



TERMS OF REFERENCE

As approved by the CPF at its meeting on 18 November 2013 in Warsaw

1 Background, rationale and goal

Faced with a continuously expanding global population, particularly in developing countries, securing sufficient food for over 9 billion people by 2050 is of prime concern and is reflected in numerous global forums. Forests contribute to food security in several different ways, both directly by providing food or supporting food production, and indirectly by providing ecosystem services as well as income through the sale of forest products.

In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, which seeks to establish a more integrated approach to poverty reduction in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition, and the impact of food production on forests and landscapes are of particular relevance. Furthermore, they are also of high significance for the implementation of existing international commitments, including all three Rio Conventions. The FAO Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition in May 2013 paved the way for greater engagement by the international community on this topic.

The goal of the Expert Panel is to provide a comprehensive assessment of scientific knowledge about the role of forests¹ for food security and nutrition. The Panel will develop a report aiming to provide policy makers, investors and donors with a stronger scientific basis for their decisions, policies and projects related to forests and food security and nutrition.

2 Task

Taking into consideration the outcome of the Scoping Meeting held on 14-15 November 2013 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, the CPF agrees to establish an Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security.



It shall be the task of the Expert Panel to carry out a comprehensive global assessment of available scientific information about the relationship of forests and trees with food security and nutrition, and to prepare a report to inform relevant international policy processes and the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

More specifically, the assessment shall focus on the following main objectives:

- To clarify the different dimensions and the role that forests and trees play in providing food security and nutrition;
- To analyze the social, economic, and environmental synergies and trade-offs between forests and food security and nutrition, and related management interventions; and
- To assess relevant frameworks and responses.

The assessment shall be carried out on the basis of the **annotated outline** in Annex 1, developed at the Scoping Meeting. It shall build 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 from various disciplines with recognized expertise in the topics of the assessment as reflected by the annexed outline. Expert Panel Members participate in their personal capacity and do not represent any institution or organisation.

The Expert Panel Chair is approved by the CPF following the recommendation by the Scoping Meeting held in Rome on 14-15 November 2013. The Expert Panel Members are selected by the GFEP Coordinator and the Panel Chair in consultation with CPF members. 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.

4 Modalities of work

The Expert Panel shall conduct its work independently on the basis of 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 i.e. carrying out the assessment and 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.



The Expert Panel members serve as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) or Lead Authors of the assessment report. Depending on their area of specialization and the report's structure, 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 shall be 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 GFEP Coordinator and the Chair in consultation with the Expert Panel Members, bearing in mind financial and in-kind resources available from governments and CPF 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 CPF 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. 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 defined by the Expert Panel, but shall not be less than four weeks. All review comments shall be provided to the Chair in writing. The review comments will be shared with the Coordinating Lead Authors and serve as a basis for revision of the assessment report prior to its publication.

7 Outcome 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 eleventh meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests in April 2015. The following tentative timetable for the assessment is suggested:

CPF Meeting: <i>Approval of Terms of Reference</i>	18 November 2013
1st Expert Panel meeting	March 2014
First draft of chapter manuscripts	Mid-July 2014
CLA meeting	Mid-July 2014
Second draft of chapter manuscripts	31 August 2014
UNGA 69: <i>Presentation of emerging key findings</i>	September 2014, New York, USA
Review (invited double blind review)	October 2014
CBD COP12: <i>Presentation of emerging key findings</i>	6 – 17 October 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea
2nd Expert Panel meeting + CLA meeting	November 2014



UNFCCC COP 20: <i>Presentation of emerging key findings</i>	December 2014, Lima, Peru
Assessment report manuscripts ready for editing	31 January 2015
Assessment report manuscripts ready for layout	1 March 2015
UNFF11: <i>Launch of report and presentation of results</i>	4 -15 May 2015, New York, USA

9 Compensation

In accordance with the Concept Note, travel costs and daily subsistence allowances shall be paid to Panel Members attending Expert Panel Meetings in accordance with UN rules and regulations.



ANNEX 1: ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Foreword

Executive Summary

Introduction

- Setting the stage: forest and food security and nutrition
This sub-section will present the challenge of food security and the role of forests, changing paradigms in food security and nutrition, the relevance of international governance frameworks, provide a regional overview, outline the differences across forest types. It will also present the cross-sectoral nature of the topic and raise major challenges (e.g. land use change, increasing demand, globalisation, climate change).
- Rationale and objectives (highlight contribution to SD and poverty reduction)
- Determination of thematic scope
- Conceptual framework and definitions
- Synopsis of chapters

1. Roles of forests in food provisioning systems and nutrition

- Direct roles of forests in food security and nutrition
- Indirect roles of forests in food security and nutrition
- Forest/biodiversity ecosystem services
- Issues related to biodiversity loss and degradation (and other environmental changes) and resilience
- Gender aspects

2. Contributions of forest and tree management approaches to sustainable food production

- At the scale of forests and woodlands (incl. NTFP, fuelwood, forest concessions, participatory forest management, management for environmental services)
- At the interface between forest/agricultural land (incl. silvo-pastoral systems, interface between wildlife and forest management, integrated watershed/coastal management systems, shifting cultivation, farmer-managed natural regeneration)
- On agricultural land (incl. agroforestry, management of trees on agricultural land)

3. Social and economic considerations influencing the relationship between forests and food security and nutrition

- Macro-social drivers (vulnerability: insecurity and instability, inequalities, migration and urbanisation, gender and youth dimensions, social, psychological and cultural determinants of food choices)
- Markets and distribution systems (incl. globalisation of trade in agricultural and forest products, commodification, food price volatility, food distribution systems, informal sector transformation)



- Mediating factors (incl. social and cultural capital, natural capital, technology)

4. Governance and policy responses: Land-related governance frameworks and policy responses and their intersection with markets in food and forest products

- Relevant governance frameworks
- Land tenure and access
- Incentives and markets

5. Landscape dimensions of achieving food security and nutrition objectives, and sustainable forest and tree management

- Land use change and implications of forest loss and degradation on food security and nutrition (including energy and biofuels)
- Landscape configuration (incl. land sharing/sparing, intensification, eco-agriculture etc.)
- Synergies and trade-offs between different land uses (crops, livestock etc. but also other sectors) and forests
- Integrated and cross-sectoral approaches/solutions to food security and nutrition (that include forests)

6) Conclusions

Glossary

References will be annexed to each chapter of the report.

¹ The term “forest” is intended to stand for “forests, tree-based systems and trees” throughout this document.