

Water source of Patshaling, Tsirang Dzongkhag (Gem Tshering)

Rangzhin Thakor Zhabtog Lachha Troedhey Thungchhu Yuenten Zhagthab (རང་བཞིན་མཐའ་སྐྱོར་ཞབས་ཏེག་སྐྱ་ཆ་སྟོན་འདི་འཐུང་ཆུ་ཕུན་བཟླ་བ་ཞུས།)

water user groups were formed with a chair and committee, and these created tight by-laws. Once every three months, the chairman inspects the water source's cleaning process – for which the workers receive compensation. The land users work in groups to preserve the water source and the surroundings, and they are paid annually. Each year, the groups must plant trees on an acre of land (0.4 ha) close to the water supply. Monitoring and evaluation of the PES are conducted twice a year - in June and in December- by the officials from Dzongkhag, Municipal, Thromde and Forest Division. After a successful evaluation, they sign a form which is essential to ensure the annual budget for the PES. Since the water source is in Thakorling, the land users' permission was crucial to supply water to other locations. Many initially opposed the notion of sharing the water source because they believed it would one day result in a water shortage in their own region. But consultations helped them change their minds. Officials gave them assurances that should a water crisis emerge in the Thakorling area, the municipality and Thromde vowed to provide them with water at any cost. Almost everyone accepted the agreement though there are still a small number of people who disagree.



Consultation meeting with the Gewog leaders regarding the PES (Gem Tshering)



Water source (Gem Tshering)

To protect the water source and maintain continuous supply of clean water to 7 geogs, Damphu Municipality and other institutions.

To protect the water source and distribute water to areas where there is a scarcity.

- / / : The land users were willing to share the water source with the other users.
- : The funds required to implement this plan were all provided by the government.
- : Groups were formed to protect water source.
- / : The land users worked collectively when they had to clean and carry out maintenance works.
- (): PES group formed for ten years with agreement signed between Parties (Service Providers and Service Users).
- : Section 47 of Forest Act 2023 provides support for the establishment of PES.
- () : Market and price is determined by the agreement signed between Service Providers and Service Users.
- : Workload is eased by the presence of other land users (availability of manpower).
- / / : Some land users were against this idea as they thought they might face water scarcity in the community in the future.

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| / | Land users | Land users formed groups to protect, manage and conserve forests under the ecosystem services. |

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| Thromde, Municipal and Divisional Forest Office. | Thromde, Municipal and Divisional Forest Office. | Conduct PES meetings, allocate budget and monitor and evaluate the activities carried out by the land users. |
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Considering the water crisis in Tsirang and recognising the importance of forests in providing goods and services the Divisional Forest Office (DFO) introduced Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme in August 2017.

Both land users and government officials were involved while establishing the approach.

ES providers, Thakorling Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) and Khuchi-Darachhu CFMG protect, manage and conserve forests under the ecosystem services. ES users pay for all the activities undertaken by ES providers. Divisional Forest Office looks after the overall conduct of activities in the PES scheme.

Divisional Forest Office and land users were involved.

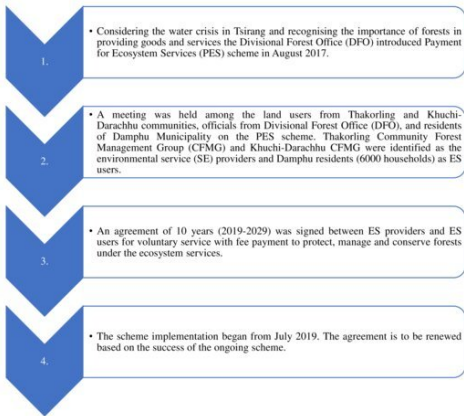


Fig.1. Inception of PES scheme

: Tshering Yangzom

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| <div><div>✓</div><div></div><div></div></div> | Divisional Forest Office and Damphu Municipality in consultation with the land users. | |

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Both men and women are in the groups of ES providers.

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The approach is focused on forest management and conservation and it positively showcases the benefits of managing and protecting the forests.

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ES providers get some amount from the ES users and this amount increases the access to financial resources. Improved access to financial resources in turn increases the access to improved food or nutrition.

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ES users have access to clean and continuous water.

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This approach encourages afforestation, reduced overgrazing or clearing of vegetation which can indirectly be related to fighting climate change in small ways.

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The land users are able to generate income through their environmental services to the ES users.

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PES scheme is sustainable without external support as long as the ES providers keep on providing environmental services and the ES users pay for the services. Also, this scheme promotes the different practices of protecting, managing and conserving forests such as afforestation, guarding against illegal extraction of forest resources, and limiting the number of cattle which are all sustainable practices.

- Improved access to financial resources.
- Deepening of SLM knowledge of the land users because of different sustainable forest management practices carried out.
- Sustainable PES scheme as the fund is generated by the ES users with no reliance on external funding.

- Since the land users plant trees each year and have strict rules and regulations to protect the environment, it helps in environmental conservation.
- Help preserve natural resources and educate the local people on how to protect the continuous flow of water from the sources.

- Water shortage during winter season. The land users have constructed water harvesting ponds.
 - Disagreements in the implementation of plans during the initial period. Held meetings to clear the confusion and solve the disagreements.
- / / :
- Dispute among the members. Through discussions
 - Water crisis in the near future as the land users share water from a single source. Protect the water source and use water wisely.



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https://qcat.wocat.net/km/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_6862/

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- National Soil Services Center, Department of Agric (National Soil Services Center, Department of Agric) -
 - Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting – GEF 7 EA Umbrella II (GEF 7 UNCCD Enabling Activities_Umbrella II)
- Protecting the water source of Damphu town through PES scheme: <https://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=118173#:~:text=Beginning%20this%20month%2C%20the%20residents,forest%20of%20the%20two%20chiwogs.>
 - Payment for Environmental Services scheme established in Tsirang: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=payment%20for%20environmental%20service%20established%20in%20Tsirang%202019>

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