

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see [Authors & Referees](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- ☐ ☒ The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- ☐ ☒ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☐ ☒ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- ☐ ☒ A description of all covariates tested
- ☐ ☒ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☐ ☒ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- ☒ ☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- ☒ ☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- ☐ ☒ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- ☐ ☒ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Abstrackr (<http://abstrackr.cebm.brown.edu/account/login>) was used to aid in organizing the filtering and selection of articles. Microsoft Excel was used for data extraction and creating case study database.

Data analysis

We generated all computer code and conducted all statistical analyses in R. All code is available from the authors upon request.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

The data used for this analysis is available at: <http://www.forestlivelihoods.org/resources/> [this will be done upon acceptance of manuscript]

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

- ☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	The study is a meta-analysis of case studies found in the literature following systematic review.
Research sample	Following a systematic review protocol, our final sample was 643 cases extracted from 267 research articles that fit our criteria
Sampling strategy	Boolean searches with our listed keywords in CAB Abstracts and ISI Web of Knowledge resulted in 15879 articles. Following several stages of filtering based on our inclusion criteria (outlined in methods), this number was reduced to 267 articles that met our criteria. Cases within each of these articles were recorded individually, for a total of 697 cases of CFM. This number was further reduced to 643 cases following removal of cases that had contradictory outcome variables.
Data collection	A team of seven researchers performed all data extraction and developed a simple categorical data extraction protocol to maximize standardization across studies. The team went through six data extraction rounds on a subset of randomly selected studies until an acceptable level of intra-team congruence ($\kappa > 0.6$) was reached. Data was extracted from the studies on contextual and outcome variables.
Timing	Boolean searches for articles were performed between May and October 2014. Filtering studies, and the data extraction process, including time to research agreement between coders, took place between October 2014 to October 2015.
Data exclusions	54 cases were removed from our data set that had contradictory outcome variables, reducing the overall sample size to 643 cases.
Non-participation	n/a
Randomization	n/a

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems		Methods	
n/a	Involved in the study	n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies	☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines	☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ Palaeontology	☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms		
☒	☐ Human research participants		
☒	☐ Clinical data		