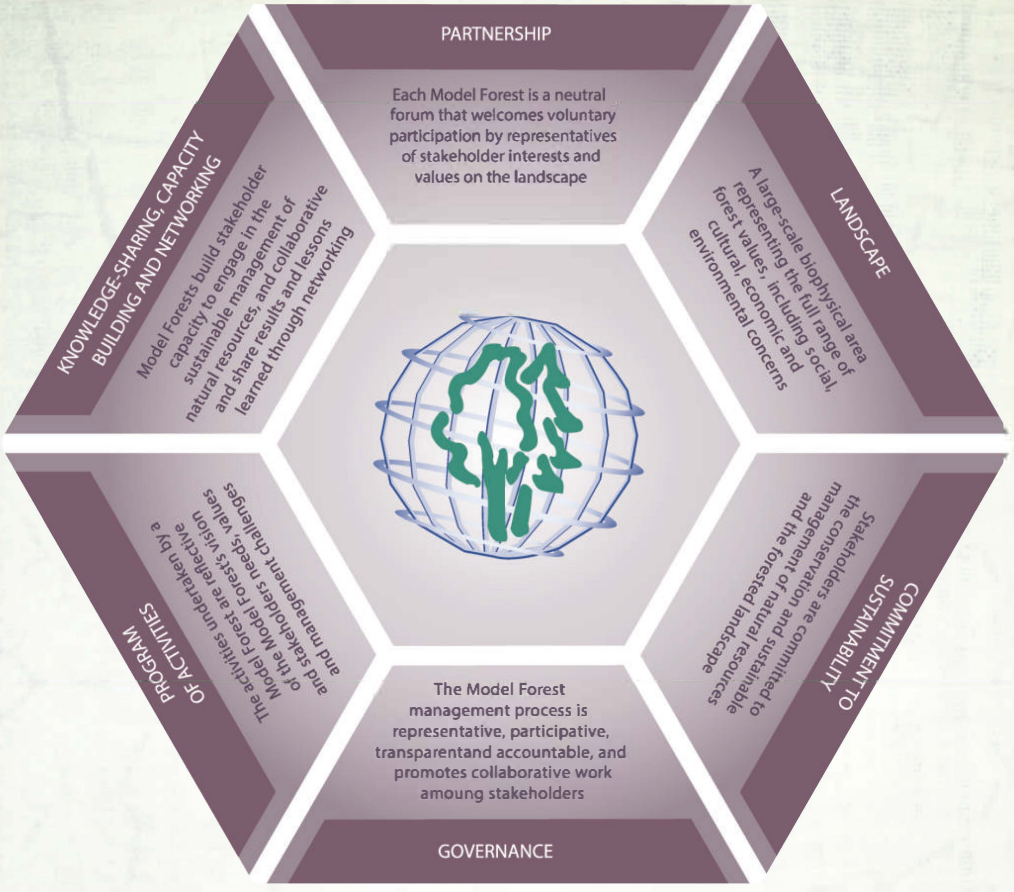
Tool V.

Key Questions for Assessing Your Model Forest Principles

Let's grow up together
Adriatic IPA
Cross Border Cooperation 2007-2013

Adriatic Model Forest

Co-financed by the European Union


PARTNERSHIP
Each Model Forest is a neutral forum that welcomes voluntary participation by representatives of stakeholder interests and values on the landscape
LANDSCAPE
A large-scale biophysical area representing the full range of forest values, including social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns
COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY
Stakeholders are committed to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the forested landscape
GOVERNANCE
The Model Forest management process is representative, participative, transparentand accountable, and promotes collaborative work amoung stakeholders
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
The activities undertaken by a Model Forest are reflective of the Model Forest's vision and stakeholders needs, values and management challenges
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING
Model Forests build stakeholder capacity to engage in the sustainable management of natural resources, and collaborative and share results and lessons learned through networking

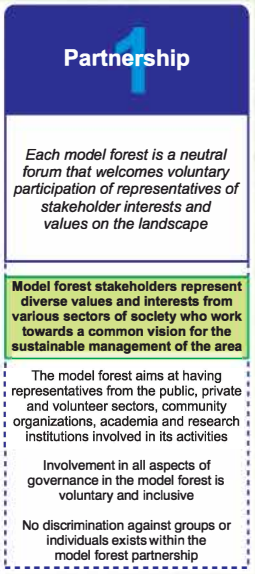
ASSESSING YOUR PARTNERSHIP

• Can most of the population access the Model Forest through a stakeholder who represents their principal activity, value or area of interest?

• Does your Model Forest have a diverse partnership of stakeholders who identify goals, set priorities and development targets, and establish policy guidelines for the overall program?

• Are any values or resource uses under-represented or not represented in your partnership?

• Are there stakeholders or other groups not currently involved that could help achieve your goals?



ASSESSING YOUR LANDSCAPE

• Does your landscape area contain significant forest and other natural resoures, including unique environmental features?

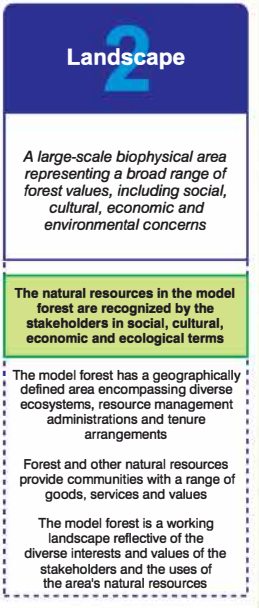
• Is your area reflective of social, cultural and other community considerations?

• Are a range of issues and values represented on the landscape?

• Is there a diversity of landscape types (ecosystems, land uses, etc.) within your area?

• Is your area reflective of your broader geographic region?

• Is there a clearly articulated rationale for the area selected?



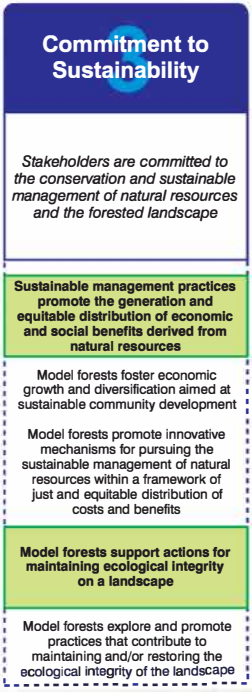
ASSESSING YOUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

• Does your partnership have an agreed-upon strategy for determining progress toward sustainability? Is there a commitment to developing and implementing this strategy?

• Does your partnership have a long-term commitment to the concept of sustainable development? Will it support research and technology transfer on the subject?

- Does your Model Forest have the support of national, regional and local authorities (public or private) with jurisdiction over the land and resources?

- Does your Model Forest's program relate to an overall national or regional forest plan?



ASSESSING YOUR GOVERNANCE

• Does your governance structure encourage, in practice, meaningful participation by the stakeholders?

• Is your Model Forest managed by a partnership of stakeholders representing a diversity of interests (e.g., industry, community groups, government agencies, non-governmental environmental and forestry groups, academic and educational institutions, national parks, Aboriginal groups, private landowners)?

• Is your Model Forest managed by consensus and is the decision-making structure transparent?

• Has your Model Forest established technical or advisory committees to develop your program and report to the stakeholder committee?

• Does your governance structure exclude or inhibit involvement by any groups?

• Are any values, resource uses or issues not represented or under-represented in your stakeholder group?

• Are there stakeholders or other groups not currently involved that could help achieve your identified goals?

• Do your stakeholders represent a diversity of interests? Stakeholders may include industry, community groups, government agencies, non-governmental environmental and forestry groups, academic and educational institutions, national parks, indigenous groups, private landowners and others.

• Does your governance structure demonstrate, in practice, methods of encouraging meaningful participation by stakeholders?

• Has your Model Forest established technical or advisory committees to develop your program and report to the stakeholder committee?

• What opportunities exist for stakeholder involvement in Model Forest decision-making, particularly for new groups?

• Does your governance structure include an effective means of involving new stakeholders over time?

• Does your governance structure exclude or inhibit involvement by any groups?

• Does your Model Forest have a committee of stakeholders that identifies goals for sustainable management, sets priorities and development targets, and establishes policy guidelines for the overall program?

• Can most of the population access the Model Forest through a stakeholder who represents their principal activity, value or area of interest?

• How can your Model Forest be organized to most effectively involve people, carry out its activities and achieve its strategic directions?

ASSESSING YOUR PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

- What is the vision of your Model Forest?

- What is the mission of you Model Forest?

• Does your Model Forest reflect the majority of local and national forest values as defined in a national forest program or similar documentation?

• Is your Model Forest concerned about the needs of local and indigenous people, as well as about the conservation and wise use of the forests and natural resources?

• In its programming, does your Model Forest consider the range of forest values identified as being important? Does it consider social, economic, ecological and historical dimensions of sustainable management of the forest-based landscape and natural resources?

• Does your Model Forest demonstrate the most environmentally appropriate management practices and techniques, and does it support, to the degree possible, scientific research and the application of new technologies?

• Does your Model Forest carry out education and training within the area to make local communities more aware of the program?

ASSESSING YOUR KNOWLEDGE SHARING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

• Do you make your commitment to knowledge sharing known through network activities, demonstration projects, linkages to other Model Forests and participation in global processes (e.g., the development and application of local-level indicators of sustainable forest management)?

• Will your Model Forest be an active partner in the IMFN and share experiences, successes and failures with other Model Forests?

Here are some questions to answer during the strategic analysis:

• What challenges do your stakeholders face concerning the sustainable management of the landscape? What are the common elements?

• What do your stakeholders require to be effectively involved in sustainably managing the forested landscape? What are the common elements?

• What sustainable development challenges currently exist on the Model Forest land base? What concerns do stakeholders have regarding the sustainable management of the land base?

• What are your country's and district's priorities in relation to the national forest program and natural resource management?

• What international agreements, treaties and conventions are of interest to or apply to your Model Forest?

• What constraints or impediments do you face to developing and operating an effective Model Forest?

• What do your stakeholders need or expect from their involvement in the Model Forest?

• What does the Model Forest want that it does not have (what are you trying to achieve)? What does the Model Forest want that is already present (what are you trying to preserve)? What does the Model Forest not have and not want (what are you trying to avoid)? What does the Model Forest have now that it does not want (what are you trying to eliminate)?

• Who is already working on areas that interest your Model Forest? What are they doing? Are they already involved in the Model Forest, or can they become involved?

• What is the potential niche or area of expertise for your Model Forest?