



SOCIAL PERMACULTURE - part 2 ASSESSMENT TOOL

LAYER TYPE - DIAGNOSTIC METHOD

A method to help groups orient their actions and understand their strengths and weaknesses using Permaculture Principles in relation to the CLIPS model. The Assessment Tool cuts across all the CLIPS layers, and is a diagnostic tool that completes the Social Permaculture & CLIPS Method and should therefore be used **after** the Orientation Table in part 1).

This Tool is currently in its **testing phase**, and we invite feedback from facilitators to the author's email address: <Lucilla@torri-superiore.org>.



Aims and Objectives

This method has the aims to:

- help the group identify the areas that need urgent attention
- unveil group dynamics that are not clearly visible using other tools
- open new perspectives and relate group processes to natural processes in the belief that “Nature is the Master”.



Time

About 90 minutes per session, depending on the group size.
More than one session may be needed to complete the whole process and analyze all Permaculture Principles in relation to the four CLIPS layers.



Materials Preparation

- The 12 Permaculture Principles cards
- The Social Permaculture Orientation table
- The Social Permaculture Assessment Tool
- Colored markers
- Sheets of paper and pencils for participants to take notes



Target audience

This method is aimed at groups that have a basic knowledge of Permaculture and want to explore the relations between group dynamics and the Permaculture Design Principles.



Number of Participants

Minimum 5 – maximum 30.



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Duration	Activity
10'	INTRODUCTION - FRAMING THE EXERCISE
15'	PRESENTING THE ASSESSMENT TOOL
5'	CREATING WORKING GROUPS
40'	APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES TO THE GROUP'S REALITY
20'	DEBRIEFING

INTRODUCTION

FRAMING- 10 MINUTES

This method can be used during a plenary session when the group wants to have fresh view on the internal dynamics using the Permaculture Principles, language and knowledge. It should be used after a session of work on the Orientation Table to set the basis for a deeper look into the group's dynamics.

The Assessment Tool supports the Clips Facilitator (who should be a Permaculture Design graduate) to identify areas of weakness or incoherence in the group.

It puts in close connection specific situations, behaviors or patterns that recur in the group when a Permaculture Principle is not applied, not present, or insufficient; it helps the group identify possible symptoms that the CLIPS Facilitator will address to meet the group's needs.

The Assessment Tool presents a scoring system that evaluates how often the symptom recurs (always - sometimes - never).

The most recurrent symptoms can be diagnosed as critical points, and will call for the most urgent attention.

SOCIAL PERMACULTURE ASSESSMENT TOOL

INSTRUCTION 1 - PRESENTING THE ASSESSMENT TOOL 15 MINUTES

After an introduction to Social Permaculture using the Orientation Table, the group can start using the Assessment Tool to analyze recurring behaviors and critical points. Reading the groups dynamics in terms of the long-term storing of energy will give us interesting information on where the group has an energetic deficit and what symptoms arise from this fault in its social design.

The Assessment Tool has been structured according to the four CLIPS layers in relation with the Permaculture principles; one or more behaviors have been identified and point to key indicators that highlight their effects on each layer. As several principles are closely related to each other, their effect on the group can be similar, and the table should be used with an organic approach to integrate the information we detect.

INSTRUCTION 2-CREATING WORKING GROUPS 5 MINUTES

The facilitator will divide the large group in 4 sub-groups, inviting the members to choose one CLIPS layer they would like to focus on .

He/she can also use systemic constellation and place a card with a symbol for each layer face down on the floor, asking people to group around them.

INSTRUCTION 3 - APPLYING THE ASSESSMENT TOOL TO THE GROUP 40 MINUTES

This analysis cuts across all the 4 CLIPS layers in relation to each of the principles.

All the principles have been analyzed and specific symptoms have been identified for each layer; some are closely related but have a slightly different angle. Two pairs of principles have been unified (2&3 and 8&10), and two others have been added (Multiple Functions and Multiple Elements) as both have relevant impact on group dynamics.

The Assessment is organized in 3 columns:

Symptom when principle is not applied,
Permaculture Principles,
Level of Recurrence.

Each group will focus on the 12 described symptoms in relation with a specific Principle, and discuss how each of them impacts the group's context. For some symptoms more than one Principle can apply, and this is marked with a star *.

The facilitator can ask questions to stimulate the discussion:

- can you identify this critical point in the group?
- how often does it manifest itself?
- how is it related to the Principle?

Each symptom should receive a score, and each group should complete the 12 points during the exercise, writing the total at the bottom of the column.



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INSTRUCTION 4 - DEBRIEFING 20 MINUTES

Each group is invited to share their work on the layer they choose, starting from the Individual. They can make a visual representation of the result with a chart or a mind map to highlight the areas and layers that need more urgent attention.

When all groups have presented their work, the general picture will offer a permaculture perspective on the group reality, and the CLIPS facilitator will help address the critical points.

In the next steps, the CLIPS methods will be applied and Permaculture Principles will offer a reference to keep the group on track.

RELATION TO THE CLIPS MODEL

This diagnostic tool looks at the group as an integrated system and analyzes its internal dynamics based on the Permaculture Design / Social permaculture approach. The Social Permaculture & CLIPS Assessment aims at revealing how the lack of each principle can impact each of the layers.

This method is largely experimental and requires the facilitator to have a good knowledge and practice both of CLIPS and of Permaculture Design.

FACILITATION TIP: The Social Permaculture Assessment Tool can also be used individually as a preparation for the group work. Handing out the Tool before the session can give people time to reflect and make connections with Permaculture, a discipline that may not be familiar to them. Sharing the individual analysis should happen in layer-focused groups to avoid dispersion and identify specific critical points.

This tool works best when at least some group members have received a Permaculture training, and the group is inclined to work with this powerful, and complex, discipline.

Here you can find an example of the first page of the Assessment Tool.
The complete version is a six-page document, available for download here:
<https://clips.gen-europe.org/permaculture-clips-assessment-tool/>

PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES & CLIPS MODEL APPLIED TO GROUPS - EVALUATION				
Created by Lucilla Borio and Gloria Gelmi - Use permitted, quoting the authors. For information: permaclips@mail.com				
CLIPS LEVEL: INDIVIDUAL				
SYMPTOMS AND CRITICAL POINTS WHEN THE PRINCIPLE IS NOT APPLIED	PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Lack of interest and trust for sharing needs or personal problems: people feel alone and this is not recognized. Little empathy.	1 - <i>Observe, perceive and interact</i>			
People avoid each other; lack of eye or physical contact, humor or shared vocabulary.				
Members feel tired, exhausted, depressed.	2 - <i>Catch and store energy</i>			
Little time is dedicated to rewarding activities, parties and celebrations.	3 - <i>Obtain a yield</i>			
Lack of self-observation and self-criticism.	4 - <i>Apply self-regulation and accept feedback</i>			
Some personal behaviors are perceived as excessive / annoying and this creates tensions.				
Lack of regenerative practices on a personal level (e.g. rest, yoga, meditation, sport, relaxation).	5 - <i>Use and value renewable resources and services</i>			
Problems with personal communication and behavior patterns (eg. passive-aggressive).	6 - <i>Produce no waste or pollution.</i>			
Lack of attention to one's personal behavior and how it affects the community.	7 - <i>Design from patterns to details</i>			
The personal vision and needs are not consistent with the collective ones; there is no desire to give up personal privileges to cultivate the common good.				
Group members have difficulty to listen to themselves and their own deep needs; they do not recognize or connect their different parts and needs; emotions are repressed.	8 - <i>Integrate rather than segregate</i>			
Impulsive behavior, sometimes perceived as arrogant, or radical personal choices which generate impatience in the group.	9 - <i>Use small and slow solutions</i>			
It is assumed that information is equally shared and understood, and that individual skills are valued and balanced.				
Poor or absent collective meditation practices, or emotional sharing or co-listening in place.	10 - <i>Use and value diversity</i>			

