



CPF GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

EXPERT PANEL ON BIODIVERSITY, FOREST MANAGEMENT, AND REDD+

TERMS OF REFERENCE

4 December 2011

1 Background, rationale and goal

The UNFCCC adopted an agreement on “policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries” (REDD+) at the 16th Conference of the Parties in December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

In this context, the CPF developed a Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change addressing how sustainable forest management provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The largest improvement in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation can be realized by reducing deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD+ elements also include conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of carbon stocks. Related measures have the potential to enhance both carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation, but trade-offs between these objectives need to be clearly understood. Therefore, a strong scientific basis is needed for implementing REDD+ to inform the best possible management and policy approaches. However, no comprehensive scientific assessment has yet been carried out about the linkages between biodiversity and potential REDD+ activities in the context of sustainable forest management practices.

The goal of the expert panel is to provide a comprehensive assessment of scientific knowledge regarding the relationship between biodiversity, forest management, and REDD+. The assessment report aims to provide policy makers, investors and donors with a stronger scientific basis for their decisions about REDD+ policies and projects.

2 Task

Taking into consideration the outcomes of the Scoping Meeting held on 27-28 October 2011 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, the Steering Committee agrees to establish an Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management, and REDD+. It shall be the task of the Expert Panel to carry out a comprehensive assessment of available scientific information about the linkages between biodiversity, carbon and forest management in the context of REDD+ and to prepare a report for consideration at UNFCCC COP18, and CBD COP11, and for use by the UNFF at its tenth session as well as by other forest-related international processes.

The assessment shall focus on the following main objectives:

- To clarify the interactions among forest management¹, biodiversity and carbon² for different types of forests³;
- To analyze, in relation to these interactions, the social, economic, and environmental synergies and trade-offs under REDD+ implementation; and
- To identify governance and policy options for REDD+ activities that capture synergies between biodiversity and carbon, and avoid perverse outcomes.

Specifically, the assessment shall be carried out on basis of the **annotated outline** in Annex 1. Its geographical scope is the area in which the REDD+ mechanism is applicable. The assessment shall be based on existing scientific literature, information and knowledge and shall draw from various fields of science. Based on its assessment, the Expert Panel may also identify priorities for further research.

3 Composition

The Expert Panel consists of up to 30 scientists with recognized expertise related to biodiversity, carbon sequestration and storage, forest management and REDD+. The exact size of the Expert Panel will depend mainly on the specific topics to be covered in the assessment report. Experts Panel members participate in their personal capacity and do not represent any institution or organisation.

The Expert Panel Chair is approved by the Steering Committee following a recommendation by the Scoping Meeting held in Rome on 27-28 October. The Expert Panel Members are selected by the Panel Chair and the GFEP Coordinator in consultation with the Steering Committee. The following general criteria shall be applied when selecting Expert Panel Members: necessary areas of specialization to be covered; regional balance; cultural diversity; and gender balance.

¹ Activities aimed at conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (including afforestation and agroforestry) to meet REDD+ intentions

² Net balance of CO₂ and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions and removals

³ According to the FAO definition

4 Modalities of work

The Expert Panel shall conduct its work independently on basis of these Terms of Reference. The Steering Committee ensures that the assessment process and report of the Expert Panel conform to these Terms of Reference.

The scientific work of the Expert Panel is overseen by the Panel Chair. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the thematic work of the Panel in carrying out the assessment and in preparing the assessment report in an effective and timely manner. The Chair ensures that the Coordinating Lead Authors communicate closely with each other and periodically share drafted sections so that the report will be coherent, consistent, and of the highest possible quality. In addition, the Chair, in cooperation with the GFEP Coordinator, will provide an interim update to the GFEP Steering Committee on progress in the assessment.

The Expert Panel members serve as Coordinating Lead Authors or Lead Authors of the assessment report. Depending on the report's structure and their area of specialization, Coordinating Lead Authors are responsible for coordinating broader sections (main thematic areas or chapters) of the assessment report. Lead Authors prepare specific chapter sections of the assessment report. The Panel may enlist other experts as Contributing Authors to assist with their work. Contributing Authors are not members of the Expert Panel, but their authorship is clearly acknowledged in the assessment report.

The summary for policy makers shall be prepared by the Panel Chair and the GFEP Coordinator in consultation with the Coordinating Lead Authors and with assistance of communication experts.

The Expert Panel carries out its work through both meetings and electronic communication. The proposed main activities and the associated time schedule are described under item 8 below. The exact dates and mode of panel meetings shall be determined by the Chair and the GFEP Coordinator in consultation with the Expert Panel Members, bearing in mind financial and in-kind resources available from governments and Steering Committee members for purposes of the assessment.

Operational and technical support will be provided by the IUFRO Secretariat as well as, to the extent possible, by the Steering Committee Members.

5 Thematic frame, sources of information and validation

The Expert Panel shall utilize the following sources of information in its assessment: (i) published, peer-reviewed scientific literature; (ii) other relevant sources of information, where appropriately documented, including sources of traditional knowledge.

The Expert Panel shall refer to the original literature whenever possible rather than to earlier syntheses, summary documents or similar. Furthermore, the Expert Panel shall make best use of CPF Members as sources of information.

6 Expert review

The assessment report shall be subject to expert peer review prior to its completion. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the assessment report and its various chapters present a comprehensive, objective and balanced view of the topics and issues covered by the report.

Expert Reviewers shall be selected by the Chair and the GFEP Coordinator, in accordance with the selection criteria that also apply to Expert Panel Members. Furthermore, Expert Reviewers shall not be involved in the preparation of the assessment report.

Review comments shall be collected and evaluated by the Chair of the Expert Panel. The expert review period shall be decided by the Expert Panel, but shall not be less than four weeks. All review comments shall be provided to the Chair in writing. These reviews will be shared with the Coordinating Lead authors and serve as a basis for revision of the assessment report prior to its publication.

7 Outcomes and publications

The assessment report shall be composed of (a) a comprehensive, peer-reviewed full report and (b) a summary for policy makers ('policy brief'). Individual CPF members may wish to withdraw their support for individual publications. In that case the CPF logo shall not be used, but the logos of all those CPF members, which support these publications will be used.

8 Duration of work, main activities and suggested time schedule

The Expert Panel is established for a limited time period. Its work should be initiated as soon as possible and completed on time for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2012. Emerging results of the assessment, however, should be available already before the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (October 2012). Keeping in mind these events, the following tentative timetable for the assessment is suggested:

GFEP Steering Committee Meeting	2 or 3 December 2011
1 st Expert Panel meeting	Early February 2012
First draft of chapter manuscripts	Early May 2012

CLA meeting	Mid-May 2012
Second draft of chapter manuscripts	Mid-June 2012
Review (invited double blind review)	July 2012
2 nd Expert Panel meeting + CLA meeting	August 2012
Assessment report manuscripts ready for layout	30 September 2012
CBD COP11: <i>Presentation of emerging key findings</i>	October 2012
UNFCCC COP18: <i>Launch of report and presentation of results</i>	Tentatively December 2012
UNFF10: <i>Targeted input on "Forests and Economic Development"</i>	April 2013

9 Compensation

In accordance with the Concept Note, travel costs and daily subsistence allowance shall be paid to Panel members attending an Expert Panel Meeting in accordance with UN rules and regulations.

ANNEX 1: ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Foreword²

Executive Summary

1) Introduction

- Setting the stage: forest biodiversity, carbon and forest management
- Rationale and objectives
- Geographical scope
- Determination of thematic scope
- Conceptual framework and definitions

2) Impacts of deforestation and forest degradation on biodiversity and carbon for various ecological zones and major forest types^{***}

- Definition of ecological zones and forest types
- Relative difference of forest types in carbon storage as well as rates of land-use change and rate of forest recovery
- Deforestation / graphs and figures of changes in carbon and biodiversity
- Degradation / graphs and figures of changes in carbon and biodiversity
- Interactions between biodiversity and carbon
- Interactions between deforestation and degradation (leakage, vulnerability)
- Quantification and monitoring issues

3) Impacts of forest management* on biodiversity and carbon** for various ecological zones^{***} and major forest types^{***}

- Introduction to management options that are being considered under REDD+
- Biodiversity rarity, uniqueness, threat status
- Detailed analysis of win/win, win/lose, lose/lose outcomes for carbon and biodiversity across spatial and time scales
- Perverse outcomes, including displacement effects within forest
- Quantification and monitoring issues

4) Environmental, economic and social synergies and trade-offs to achieve objectives relating to biodiversity and REDD+

- Analysis of other environmental synergies and trade-offs, on landscape scale
- Economic synergies and trade-offs (valuation of goods and services), on landscape scale
- Social synergies and trade-offs, including processes (for designing REDD+ activities) and outcomes (e.g. human development index)
- Quantification and monitoring issues
- Overview of research funding for the different elements of the assessment

5) Governance and policy options to achieve objectives relating to biodiversity and REDD+

- Multi-level governance framework
- Decision-making on REDD+ priorities (actors)
- Existing governance and policy frameworks of relevance to biodiversity and REDD+
- Gaps, overlaps and synergies related to biodiversity
- Policy options for capturing synergies between biodiversity and carbon, including existing and potential options

6) Conclusions

Glossary

References will be annexed to each chapter of the report.

* Activities aimed at conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (including afforestation and agroforestry) to meet REDD+ intentions

** Net balance of CO₂ and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions and removals

*** According to FAO definition