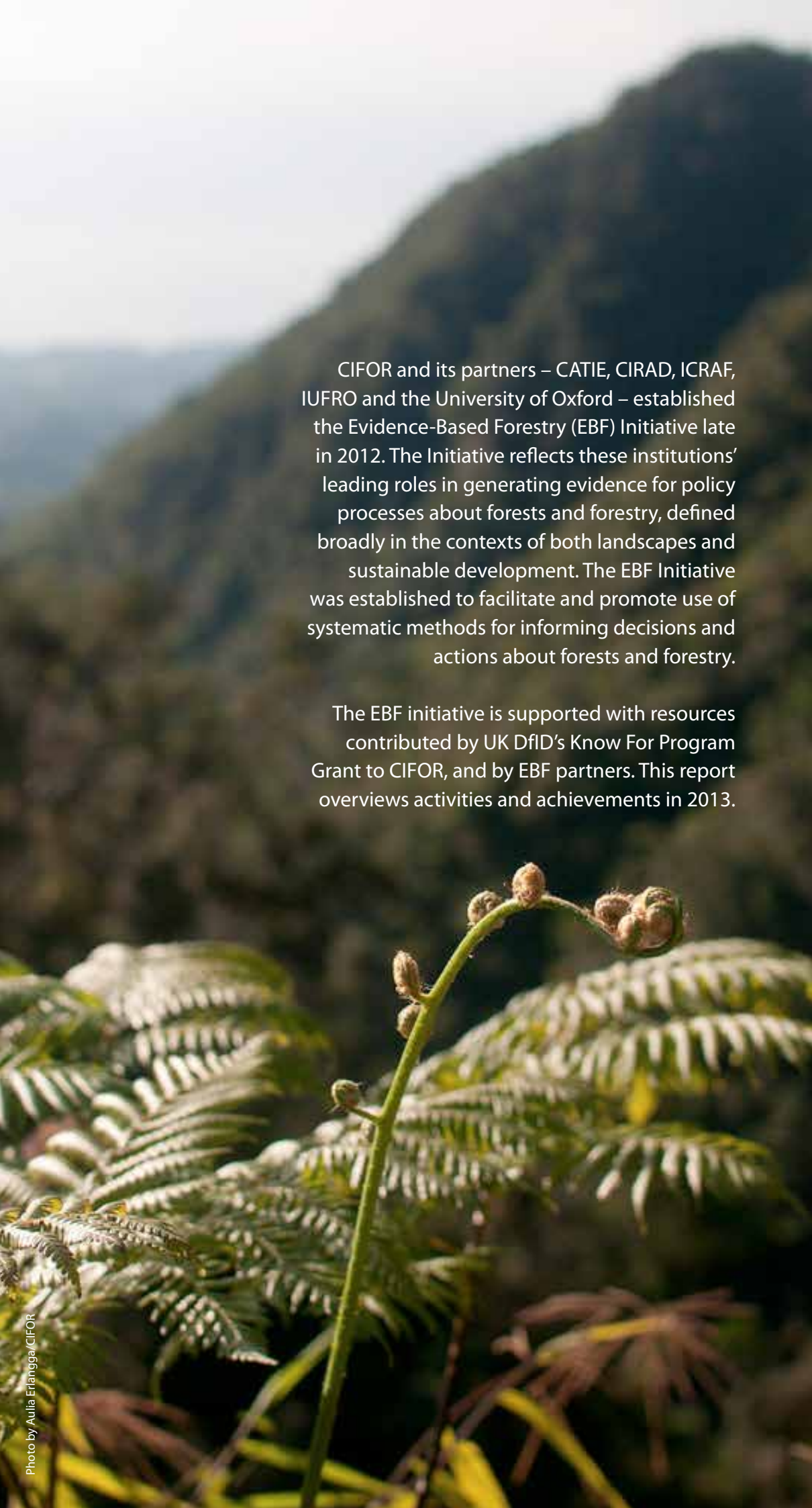




# EVIDENCE-BASED FORESTRY INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013





CIFOR and its partners – CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, IUFRO and the University of Oxford – established the Evidence-Based Forestry (EBF) Initiative late in 2012. The Initiative reflects these institutions' leading roles in generating evidence for policy processes about forests and forestry, defined broadly in the contexts of both landscapes and sustainable development. The EBF Initiative was established to facilitate and promote use of systematic methods for informing decisions and actions about forests and forestry.

The EBF initiative is supported with resources contributed by UK DfID's Know For Program Grant to CIFOR, and by EBF partners. This report overviews activities and achievements in 2013.

## Highlights

In this first year of the Initiative, we had many goals – promoting awareness of the Initiative amongst stakeholders and partners, commissioning reviews that might be associated with the Initiative, establishing governance arrangements and administrative processes, building staff and infrastructure resources, developing capacity, and planning the further development of the Initiative. We made great progress in all these respects, as summarized below.

### Informing stakeholders and promoting the EBF Initiative

We took advantage of CIFOR's and partners' presence at key international events in 2013 to inform stakeholders and promote the Initiative: at UNFF in Istanbul in April, at IUFROLAT in San Jose, Costa Rica, in June, and at the Global Landscape Forum in Warsaw in November. Some 350 participants engaged in these EBF events. We also led sessions at CIFOR's and ICRAF's annual meetings, conducted two 'work in progress' fora at CIFOR, and published an EBF Prospectus and Guidance for Systematic Reviews, Maps, and lead reviewers.

The EBF website, [cifor.org/ebf](http://cifor.org/ebf), was launched in June 2013 as a portal for EBF communication and knowledge sharing. The EBF and CIFOR websites were used as platforms for EBF blog stories by the CIFOR Director General and the lead researcher in the first EBF systematic review to be completed.

### Commissioning systematic reviews

Eighteen reviews, either systematic maps or full reviews, were commissioned by the EBF initiative in 2013. Summary information about the reviews and their progress is presented in Table 1, and more detailed information at [cifor.org/ebf](http://cifor.org/ebf). Review team leaders represent 10 institutions, and some 35 universities and research institutions are represented in the review teams. The use of systematic maps is an effective means of embedding systematic processes of literature review into new research projects, as these are a less time- and resource-demanding precursor to full systematic reviews.

### Establishing governance arrangements

An EBF Steering Committee, comprising representatives of each EBF partner organization and chaired by CIFOR's Director General, was formally established at its first meeting in June 2013. The Committee subsequently met in September; the planned meeting in November was disrupted by an emergency building closure, and rescheduled to early 2014.

In addition to endorsing recommendations for the association and commissioning of reviews, the Steering Committee established a timetable for further development and formalization of the Initiative over the next 18 months. Agenda and minutes of Committee meetings are available at [cifor.org/ebf](http://cifor.org/ebf).

Table 1. Progress of reviews

Review#	Short Title	Lead institution	1 Formulate the question and problem	2 Write the protocol, submit for peer review and publish	3 Literate search: locate and select studies	4 Appraise studies for quality and risk of bias	5 Collect and extract data	6 Analyze data and present the results	7 Interpret the results	8 Complete the review, submit for peer review and publish	9 Actively disseminate results
First tranche	1	Biofuels and Biodiversity CIFOR									
	2	Property rights CIFOR									
	3	Alternative Livelihoods CIFOR/IIED									
	4	Ecosystems and Agriculture CIFOR									
	5	Miombo Woodlands Copperbelt University, Zambia									
	6	Gender, forest and food security Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences (SLU)									
	7	Research Quality Royal Roads University, Canada									
Second tranche	8	Food, fibre, energy (systematic map) CIFOR									
	9	Wood Energy CIFOR									
	10	Local adaptation in trees University of Oxford									
	11	Tropical silviculture interventions CIRAD									
	12	Swidden systems University of Melbourne									
	13	Community managed forests CIFOR/IFRI									
	14	CCFP (systematic map) CIFOR									
	15	Climate smart agriculture (systematic map) ICRAF									
	16	Ecosystem service assessments (systematic map) University of Oxford									
	17	Mixed species plantations (systematic map) University of Sunshine Coast									
	18	Fine root dynamics CIFOR									

Complete	In progress
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### Building staff and infrastructure

The EBF support team comprises two CIFOR research officers, Jessica Clendenning and Wen Zhou, whose primary roles are to assist review teams, facilitate communication and knowledge sharing, and gather data to inform EBF processes; CIFOR Senior Associate and University of Oxford researcher, Gillian Petrokofsky, who plays both an advisory and support role; and CIFOR Deputy Director – SCI, Peter Kanowski, who manages the Initiative and acts as Steering Committee Secretary.

In the context of the EBF Initiative, CIFOR commissioned a review of its library and information resources provision by former Oxford forestry and science liaison librarian, Roger Mills. The review's 60 recommendations facilitated further strategic investment in CIFOR's information resources and access to them. In addition, review team members drew on the information resources available at and through their own and partner institutions to assemble those necessary for each review.

Late in 2013, CIFOR and Oxford University's Department of Plant Sciences and Radcliffe Science Library initiated agreements to facilitate EBF review team members' access to the rich information resources held by the university. The Department of Plant Sciences will enable this access by hosting a succession of EBF Scholars each year. This access, and that to corresponding resources such as those of CIRAD's Francophone library, are fundamental to the successful conduct of reviews.

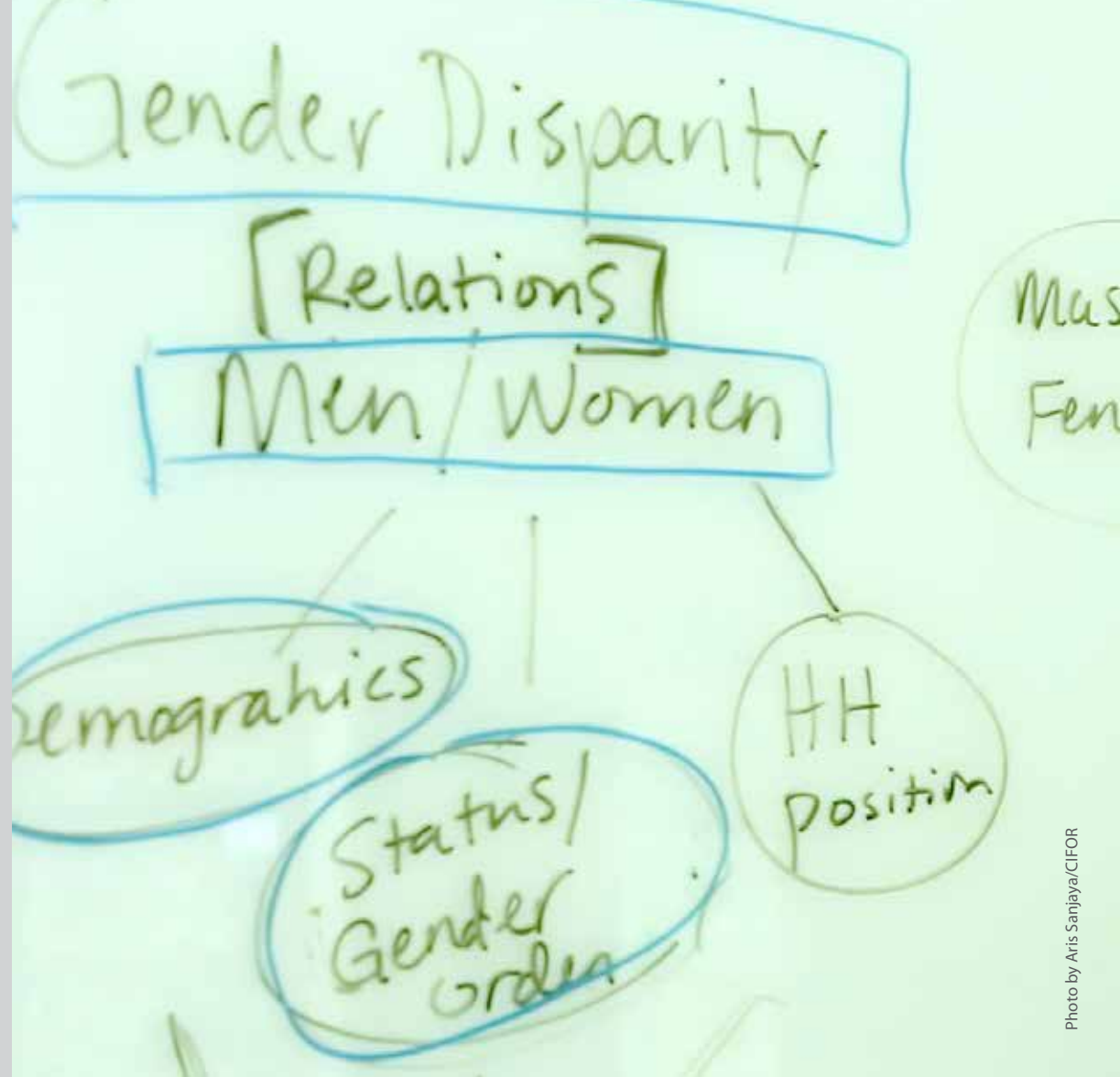




Photo by Olivier Girard/CIFOR

## Capacity Development

Both EBF research officers participated in a conference and a course offered by the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations, respectively. In turn, they and CIFOR Senior Associate Gillian Petrokofsky provided training for 15 members of individual systematic review teams. The EBF support team conducted 4 workshops in CIFOR, to engage staff with the initiative and stimulate thoughtful feedback.

## Further development of the EBF Initiative

In 2014, the EBF Initiative will begin to capitalize on the first year of investment and activity. Review teams will continue to work intensively on their topics, consulting with stakeholders and peers through a variety of processes. Their work will be enabled through enhanced access to information resources in partner institutions and their libraries. We expect at least five of the current reviews to be completed in 2014, and for further reviews to be associated with the Initiative.

In March 2014, we will begin a global consultative process – ‘T20Q’ (Top 20 Questions) – to identify the most important research questions for forestry, broadly defined, as the basis for prioritizing review topics in 2015 and subsequently. We will capitalize on CIFOR and partners’ regional presence, and on events such as the IUFRO World Congress, to engage widely and transparently with the spectrum of stakeholders in policy and practice impacting on forests, in the contexts of both landscapes and sustainable development.

We will also use 2014 to develop the institutional framework and arrangements for the EBF Initiative, and explore models to develop and sustain it beyond the initial commitment of funding from DfID and partners.

## Budget summary 2013

Cash resources invested in the Initiative in 2013 were:

**CIFOR cash expenditure (Source: UK DfID KNOWFOR grant)**

Expenditure category	USD\$ 000
Staff, associates and consultants	162
Reviews	83
Travel & training	44
Supplies & equipment	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>

In addition, all partners contributed substantial in-kind staff and operational resources to support the Initiative.

## More information

Please visit [cifor.org/ebf](http://cifor.org/ebf) or email us at [CIFOR-EBFInitiative@cgiar.org](mailto:CIFOR-EBFInitiative@cgiar.org)

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Cover photo by Kate Evans/CIFOR



**Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)**

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