

Systematic Review in Forest Science – Learning from Traditional Forest Knowledge

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Aims of the training

Dr. Gillian Petrokofsky, Biodiversity Institute Oxford, and trainees. Photo: Eva Schimpf, IUFRO-SPDC

The 3-day training workshop introduced participants to systematic review as a powerful tool in evidence synthesis.

The tool is used to improve decision-making and any policy formulation that draws on scientific evidence. The workshop explored examples from forestry and natural resource management.



Participants applied techniques of systematic review to develop mini-Protocols focused on how traditional knowledge forest could inform current forest management strategies/policy.

The workshop ran in an open, collaborative environment with shared learning and peer-to-peer support.

This active participation helps build confidence in applying the techniques of systematic review and simulates the work of a real systematic review team in action.

Some of the key topics covered in the training

Evidence – what do we mean? Introduced collaborative systematic reviews and maps tools for robust evidence for policy and practice.

What is the question? Introduced the importance of clear question-framing for research and reviews. Framing focuses on defining: **POPULATION(S)** that are subject to management interventions or environmental exposures; management or environmental **INTERVENTIONS** whose effects are either unknown or disputed; **COMPARATORS** or controls that enable judgments to be made about effects and impacts of management interventions; and clearly defined **OUTCOMES** that measure effect sizes and trends.

How do we find the evidence? – Introduced the importance and challenges of comprehensive inclusion of relevant evidence and how to construct a good search strategy.

What evidence do we include and exclude? – Introduced the importance of specifying explicitly what evidence is relevant to a particular review.

Additional information: Programme, http://www.iufro.org/download/file/25610/199/sys-review-programme_doc/