

December 2001

**The Forest Peoples Programme and FERN welcome the opportunity to provide input to the concept paper on the CPF network. Our response is made in line with the questions you have circulated. We hope you find our comments and recommendations constructive.**

### **1. What are the objectives of the CPF Network?**

- a) To provide information on existing and proposed policies, projects, programmes and other initiatives of CPF members relating to forests, forest peoples and SFM to major groups;
- b) To enable informed participation of major groups in forest policies and programmes at all levels (local, national, regional, international) in accordance with principles set out in the Leticia Declaration;
- c) To enable CPF members to receive inputs from major groups on standard-setting and policy issues AND their perspectives, concerns or other views on national forest programmes as well as specific projects or programmes at the national and international level;
- d) To foster the exchange and review of monitoring reports plus major group ideas and proposals for promoting and facilitating the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and other intergovernmental commitments under international forest-related instruments (CBD, RAMSAR, Agenda 21 etc.);

### **2. What types of groups, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders should be included in the CPF Network?**

It is essential that the CPF network contains representatives of all the major groups as defined by agenda 21. These should be linked to the network via organisations and individuals at the LOCAL + NATIONAL + REGIONAL + INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

For example, in the case of Indigenous Peoples and NGOs, the network should endeavour to establish participation mechanisms to foster dialogue and pro-actively disseminate information from CPF members to indigenous and NGO participants in the network. The network should equally enable major group participants to submit information to CPF members.

In the case of Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) the network should involve, for example, local and sub-regional IPOs + national IPOs + regional IPOs + International IPOs/alliances.

Inclusion in the network would be based on self-selection: organisation and institutions nominate themselves, or may be nominated by other members of the same major group to become members of the network.

Note: Indigenous Peoples should also engage in the work of the CPF through the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

### **3. Should there be conditions/terms for participation in the CPF Network? Should it be simply open-ended?**

Participation should be open-ended in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution E/2000/L.32 establishing the "international arrangement of forests", which is tasked with providing a "coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, co-ordination and development" relating to agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels.

In other words, the self-selection procedure for major groups is only recommended above in so far as it may help to select motivated, representative and active participants for the network. It is \*not\*, however, recommended as an exclusive selection procedure. Anyone who is interested and equipped to participate in the network (individual or organisation) should be eligible to do so including academics, professionals or other individuals.

### **4. How should the CPF Network be formed?**

An initial invitation list could be circulated by CPF member(s) to relevant national and international Email and postal networks known to be working on forest-related issues (forest policy, biodiversity, human rights, indigenous peoples, CBNRM, social forestry, land rights, food security, certification). An ample lead time should be given to establishing the network to allow major groups to respond and organise self-selection and nomination.

As well as Email circulars. EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO CIRCULATE INVITATIONS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CPF VIA HARD COPIES TRANSLATED INTO LOCAL LANGUAGES. THIS DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE PROACTIVELY CIRCULATED IN GOOD TIME BY CPF MEMBERS IN THE REGIONS WHERE THEY OPERATE.

### **5. What should be the major functions of the CPF Network?**

- provision of information on the actual and proposed activities, policies and programmes of CPF members;
- enable the informed participation of major groups in forest-related policy-making and implementation of forest-related programmes at all levels, notably in systems of monitoring and reporting, elaboration of national forest programmes and country-level reviews of the underlying cause of deforestation and forest degradation;

### **6. Based on the functions proposed for the CPF Network, what should be the means to facilitate collaboration and communication between the CPF and CPF Network?**

(a) at the international level?

a. mechanisms for communication:

- Email circulars and newsletters that can receive messages from CPF members AND members of the CPF network: - Hard copy letters with information and invitations to CPF

meetings PLUS forest-related meetings of CPF meetings in specific Southern and Northern countries;

- face to face meetings in CPF network meetings - these could be prior to UNFF sessions and intersessionals PLUS at other times as required; - funds should be provided by the CPF to enable the participation of CPF network members;
- observer status for major groups in CPF member meetings (on a rotational basis)

b. mechanisms for collaboration:

- exchange of policy notes
- exchange of position papers
- exchange and evaluation of monitoring reports - exchange and evaluation of case studies and papers presented to the UNFF MSD - dialogue and agreement on how to support major groups in achieving community-based SFM
- dialogue and agreement on action to address problems with CPF policies and programmes
- dialogue and agreement on ways to replicate best practice of CPF policies and programmes

(b) at the national and sub-national levels?

a. mechanisms for communication:

- regular face to face meetings with in-country CPF staff and major group members of the CPF network (reports of these meetings should be forwarded to the international CPF meetings and CPF network meetings) - improved participation mechanisms in the country operations of individual CPF members
- proactive dissemination of information by CPF member national focal points to participants in the CPF network e.g., CBD focal points > to IPOs and NGOs

b. mechanisms for collaboration:

- joint meetings to pinpoint areas to create strategic partnerships to eliminate the obstacles to implementation of agreed commitments on forests and forest peoples
- joint policy-making and programme design - multi-sector space for engagement and dialogues between governments, major groups, international agencies and instruments