

Implementation of PES Policy-Implementable actions taken

In order to protect and manage natural resources for sustained production of Eco-System services, address the impacts of climate change on such services and for generating traditional economic incentives to the communities for conserving natural Eco Systems, GoHP has adopted the policy to institutionalize payment of Eco-System Services (PES) and Eco-System approaches as instruments of sustainable development. Drawing on the experiences on PES like examples in historical past as well as some recent PES like pilots commissioned by the HPFD, GoHP has notified in November 2013, a PES policy after detailed discussion within the department as well as with other stakeholders.

The Forest department is now poised to implement this PES policy for which detailed **Operational Guidelines** have been formulated and are in the final stage of discussion at the Government level. The salient features of these guidelines include:

1. Setting up a Corpus for payments to communities generating the ecosystem services and identification of sources for forming the PES corpus.
2. Prioritization of activities connected with Ecosystem Services like Forest & Biodiversity conservation and Watershed values, for initial piloting of the PES policy and better targeting of available resources.
3. Outlining Criteria & Indicators for the Ecosystem services & their periodic monitoring
4. Service delivery mechanism, Structuring agreements & Fund flow mechanism
5. Expansion of the concept in the future to include additional Ecosystem services, generation of other resources & means for ES payments, introduce more vibrant & direct ES buyer-ES provider interface etc.

Once these guidelines are approved by the Government, the implementation of PES program would be undertaken, initially through pilots (ES-wise), by the HPFD and necessary Institutional mechanisms and Implementation Structure at the Village, Forest Circle/Division & State level, would be put in place as per provisions of these Guidelines, to ensure effective implementation.
