

The Sustainable Forest Management Tutorial is composed of a set of short questions to help introduce and communicate important elements to forest owners, holders and managers. It aims to assess the level of activity in the forest and helps identify actions to improve forest management in a perspective of sustainability, stimulating to think about the most important issues that make up the Forest-IN framework. The assessment can be done either by plot /small holding or on a larger forest management unit.

On the website of Forest-IN( [www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>), a vast array of information and tools is made available, for the users of this tutorial to engage in the process of thinking critically about the management of their forest, the forest resources and the practices that are carried out.

The property owner/manager can choose to do as many assessments as they wish, iteratively trying to get a better score, by altering each of the tutorials items. **How to use the Tutorial: refer to [page 3](#)**

Forest Plot/Unit name or designation \_\_\_\_\_

Area to be assessed \_\_\_\_\_ ha

## A. General Management

### 1. Management Plan

Question	Yes! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 4 points	No. Add 0 points	Results (points added)
1.1 Does the forest have a management Plan that is compliant with the local regulations and standards?				Points:
1.2 Has the management plan been approved officially by the relevant forest authority?				Points:
<b>Only if you replied "No." to question 1.1 and/or 1.2. , please respond to 1.3.1 and/or 1.3.2</b>				
1.3.1 Do operations comply with local Regulations? (cutting, thinning, soil mobilizations...)				Points:
1.3.2 Is there a Pests & Diseases plan that identifies the potential risks & measures to combat these risks?				Points:

### 2. Use of Chemicals

Question	Yes! Add 5 points	No. Add 0 points	Results (points added)
2.1 Is the use of pesticides and fertilisers minimised where possible?			Points:

### 3. Biodiversity

Question	Nat. Add 8 points	Plantat. Add 3 points	No. Add 0 points	Results (points added)
3.1 Is your forest natural or a plantation?				Points:
3.2 Is the predominant tree composition made of more than one tree species?	More Add 10 points	Only 1. Add 6 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.3 Are there protected habitats and/or species?	Yes! Add 8 points	Don't know. 0 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
<b>Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 3.3 please respond to 3.3.1</b>				
3.3.1 Are all actions to protect Priority habitats and priority species taken?	YES! Add 10 points	No. Add 0 points		Points:
<b>Only if you replied "No." to question 3.3 please respond to 3.3.2</b>				
3.3.2 Have opportunities for enhancing habitats in the forest been identified and acted upon?	YES! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 4 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.4 Does management consider the wider landscape ( how the forest relates to and connects with its surroundings)?	YES! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 4 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
<b>Only if you replied "Ongoing." to question 3.4 please respond to 3.4.1</b>				
3.4.1 Have areas for minimal intervention been identified that will deliver specific habitat objectives?	YES! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 4 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.5 Is there invasive species control actions and monitoring?	YES! Add 10 points	Ongoing. Add 7 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.6 Are there areas of partial tree or shrub cover created and maintained to encourage diversity of the forest structure? (not indiscriminately clearing all understorey strata)	YES! Add 8 points	Ongoing. Add 5 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.7 Existing Veteran trees are kept and managed	YES! Add 8 points	Ongoing. Add 6 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
<b>Only if you replied "No." to question 3.7 please respond to 3.7.1</b>				
3.7.1 Are there selected and conserved trees to become veteran trees in the future?	YES! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 3 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
3.8 Are suitable quantities and dimensions of deadwood left in place deliberately for habitat purposes? (not representing additional fire risk)	YES! Add 10 points	Ongoing. Add 7 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:

## B. Water

Question	Yes! Add 5 points	No. Add 5 points	Results (points added)	
4. Does the forest have water features? (river, stream, pond, lake, etc...)			Points:	
<b>Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 4. please respond to 4.1</b>				
4.1 Has consideration been given to riparian areas and have buffer areas been identified and established where appropriate?	YES! Add 10 points	Ongoing. Add 7 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
<b>Only if you replied "No." to question 4.1 please respond to 4.2</b>				
4.2 Is the Water retention potential from the forest considered?	YES! Add 7 points	Ongoing. Add 3 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
5. Have all opportunities to protect/restore forest wetlands and to increase flood storage been assessed?	YES! Add 10 points	Ongoing. Add 7 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
<b>Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 5. please respond to 5.1</b>				
5.1 Have protection/restoration of forest wetlands and to increase flood storage been acted upon?	YES! Add 10 points	Ongoing. Add 7 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:
6. With forestry works: Is there a suitable handling and storage policy for fuels, oils and other polluting substances in the forest? (To prevent water pollution)	YES! Add 10 points	No. Add 0 points	Points:	

## C. Soil

7. Are all forestry operations carried out in a manner that minimises soil disturbance to lowest possible level?	YES! Add <b>10</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:	
Only if you replied "NO!" to question 7. please respond to 7.1				
7.1 Are all forestry operations carried out in a manner that minimises soil erosion?	YES! Add <b>5</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:	
8. Have the soil properties been assessed in the forest?	YES! Add <b>8</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>4</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 8. please respond to 8.1				
8.1 Are your predominant forest tree species adapted/compatible with the characteristics of the soil?	YES! Add <b>10</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
9. Are roads and ways used and maintained in a way as to minimise erosion?	YES! Add <b>7</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:

## D. Economy

10. Has an assessment been carried out to estimate the annual sustainable yield potential of the forest?	YES! Add <b>9</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>4</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
11. Is the whole stand from the smallholding cut when harvesting?	YES! Add <b>8</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:	
Only if you replied "No." to question 11. please respond to 11.1				
11.1 What proportion of the yield is harvested from the forest? (for commercial purposes)	100 - 67% <b>10</b> points	66 - 34%. <b>7</b> points	33 - 0% <b>3</b> points	Points:
12. Is your forest multifunctional (obtention of different products like berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, etc)?	YES! Add <b>9</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>4</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
13. Are there suitable roads and ways that are properly maintained to ease forestry operations?	YES! Add <b>7</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>3</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
14. Are all forestry/harvesting operations conducted in an appropriate / sustainable way?	YES! Technically supported <b>10</b> points	Don't know Add <b>0</b> points	No. Do as always Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
15. Is the forest/smallholding managed within a larger forest management unit?	YES! Add <b>9</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>3</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 15. please respond to 15.1				
15.1 The work with neighbouring /surrounding forest smallholder is fruitful and satisfactory?	YES! Add <b>8</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>5</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
16. Is the forest management certified by any major certification referential? (e.g. FSC® , PEFC™)	YES! Add <b>10</b> points	Ongoing. Add <b>7</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:

## E. Society

<b>17. Safety, Health and Employment</b>			Results (points added)	
17.1 The forestry works and operations are implemented by the owner himself?	YES! Add <b>3</b> points	No. Add <b>8</b> points	Points:	
Only if you replied "NO!" to question 17.1. please respond to 17.1.1				
17.1.1 Are all workers suitably trained and do they operate in compliance with guidance in a frame of health and safety directives?	YES! Add <b>10</b> points	Assuming they do Add <b>2</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
<b>18. Entrepreneurship and Business development</b>			Results (points added)	
18.1 Does the forest contribute to support local enterprises (e.g. local forestry contractors, selling forest products)?	YES! Add <b>9</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
<b>19. Access to the forest for leisure / tourism</b>			Results (points added)	
19.1 Is public access provided to the forest for leisure and/or tourism purposes?	YES! Add <b>8</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 19. please respond to 19.1				
19.1 Is the forest crossed by trekking paths and visited by people?	YES! Add <b>5</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 19. please respond to 19.2				
19.2 Can the forest be considered "attractive" for leisure and tourism purposes?	YES! Add <b>6</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
Only if you replied "No" to question 19.2. please respond to 19.2.1				
19.2.1 Can the forest be made more attractive? (e.g. by planting native species along the paths)	YES! Add <b>5</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:
<b>20. Societal services</b>			Results (points added)	
20.1 Is the forest managed taking it account the expectations of the general public? (e.g. regulation of flooding, purification of air, landscape attractivity, provision of goods and services, climate change mitigation, hunting, etc)	YES! Add <b>8</b> points	Don't know. <b>0</b> points	No. Add <b>0</b> points	Points:

## F. Heritage

### 21. Historic features and monuments

Results (points added)

21.1 Are there any historic and cultural elements in the forest? (e.g. mills, fountains, bridges, etc)

YES! Add **5** points

Don't know. **0** points

No. Add **5** points

Points:

Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 21.1, please respond to 21.1.1

21.1.1 Are all historic and cultural elements identified and protected ?

YES! Add **8** points

Don't know. **0** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 21.1, please respond to 21.1.2

21.1.2 Are all people working in the forest aware of the historic features and protect them accordingly?

YES! Add **10** points

Assuming they do  
Add **2** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

## F. Fire and fire hazard

### 22. Fire hazard

Results (points added)

22.1 Is the forest managed in compliance with all appropriate regulatory prescriptions in regards to fire?

YES! Add **10** points

Ongoing. **4** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 22.1, please respond to 22.1.1

22.1.1 Is the forest managed to reduce fire risk? (preventing the occurrence of fire)

YES! Add **5** points

Ongoing. **3** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

Only if you replied "Yes!" to question 22.1, please respond to 22.1.2

22.1.2 Is the forest managed to reduce adverse consequences in case of a fire? (resilience post-fire)

YES! Add **5** points

Ongoing. **3** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

22.2 Is the forest management done in a larger territorial scale or just on the smallholding or plot?

Both **8** points

Territorial. **6** points

Plot **3** points

Points:

## G. Climate change

### 23. Adaptive management

Results (points added)

23.1 Are reviews of species suitability and diversity is considered as part of the management strategy over time?

YES! Add **7** points

Ongoing. **3** points

No. Add **0** points

Points:

## Results

Total points:

### How to use the tutorial:

- For each of the questions, find the appropriate response and write in the number of points into the rightmost column ["Results (points added)"]. If any question doesn't apply to your forest/management, don't write anything, leaving the respective cell empty (don't write '0'!).
- At the end of all questions, add all the points that you've annotated.
- Divide the resulting sum by the number of questions for which you have registered points (even if some had 0 points attributed). The result of the division should be between 0 and 10.

All done! Below, find the interpretation of your results.

Nr. Questions with  
registered points:

Divide!


Result:


Total points

=


Nr. Questions with  
registered points


### Results:

**0 – 2**  A lot of work lies ahead if you want to manage your forest sustainably! Please revisit the tutorial and think of what can be changed to attain a sustainable forest management. To get better knowledge about it, consider using the information on the Forest-IN website ([www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>).

**3 – 4**  Still a quite long way to go to make your forest sustainably managed. Consider revising your answers focusing on what can be done better, and on what needs to be done that isn't yet. Use the information on the Forest-IN website ([www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>).

**5 – 6**  Something is being done right, but still there is plenty of room for improvement!. Do the tutorial again, and try to find something more that your forest needs to be sustainable in its management. You can always use the information on the Forest-IN website ([www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>).

**7 – 8**  Well done! Still, surely there are some things that can still be done to improve the overall sustainable forest management. Try to find something in the tutorial that you missed and that can be implemented to enhance your forest and try to find something more that your forest needs to be sustainable in its management. All the information on the Forest-IN website ([www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>) are at your disposal.

**9 – 10**  Congratulations! Your forest is as close to be as sustainably forest managed as it can get. If you find there's still some improvements to make you can find all the needed information on the Forest-IN website ([www.forest-in.eu](http://www.forest-in.eu)), and especially on the APP(<http://www.forest-in.eu/action/forest-app>) and/or Observatory (<http://www.forest-in.eu/observatory>).