



## Survey on the Public Perspectives on Forests in Europe

Thank you for participating in our survey, which aims to explore the meaning of forests and forest restoration for the public.

This survey is led by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research WSL as part of the SUPERB-project ([forest-restoration.eu](http://forest-restoration.eu)) coordinated by the European Forest Institute. This survey is funded by the EU's Horizon-2020 program, grant agreement no. 101036849. SUPERB's overarching goal is to create an enabling environment for, and demonstrate, the large-scale restoration of forests and forest landscapes across Europe. This survey contributes to achieving this goal.

The survey comprises four sections, covering forests in general, ecosystem benefits, forest restoration, and statistical information such as gender, age, etc.

The information collected in the survey remains completely anonymous, and only aggregated data will be used for scientific publications and reports. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You are free to cancel your participation in the survey at any time. However, we would greatly appreciate it if you took 10 – 12 minutes to complete the survey.

If you have read and understood the purpose of this survey, please check the following boxes to confirm or decline:

I have read and understood the purpose of this survey. Yes/no

I agree to my answers being used for research purposes in this study. Yes/no

### How to Cite This Work

This questionnaire is a publicly available research output of the SUPERB project. If you use or reference this work, please cite it as follows:

Kazungu, M., Granberg, Å., Svensson, J., Dodan, M., Prugovečki, D., Zorić, M., Galić, Z., de Dios García, J., Torres, J., Oleagordia Montaña, I., Locatelli, T., Nicoll, B., Lindner, M., Schmidt, C., de Graaf, M., Olrik, D. C., Cioacă, I., Marušák, R., Vacchiano, G., & Hunziker, M. (2025). *Survey questionnaire for exploring public perspectives on forests and forest restoration*.



The following questions seek your general views of the forests in your local area.

#	Question	Response
1. a	In this survey, publicly available forests refers to any woodlands or forests that is open for members of the public to access. How often do you go to publicly accessible forests in your local area? <i>Your 'local area' refers to the area where you live, feel a sense of connection to, or feel responsibility for.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Not at all</li> <li>b) Less than once a month</li> <li>c) 1-3 times a month</li> <li>d) 1-2 times a week</li> <li>e) 3-7 times a week</li> </ul>
1.b	When you visit forests in your local area, what mode of transport do you mainly use to get to the forest? <i>Please choose the one that applies the most.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Private vehicle</li> <li>b) Public transportation (bus, train, etc.)</li> <li>c) Bicycle</li> <li>d) On foot</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>
1. c	How long does it take you, on average, to get from your home to the forests in your local area using the previously selected mean of transport?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Under 10 minutes</li> <li>b) 10-30 minutes</li> <li>c) 30 minutes -1 hour</li> <li>d) Longer than 1 hour</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Please drag the blue marker to the forest you visit most often.</b> <i>You can also use the search box to find a location and the blue marker will be positioned there.</i></p> <p>Once you are happy that the "drag me!" marker is positioned at the correct forest, please continue by clicking the forward arrow below.</p> <p>Drag me!</p>	
3	Are you aware of existing programmes and initiatives in your local area that aim to renew forests (including re-introducing plant or animal species)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Yes</li> <li>b) No</li> </ul>
4	Which, if any, of the following sources have you received information about the importance of forests and their benefits in your local area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Formal education (e.g. schools, universities)</li> <li>b) Forest-related organisations (e.g. forest professionals, forest owners' associations, forests certification bodies)</li> <li>c) Environmental organisations</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>d) Government agencies or forestry departments</li><li>e) Community events or workshops</li><li>f) Online resources or websites</li><li>g) Other (please specify)</li><li>h) I have not received any information</li></ul>
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The next section aims to find out your views on the benefits of forests to the whole society.

5. How important do you consider the following forest benefits for the *whole society* of your country? Please indicate on a scale from 0 (not at all important) to 10 (very important).

Benefits	Scale										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cooling temperature											
Air purification											
Water purification											
Natural hazard protection											
Wood production											
A source for food, medicinal herbs, and ornamental plants (e.g. Christmas trees, flowers and pine cones)											
A place for leisure time and recreation											
Habitat for biodiversity											

The next section aims to find out the *personal* benefits you derive from the forests in your local area.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

6. Forests in my local area are exceptionally beautiful.
1. Completely disagree
  2. Slightly disagree
  3. Neither agree nor disagree
  4. Slightly agree
  5. Completely agree
7. a) Forests are places where I enjoy spending leisure time, such as engaging in outdoor recreation activities, socialising, appreciating aesthetic views, exploring cultures and history, picking fruits or hunting.
1. Completely disagree
  2. Slightly disagree
  3. Neither agree nor disagree
  4. Slightly agree
  5. Completely agree

b) Please indicate which of the following leisure activities you enjoy in forests. *Select all that apply.*

- a. Outdoor recreation activities (walking, dog walking, running, hiking, cycling, horse riding, skiing, camping, picnicking)
- b. Socialising (connecting with other people, making friends, hanging out with friends and family)
- c. Appreciating aesthetic views (panoramic views of mountains, streams and waterfalls, scenic, colourful landscapes, and observing nature)



- d. Exploring culture and history (spiritual experience and enjoying peace and tranquillity)
- e. Picking fruits (berries) and mushrooms
- f. Hunting
- g. Other (please specify)

8. Forests are places that, in my opinion, offer valuable learning opportunities, e.g. getting to know different landscapes and animal and plant species.

- 1. Completely disagree
- 2. Slightly disagree
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree
- 4. Slightly agree
- 5. Completely agree

9. When I visit forests, I feel healthier.

- 1. Completely disagree
- 2. Slightly disagree
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree
- 4. Slightly agree
- 5. Completely agree

10. a) Forests are places where I harvest non-edible materials, such as firewood, timber, animal food, and ornamental plants (e.g. Christmas trees, flowers and pine cones).

- 1. Completely disagree
- 2. Slightly disagree
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree
- 4. Slightly agree
- 5. Completely agree

b) What non-edible forest products do you usually harvest?

- a) Firewood
- b) Wood for timber, incl. construction
- c) Food for animals
- d) Ornamental plants (Christmas trees, flowers and pine cones)
- e) Other (please specify)

11. a) Forests are places where I obtain medicinal herbs or food, such as berries and other edible fruits, mushrooms, wild meat and fish.

- 1. Completely disagree
- 2. Slightly disagree
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree
- 4. Slightly agree
- 5. Completely agree

b) What do you usually harvest? *Select all that apply.*

- a) Berries
- b) Other edible fruits
- c) Mushrooms
- d) Wild meat
- e) Fish



- |                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| f) Medicinal herbs<br>g) Other (please specify) |
|-------------------------------------------------|

12. Forests are places that I consider to be habitats for mammals, insects, birds and plants.

1. Completely disagree
2. Slightly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Slightly agree
5. Completely agree

13. a) Forests are places that, in my opinion, make an important contribution to the (human) quality of life, such as by purifying water and air or regulating temperature.

1. Completely disagree
2. Slightly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Slightly agree
5. Completely agree

b) Which of the following contributions to quality of life are particularly important to you?  
*Select all that apply.*

- |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Provides me with clean air<br>b) Improving water quality by purifying it<br>c) Cooling air temperature<br>d) Other (please specify) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

14. Forests are important to me as protection against natural hazards such as floods, soil erosion, storms, avalanches, etc.

1. Completely disagree
2. Slightly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Slightly agree
5. Completely agree



The following questions seek your views, particularly on forest restoration in your local area.

Forest restoration refers to actions to renew and improve damaged forests' health, structure, and functioning. It involves various activities such as planting trees, managing vegetation, controlling invasive species, or restoring natural processes to conserve and strengthen forest ecosystems.

15. How often, if at all, do you think forests in your local area are being managed in the following ways:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know
Re-foresting previously deforested areas.						
Reforestation of fallow agricultural land.						
Reforestation of formerly forested areas after natural disasters (e.g. fire, insect infestation or storms).						
Re-introduction of native tree species in the forests.						
Re-introduction of native animal species in the forests.						
Removal of invasive species.						
Introduction of fire breaks.						
Retention of deadwood in the forests (i.e. making sure that fallen trees and branches remain on the forest floor to decompose).						
Forest recovery through re-planting a mix of tree species.						
Improving forest connectivity (i.e. joining up separate small patches of woodland to make a bigger piece).						
Improving forest access for recreational purposes.						
Restriction on the harvesting of forest products.						
Reduction of fuel loads to minimise fire risk (i.e. removal of tree stands or materials that will ignite fire).						
Change in the type of forest management (e.g. change from monoculture plantations to mixed-species forestry; from clear-cutting to selective logging etc.) .						

16. a) To what extent are you willing to support initiatives in your local area to promote forest restoration?

1. Completely unwilling
2. Slightly unwilling
3. Neither unwilling nor willing
4. Slightly willing
5. Completely willing

b) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in support of forest restoration in your local area?



	Completely disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Completely agree
I would volunteer for tree planting and maintenance activities.					
I would participate in awareness campaigns about forest restoration.					
I would advocate for policies that promote forest restoration.					
I would engage in community initiatives to protect and restore forests.					
I would donate money to support forest restoration projects.					
I would support the use of taxpayers' money for forest restoration.					

17. What impact, if any, does forest restoration in your local area have on the following benefits?

*Select all that apply.*

	Significantly reduces	Moderately reduces	No significant impact	Moderately enhances	Significantly enhances	Don't know
Firewood						
Wood for timber						
Food for animals						
Ornamental plants (e.g. Christmas trees, flowers and pine cones)						
Berries						
Other edible fruits						



Mushrooms picking						
Habitat for species (Mammals, insects, birds)						
Beauty/aesthetics of the forests						
Cooler temperature						
Fresh air						
Clean water						
Space for hunting/fishing						
Space for outdoor recreation activities (walking, jogging, etc.)						
Space for social activities (playing with children, etc.)						
The aesthetic view						

18. The following questions are about your general views about nature.

	Completely disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Completely agree
I always find beauty in nature.					
I always treat nature with respect.					
Being in nature makes me very happy.					
Spending time in nature is very important to me.					
I find being in nature amazing.					
I feel part of nature					
I believe that my actions and commitment can significantly contribute to a healthy, natural environment.					



For statistical analysis, we kindly ask for some information about you.

#	Question	Response
19.	Are you currently working in one or more of the following professions? <i>Please select all that apply:</i>	a. Environment/nature protection b. Farming c. Forestry d. None of the above
20.	Are you a member of any organisations associated with the following areas? <i>Please select all that apply:</i>	a. Environment/Nature protection b. Farming c. Forestry d. None of the above
21.	How many years have you been living in your area? <i>Please give your answer to the nearest year.</i>	...?
22.	Do you own a forest?	a. Yes b. No
23.	Do any of your close relatives or friends own a forest?	a. Yes b. No c. Don't know

End of the survey.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



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Germany



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Dutch



Swedish\_Msurvey\_  
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Swedish



Italian\_Msurvey\_W  
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Italian



Serbian\_Msurvey\_  
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Serbian



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French



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Danish



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Spanish



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Croatian



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Romanian



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Czech

