Evidence-based forestry

UNFF-10 side event, 1 Istanbul 10 April 2013

- Speakers:
  - Peter Holmgren, Director General CIFOR
  - Niels Elers Koch, President of IUFRO
  - Gillian Petrokofsky, University of Oxford
- Interactive session:
  - What are the priority policy questions, according to YOU?
- Discussion
Looking forward: evidence-based policies

- **Sustainable landscapes:** Forests are an integral part of the landscape and essential for livelihoods as well as long-term resilience and productivity of food systems. We must bridge institutional boundaries and find integrated solutions.

- **Green growth:** Policies for a green economy should generate sustainable forest products and services, ensure good governance of natural resources, and reduce poverty.

Evidence-based forestry

- Background to the EBF initiative
- Experience in other sectors
- Are we using evidence properly in forestry?
- Are we referring to evidence properly in forestry?
- Is forestry science reliable / relied on?
- How inform UNFF process (and other forest-related processes)?
What is it all about?

1. Question framing
   - Involve stakeholders
   - Define what is to be examined and how

2. Explicit question

3. Rigorous review methodology
   - Transparent
   - Repeatable

4. Systematic evaluation of evidence

5. Commitment to update

6. Disseminate to stakeholders and decision-makers
   - Use appropriate formats for different end users

7. Active dissemination of results

What is it NOT about?

- Does not provide the answers or solutions
  - The evidence-base (or lack of it) is one ingredient in decision-making

- Does not rely (only) on experts for prioritizing policy questions
  - Also experts have agendas to defend

- Does not replace policy processes
  - It is not a way to avoid taking responsibility for decisions
What is the EBF collaboration?

- CIFOR, IUFRO, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, University of Oxford
  - Have agreed to initiate the EBF collaboration
  - Drawing from examples of collaborations in other sectors
  - CIFOR leads initial phase, including capacity building

Progress

- Scoping, training, recruitment
- Initial set of systematic reviews
- Involvement of broader range of partners and stakeholders

What next?

- This is a collaborative initiative.
- We expect the outputs of this initiative to be highly relevant to UNFF and others.
- We hope you will help bridge science and policy.
- We want you and your institutions to participate.
- We will start today with an interactive session.