

European Forest Institute

Grant process G-08-2025

Testing and evaluation of solutions for monitoring the state and multifunctionality of Europe's forests

Questions and answers

Published 20 January 2026

#	Question	Answer
1.	<p>Would the assessment and monitoring of relatively small but ecologically and culturally significant urban forests be considered eligible within the scope of this call?</p> <p>In this context, we are particularly interested in conducting a pilot study in Validebağ Grove, located in Istanbul, Türkiye. Although limited in spatial extent, the site represents a highly complex and multifunctional urban forest ecosystem with strong ecological, social and cultural relevance.</p> <p>For your reference, Validebağ Grove has the following characteristics:</p> <p>Validebağ Grove covers 35.4 hectares, making it one of the largest continuous green areas on the Asian side of Istanbul. Due to its size, biodiversity and ecosystem functions, the Grove provides multiple benefits to wildlife, the urban environment and local communities. It sequesters more than 3,000 tonnes of carbon annually (approximately 93 tonnes per hectare) and contributes to air quality by retaining around 921 tonnes of particulate matter each year.</p> <p>Located on important migration routes, the Grove hosts 200 of Istanbul's 2,000 herbaceous plant species, 130 of Türkiye's 485 winter bird species, and 31 of more than 400 butterfly species recorded nationally. In addition, it contains approximately 6,000 trees and shrubs across 101 species, including 12 monumental trees and 100 trees of conservation value.</p> <p>The Grove also encompasses significant cultural heritage assets, including registered and unregistered examples of civil architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries.</p> <p>Given these ecological, cultural and socio-environmental characteristics, we believe</p>	<p>We cannot pre-evaluate approaches, but you must follow the information and instructions in the grant submission guidelines.</p>

	<p>Validebağ Grove could serve as a meaningful case study for testing and evaluating approaches related to forest multifunctionality, particularly in urban and peri-urban contexts.</p> <p>We would highly appreciate your guidance on whether such a site would be considered eligible and relevant within the scope of this call.</p>	
2.	<p>I represent a private company that is a legal entity established in Cyprus. According to the call text, applicants must be established in <i>Central-East or South-East Europe as defined by Forest Europe</i>. Before preparing an application, we would like to confirm whether Cyprus is considered eligible under this regional definition for the purposes of this call. Could you please advise whether a Cyprus-based private company applying as a single legal entity would meet the geographical eligibility requirements?</p>	<p>Pre-assessment of an application is not possible.</p>