

## **Statement of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests at the GLF2 Closing Plenary**

Delivered by Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Chair of the CPF

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. This unique, voluntary partnership, which dates back to the year 2001, consists of the 14 international organizations and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests.

The Global Landscapes Forum has its roots in Forest Day, which was a CPF initiative under the leadership of CIFOR. Last year, Forest Day was merged with Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihood Days to create the first GLF. Just as CPF members played prominent roles in Forest Days, we have continued our strong support to the Global Landscapes Forum. A majority of CPF members are active in GLF2, whether as Coordinating Partners or Implementing Partners or as organizers of various sessions.

CPF members, collectively and individually, are working at policy level and on the ground in the areas addressed by the GLF2: integrated landscape management for climate change adaptation and mitigation, for the achievement of the sustainable development goals and to progress toward a green economy. I would like to highlight some of the relevant joint efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

CPF took a proactive approach in addressing the challenges of climate change as they relate to forests and developed a strategic framework for a coordinated forest-sector response to climate change, outlining the key action areas for promoting mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Partnership's Global Forest Expert Panel, led by IUFRO, examined in its 3<sup>rd</sup> report the relationships between forest biodiversity and carbon (and other ecosystem services), and how these complex relationships may be affected by management activities implemented to achieve REDD+ objectives. Currently, a new Global Forest Expert Panel is completing a scientific assessment of the role of forests and trees for food security and nutrition. Emerging findings of this assessment were presented earlier today by IUFRO and CIFOR here at the Forum.

CPF members have remarkably advanced in the issues discussed at this GLF2. For example, the Partnership has been conducting a great deal of work on identifying parameters for assessing forest degradation and the best practices for monitoring them.

Another example is the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, hosted by IUCN, which was the originator of the Bonn Challenge, a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020. Eleven CPF members are also members of this Partnership and, collectively or individually, they actively contribute to the countries' pledges to the Bonn Challenge. This is the case, for instance, of FAO's Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism, launched at the last session of

Committee on Forestry in June in Rome, and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative launched in October 2014 at 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to support CBD parties in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15. Both the Mechanism and the Initiative have been launched with the generous contribution of the Government of the Republic of Korea, one of the countries where landscape restoration has been remarkably achieved in the last decades.

The Global Landscape Forum is particularly important for the CPF and its members. This event lets us learn and share our knowledge and experiences regarding the role of forests for the provision of goods and services that are essential to sustainable livelihoods, to economic development and job creation, to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and enhance the benefits from ecosystem services, to improve rural production systems; to maintain the productivity and reverse the degradation of the land and soils, which provide the natural resource base that make human life possible and feasible in this planet. We talked about supplying essential goods like timber, fodder, fuel, food and fiber for a growing population. We've learned that challenges of higher demand must be turned into opportunities to promote more sustainable interaction between humans and nature, in rural and urban landscapes.

The year 2015 will be indeed exciting. The outcome of this CoP, the knowledge shared in this Global Landscapes Forum and the contribution of each one of us to their results must be plugged into the important decisions that are coming up in the near future. The agreement on the post 2015 development agenda with Sustainable Development Goals at its core, and a new climate agreement expected to be reached in Paris are fundamental landmarks of 2015. In addition to these important issues, the Bonn Challenge 2 will hold a Ministerial Segment in Bonn, Germany from 20 to 21 March 2014; UNFF11 which will be held in New York from 4 to 15 May will also decide on the future of the International Arrangement on Forests. Then, the World Forestry Congress, a global event organized only every six years, will be for the first time held in Africa. At the World Forestry Congress, FAO will launch the Global Forest Resources Assessment, FRA 2015. The Congress will take place from 7 to 11 September in Durban, South Africa. These and other events will offer important input to further integrate forests and forestry into the post-2015 UN development agenda. We are living in a historical moment, developing the instruments that will shape up the world we want to live in, and the world we will leave for the future generations.