

## Systematic reviews: Expressions of interest

Please submit your expressions of interest, following the guidance below. By way of reminder, please note some of these conditions for deciding whether a systematic review is an appropriate approach:

- Where there is large amount of research on a topic but where key questions remain unanswered;
- When there is uncertainty about effectiveness of a policy/service AND where there is some existing research;
- In early stages of policy development to assess likely effects of interventions;
- To generally survey evidence in a topic – explore evidence gaps for future research
- To assess past methodologies as part of new method development

### Expressions of interest should include the following elements:

1. **Review title** – this need not be the final one, but should indicate clearly the topic and scope
2. **Background** - describe the problem, you seek to address and its context in terms of global interest, and its relevance to international policy and practice. Outline the key objectives of the review and the interventions you will be reviewing (where appropriate).
3. **Current research landscape**: indicate the main strands of current thinking in this area, citing, but not discussing in detail, the main reviews (systematic or other) that have been published in this area. If there are on-going reviews, indicate how yours will be different.
4. **Methods** – A brief description of the types of studies you will be reviewing – what outcomes you will be assessing and, where appropriate, the PICO (Populations, Interventions, Comparisons) and Context of your review
5. **Review Team** –list of possible names of Partner researchers, with brief outline of authors’ subject expertise. Indicate who will be the review ‘champion’ and the principal author (these may be the same).

Lengthy papers are not required – fewer than 4 pages. The aim is to give a clear indication of the topic and its importance to global forestry discussions, with a persuasive argument about how THIS review will contribute to clarifying uncertainties or conflicts in the existing body of knowledge.

Gilliam Petrokofsky  
University of Oxford  
11 May, 2013