



In Attendance

FAO:	Hiroto Mitsugi (Chair)	ITTO:	Gerhard Dieterle
	Mette Wilkie		Sheam Satkuru
	Peter Csoka	IUCN:	Stewart Maginnis
	Andrew Taber		Adriana Vidal
	Maria DeCristofaro	IUFRO:	John Parrotta
	Theresa Loeffler		Andre Purret
CBD:	Lisa Janishevski	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
	Blaise Bodin	UNDP:	Kimberly Todd
CIFOR:	Michael Brady	UNEP:	Abdelkader Bensada
	Jeremy van Loon	UNFCCC:	Peter Iversen
CITES:	Maria Isabel Camarena		Jenny Wong
GEF:	Ulrich Apel	UNFF:	Hossein Moeini Meybodi
	Pascal Martinez		Mita Sen
	Teayeon Kim		Ryo Nakamura
ICRAF:	Tony Simons	WB:	Garo Batmanian
			Najeeb Khan

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met virtually via Skype for Business on 20 May 2020.

1. Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the CPF members and provided updates on recent and upcoming FAO activities, including: the release of key findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 on 7 May 2020; the virtual launch event of the State of the World's Forests publication on 22 May 2020; and the COVID-19 Forest Webinar Week which has been provisionally scheduled to be held from 22-25 June 2020. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2. Update on UNFF15

UNFF provided updates on the current status of preparations for the draft UNFF15 resolution, including the upcoming deadline for submission of inputs by Member States and stakeholders on the second revision of the draft resolution on 26 May and the schedules for the release of the final draft resolution (1 June), silence procedure for agreement on the draft resolution (1-4 June), and silence procedure to adopt the draft resolution (June). The possibility of a virtual consultation on the draft resolution to be held by the UNFF15 Bureau in the

last week of May 2020 was also mentioned. It was added that relevant provisions of the draft resolution that relate to the work of the CPF include: synchronization of future UNFF voluntary national reporting with the five-year Global Forest Resources Assessment process beginning in 2025; an invitation to the CPF to compile an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and forestry for presentation at UNFF16; and organization of a ministerial roundtable during UNFF16 in 2021.

There was a suggestion to add a focus on forest ecosystem restoration for UNFF16, taking into account the planned launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 in 2021. The UNFFS indicated that such a discussion could happen, when the Forum discusses the thematic priorities for UNFF16, which would be decided by the new UNFF Bureau after the adoption of the UNFF15 resolution.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to provide final inputs on the second revision of the draft UNFF15 resolution by 26 May 2020.

3. Follow-up on the outcome of the April CPF meeting

a. CPF's role in the current crisis related to the COVID-19

The Chair recalled discussions held at the last CPF meeting in April, and outlined proposed next steps for the CPF to prepare its immediate and longer term responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including: i) creation of a CPF website/webpage dedicated to the COVID-19 response, which would feature a compilation of members' materials; ii) participation and engagement of CPF members in the COVID-19 Forest Webinar Week which is proposed to be held from 22 to 25 June 2020; iii) preparation of a CPF joint statement/video message/press release; iv) development of a CPF Joint Initiative to support countries' recovery from the COVID-19 crisis; and v) assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests. It was added that the outcome of the proposed webinar and members' materials could provide a basis for the preparation of a CPF joint statement/press release in response to the COVID-19.

Members welcomed the Chair's proposal and provided their views and suggestions on the proposed next steps. These included: adding a focus on resilience, gender-based violence and natural resources, forest ecosystem restoration, and forest biodiversity and governance in the proposed webinar and other related activities; expansion of the scope of the proposed Joint Initiative beyond forest financing to address other key socioeconomic aspects of the post-COVID 19 recovery; and the need to have timelines for the suggested activities, and to adjust the scope of the assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests, taking into account the relevant provisions of the UNFF15 resolution once adopted.

Members also shared information on their ongoing activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including ICRAF's support to the Government of Kenya in facilitating the COVID-19 testing using their tree genetics laboratory, ITTO's activities to design two new projects to combat forest fires, and UNEP's report on zoonotic diseases to be launched on 3 June 2020.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members will provide their respective materials related to their COVID-19 response;
- Members are invited to provide comments on the Chair's Proposal on a CPF response to the COVID-19 crisis and the proposed programme of the COVID-19 Forest Webinar Week by 27 May 2020.

b. Endorsement of the IDF2021 topic

The Chair introduced a modified proposal of "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being" as the 2021 theme for the International Day of Forests, as put forth by the CPF Communicators' Network.

Members considered the proposed theme and endorsed it. The Secretariat added that given that there were no suitable options to include the proposed theme in UNFF15 official documentation at this stage, nor to announce it during UNFF15, Member States of the Forum would be informed of the proposed 2021 IDF theme through a letter from the Chair of UNFF15 and the proposed theme would be reflected in the report of UNFF15. The Chair added that the CPF may wish to consider organizing an event on the International Day of Forests in March 2022 during the Expo 2020 scheduled to be held from October 2021 to March 2022 in Dubai.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair will send a letter to the Officer-in-Charge of the UNFF Secretariat to inform the proposed theme of the 2021 theme of the International Day of Forests; the UNFF Secretariat will arrange a letter of the Chair of UNFF15 to inform Member States of the proposed 2021 theme.

c. Updates on the Joint Initiative on forest education

FAO provided updates on its proposal for a Joint Initiative on forest education, highlighting the overview of the proposal, including: its lead partners (FAO, ITTO, IUFRO), collaborating partners and other CPF members, donor (Germany) and project duration (November 2019-December 2020); main objectives to establish a global forest education platform and to catalyse, accelerate and enhance broad efforts on forest education at national and local levels and to counteract the deficits in forest education; proposed project activities, including the assessment the status of forest education, organization of an international conference on forest education tentatively scheduled in November 2020, strategic vision document shaping a multi-year programme on forest education, creation of an online platform for forest education, an online learning course on legal and sustainable supply chains of tropical wood and tropical forest products, and awareness raising among the general public.

Members welcomed the proposal and noted the importance to consider addressing gaps in forest-related professional development in addition to formal forest education.

Key actions to be taken:

- Members are invited to nominate their focal point for the proposed Joint Initiative on forest education.

d. Updates on the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

FAO shared updates on the status of implementation of the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World, presenting the outcome of the initiative's communicators' workshop held in December 2019. Some main points of recommendations included: launch of a communication campaign to promote the use of wood products; linkage to the SDGs and its branding; and launch of the "Replaced with wood" campaign, including the creation and promotion of the "Wooden Oscar" for its use during the 2021 Academy Awards.

Members welcomed the recommendations, noting the need to secure funding for the proposed activities, and suggested engaging relevant external partners such as the International Wood Culture Society in the proposed activities.

4. Update on forthcoming meetings

FAO reminded members of the upcoming virtual launch event of the State of the World's Forests publication on 22 May 2020 and the release of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in late 2020, and also informed about its plan to organize the first meeting of the CPF Consultative Group in support of the XV World Forestry Congress on 26 May.

CBD provided updates on the status of preparations for the CBD COP15 and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, noting that the CBD COP15 is now expected to be held after April 2021 and there is a possibility that the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) may be postponed from August 2020 to the third

quarter of 2020. It was added that CPF members will be invited to participate in a peer review of the monitoring and indicator framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework scheduled to be held in the first half of June 2020. CBD will also share, for members' information, a press release for the 2020 international day for biodiversity.

UNCCD informed that a series of consultations for major groups and stakeholders in preparation for the fifth UN Environment Assembly will be held virtually and in Oslo, Norway from 7-10 June 2020.

Item 5. Next meeting and any other businesses

The Chair proposed to hold the next virtual meeting of the CPF in July 2020 following the adoption of the UNFF15 omnibus resolution.

ITTO informed that it issues the Tropical Timber Market Report on a bimonthly basis as part of its market information services with a focus on the international tropical timber market and its related stories. It was added that the recent issues of the Tropical Timber Market Report feature stories on national policies and other measures in response to COVID-19 in terms of sustainable management of tropical forestry and the international trade of tropical forestry products in both producing and consuming economies.

Key actions to be taken:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will propose the date and time of the next CPF meeting to be held virtually in July 2020; Members will confirm their availability and preference for the date.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:00 p.m. Rome time/10:00 a.m. New York time.
