éliane Ubalijoro	UNDP:	Tim Scott
CITES (Vice-Chair):	Ivonne Higuero	UNEP:	Mirey Atallah
FAO (Chair):	Zhimin Wu	UNFCCC:	Dirk Nemitz
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs		Jenny Wong
	Theresa Loeffler		Pierre Brender
GEF:	Pascal Martinez	UNFF (Secretariat):	Juliette Biao
ITTO:	Jennifer Conje		Minoru Takada
IUCN:	Chetan Kumar		Hossein Moeini Meybodi
	Pragyan Raj Pokhrel		Ryo Nakamura
	Katherine Poe	WB:	Tuukka Castren

Regrets: GCF, UNCCD

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually on 20 December 2024.

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

The CPF Chair welcomed CPF members to the meeting, thanked for their availability shortly before holidays season and highlighted that 2024 was a milestone year for the CPF in light of the momentum built following the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests to reconfirm the CPF's commitment towards the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), noting the recent launch of the new CPF Joint Initiatives on forest biodiversity, primary forests, and food security and nutrition, integrated fire management, and planning the CITES-listed Tree Species initiative.

The CPF Vice-Chair, Ms. Ivonne Higuero, highlighted the importance of reflecting on the CPF's achievements made this year and building on them to take next steps to further strengthen the partnership in 2025.

The Chair thanked Ms. Higuero for her passion, dedication, leadership and spirit of partnership.

Ms. Juliette Biao, on behalf of the CPF Secretariat, underscored the need to strategically prioritize and focus the CPF activities around the GFGs.

As this is her first CPF meeting, Ms. Daniela Kleinschmit, IUFRO President, was invited to introduce herself to other CPF Members.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Item 2. Updates on CPF in the COPs

CBD provided an overview of the CBD COP16 decisions related to forests, noting that COP16 will reconvene for its second resumed session from 25 to 27 February 2025 in FAO HQ, Rome. The COP16 decisions adopted before its suspension include: the decision on the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which requests the CBD Executive Secretary to provide the strategic analysis and update on the thematic programmes of work of the CBD, including the forest biodiversity programme; and the decision on biodiversity and climate change, which urges parties to pay due attention to the social and environmental safeguards related to the protection, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. The decision will be considered for adoption at the second resumed session with regard to collaboration with other conventions and international organizations. This decision would include a reference to the CPF and request the CBD Executive Secretary to strengthen its cooperation within the CPF, to support the coherent implementation of the UNSPF, the CBD and the GBF. Progress in implementation of these decisions will be reported back to COP17 through the relevant subsidiary body meetings. CBD will work over the next two years to review and update the CBD forest biodiversity programme in consultation with the parties and the stakeholders, and with the engagement of the CPF. It was added that forests were featured at the GBF Pavilion at COP16 during the Restoration Day and Forest-Water Day with the participation of a number of CPF members, during which the Forest Factor¹ publication and the CBDS-UNFFS Initiative on Policy Coherence were launched.

The CPF Vice-Chair highlighted the opportunity for the CPF to collaborate with the CBD in a similar manner as the Sustainable Wildlife Partnership, and to be recognized by COPs in relevant decisions, as well as to carry out the CPF joint activities to implement the relevant CBD decisions resulting from the COP16 outcomes. She also suggested to plan in advance of COPs to prepare strong CPF joint statements and organize CPF meetings at the margins of COPs, well planned in advance.

UNFCCC provided an overview of the UNFCCC COP29 decisions related to forests, outlining: the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, including an agreement on USD300 billion annually by 2035; GCF policy on result-based finance for REDD-plus; Article 6.4 on carbon markets with regard to the standard to include the REDD-plus element at the national level for the implementation of the carbon market projects; the Global Goal on Adaptation, including ongoing development of forest-related indicators; and the Mitigation Work Programme, noting that countries are expected to submit the updated NDCs by 11 February 2025, including their plan to achieve the goal on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

UNFF provided an overview of the Forest Pavilion activities undertaken during UNFCCC COP29, reminding that the Forest Pavilion is a two-year initiative from COP29 to COP30 with the support of partners, including CPF members, to provide a platform to raise the visibility and profile of forests during the COP discussions. It was shared that 7 CPF Members led the daily sessions of the pavilion at COP29, while other members actively participated in many of the 50 events organized at the pavilion, encouraging CPF members to continue to be actively involved in the next Pavilion at COP30 to be organized in partnership with the COP30 Presidency along with other partners. It was suggested that building on the success of CBD Water-Forest Day, the Forest Pavilion at COP29 and the UNFF event at UNCCD COP16 on dryland forests, CPF should actively participate in all COPs of the Rio Conventions to advance a coherent forest agenda in these conferences, including to advance the ongoing work of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators. It was shared that the UNFF20 Bureau at its recent meeting noted with dismay that only one Chair/President of the governing body of a CPF member organization has responded to the letter of UNFF20 Chair sent in July 2024 regarding the key messages and provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2024/15 related

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/forest-factor-en.pdf>

to the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations. The CPF Chair urged CPF members to follow up on this issue.

IUCN highlighted the opportunities for the CPF to follow up on the UNCCD COP16 discussions and synergistically support countries in their work on land degradation, dryland forests and droughts, outlining the results of the side events organized in the name of CPF and its members (IUCN, World Bank and FAO) held during COP16 on financing for restoration and raising visibility of grasslands and rangelands.

FAO shared its interest in responding to the Brazilian Forest Service for a project for a Sustainable Wood Pavilion for COP30 in Belem. The concept of the Pavilion is a wooden structure built from wood from Brazilian forest concession, community forests and planted forests from Brazil, and comes along with a concept to repurpose the structure as social equipment. The Brazilian Forest Service is aware of the initiative to have Forest Pavilion at COP30 and in principle has shown willingness to have the wooden pavilion integrated into this proposal from the Brazilian Forest Service. Building on this years' experience and with a view to fully unfolding CPF's convening power this would be a great opportunity for the CPF at the upcoming Forest COP30 in Brazil. Further discussion will be arranged during the CPF Retreat in Washington in late January 2025.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members will consider next steps to advance a coherent forest agenda in the Rio Conventions' COPs at the 2025 CPF Retreat, including through supporting the implementation of the relevant decisions, organization of events.
- CPF members will consider next steps to engage and contribute to the forest-related discussions and events of UNFCCC COP30 during the 2025 CPF Retreat.
- CPF members are encouraged to continue to be actively engaged in the Forest Pavillion activities at UNFCCC COP30.
- Discussion will continue at the forthcoming CPF Retreat to integrate the FAO/BFS proposal for a wooden-structured pavilion with the Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP30.

Item 3. Update from the taskforce on the development of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028 and next steps

FAO provided update on the ongoing work of the taskforce on the development of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028, outlining the outcomes of three meetings of the taskforce held between October and December 2024. It was reminded that the terms of reference of the taskforce and the annotated outline of the work plan were circulated to all CPF members for feedback. The taskforce agreed to structure the work plan to include: Section I on Introduction; Section II on Achievements of the 2021-2024 Work Plan ("stock-taking"); Section III on CPF and the Global Forest Goals; Section IV on CPF Joint Initiatives to achieve the Global Forest Goals; Section V on Implementation of the Work Plan; and Section VI on Monitoring and Assessing Progress. It was reported that the zero draft of the work plan is currently under preparation by the members of the taskforce based on the annotated outline. Members of the taskforce are also collecting and compiling feedback from each other on the draft text to produce a consolidated draft work plan in time for the January 2025 CPF Retreat.

Chair thanked the taskforce members: CIFOR-ICRAF, CBD, CITES, GEF, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNFFS, WB, FAO, and UNFFS for their contributions to this very important CPF document.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are asked to volunteer to draft Section II on Achievements of the 2021-2024 Work Plan ("stock-taking").
- A consolidated draft work plan will be prepared and circulated to all CPF members before the January 2025 CPF Retreat for feedback and discussions during the retreat.

Item 4. Planning 2025 key activities, including the preparations for the CPF retreat and the CPF briefing for UNFF Members

Following the introduction of the item by the CPF Chair on the preparation for the CPF Retreat (22-23 January 2025, WB HQ, Washington, D.C.), WB highlighted the opportunity during the retreat to strengthen the collaboration and partnerships between WB and other CPF members, including through interaction with the WB's new senior management on forest issues, in the context of the Bank's Global Challenge Programme on Forests, the recently-concluded International Development Association's twenty-first (IDA21) replenishment, and the WB's work to develop a methodology to track nature finance. It was agreed to organize information sessions during lunchtime of the CPF Retreat to brief and exchange on these matters.

The CPF Chair encouraged heads and principals of CPF member organizations to attend the CPF Retreat in person given its strategic nature, noting that the virtual connection would also be arranged to the extent possible. It was suggested to propose names for the moderator of the retreat who is familiar with the CPF/environmental work and ideally based in or around the Washington DC area.

UNFF informed that in consultation with the CPF Chair, the CPF briefing for UNFF Members should be held taking into account the timing of the UNFF20 Chair's briefing on UNFF20 scheduled in March 2025 to avoid overlapping. It was suggested that the main objective of the CPF briefing would be to provide updates on the progress made in the implementation of the UNFF19/ECOSOC resolution related to the CPF, including, among others, the preparation of a new CPF work plan. It was suggested to also avoid overlapping with the second resumed session of CBD COP16 (25-27 February 2025). Decision on this will be taken together with the approval of the CPF annual work plan for 2025.

The CPF Chair suggested preparing the annual work plan for the CPF activities in 2025 focusing on the list of major events and issues to be addressed by the CPF.

Key actions to be taken:

- CPF members are asked to confirm the name of their representative to attend in person the CPF Retreat by 6 January 2025.
- CPF members are invited to propose names for the moderator of the retreat by the end of the first week of January 2025.
- CPF members are asked to express an interest in organizing meetings on their CPF joint initiatives and bilateral meetings with other CPF members on 24 January reserved as an optional day. This should be communicated to the CPF secretariat by 10 January.
- WB in consultation with the CPF Chair and the CPF Secretariat will arrange information sessions on the WB's work related to forests during the CPF Retreat.
- WB in consultation with the CPF Chair and the CPF Secretariat will provide an information note for the CPF Retreat, including logistical information.
- The CPF Chair will propose at the next CPF Meeting possible date for the CPF briefing for UNFF Members towards the end of February/beginning of March 2025, considering the resumed session of CBD COP16.
- The CPF Secretariat in consultation with the CPF Chair will prepare and circulate the draft annual work plan for the CPF activities in 2025 in advance of the CPF retreat.

Item 5. Update on the preparations for UNFF20 and preparations of the policy briefs on the UNFF20 thematic priorities

UNFF provided an update on the status of preparations of UNFF20, including: ongoing preparation of the policy brief on the UNFF20 thematic priorities (GFG 1, 3, and 5); UNFF20 official documents and provisional organization

of work of UNFF20; two Expert Group Meetings on regional/subregional cooperation and the Major Groups, respectively, to be held late in January 2025 in Bangkok; Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting workshop to be held in March 2025 in Nairobi to facilitate submission of national reporting to UNFF in June 2025 and preparation of the second GFG report to be launched in 2026; planning and preparations for the Country-led Initiatives by Saudi Arabia on dryland forests, Morocco on forest finance, community-based forest management and technology, and Austria-IUFRO-FAO on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy, respectively, to be held in 2025 and 2026.

UNFF added that UNFF20 will provide a timeslot for the CPF Chair to deliver the CPF statement, and CPF members will be invited to participate in the relevant UNFF20 panels on valuing forest ecosystem services and means of implementation, data related to forest finance, and dryland forests, respectively. It was suggested for UNFF to send a reminder to the Chair/President of the governing body of CPF member organizations to respond to the letter of UNFF20 Chair sent in July 2024 regarding the key messages and provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2024/15 related to the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations.

Key actions to be taken:

- UNFF will send a reminder to CPF members for the Chair/President of their governing body to respond to the letter of UNFF20 Chair sent in July 2024.
- CPF members are asked to provide inputs for inclusion in the UNFF20 document as soon as possible.
- CPF members are asked to volunteer to contribute to the preparation of the policy brief on the UNFF20 thematic priorities.

Item 6. Date and venue of the next CPF meeting and any other business

The CPF Chair proposed to hold the next CPF meeting immediately after the conclusion of the CPF Retreat in January 2025 to consider the CPF's annual work plan for 2025 and elect the CPF Vice-Chair for 2025. The proposal was supported by CPF members. The GCF and UNFCCC have yet to take up the role of the CPF Vice-Chair.

Jenny Wong, UNFCCC, delivered farewell remarks to CPF members as she will be departing from UNFCCC.

Key actions to be taken:

- The next CPF meeting will be held on 23 January 2025 at WB HQ in Washington, D.C., immediately after the conclusion of the CPF Retreat.
- CPF members are invited to nominate the candidate for the CPF Vice-Chair for 2025.

Item 7. Closing of the meeting

The CPF Chair and the CPF Vice-Chair closed the meeting at 9:40am EST/3:40pm CET.
