

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM (PES) SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Can any type of forests be proposed under this scheme?

No. Only Natural Forests can be proposed. Natural Forests means those forest that do not have any commercial plantation or mono cropping (like arecanut, Pine tree, Sal plantation, cashewnut plantation, coffee, rubber etc.).

2) I/we have large plot of land under Natural Forest and I/we want to be part of this PES scheme but do not know the exactly area that we have. What should I/we do?

If you do not know the exact area of the land under Natural Forest that you wish to propose, you can still go ahead and apply for the PES scheme. You can provide a rough estimate of the size of the forest in the application form. A team will be sent later by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) to check and measure the size of the forest.

3) My forest has a cemetery or has a sacred place for performing religious rituals inside it. Is it still eligible

Yes it is eligible as long as the forest is natural forest.

4) By participating in this program, will I/we lose ownership over the forest?

No. There will be no change in ownership of the forest.

5) The guideline says to conserve the forest for a minimum of 30 years to be eligible under this scheme. Will the financial support also be given every year for 30 years?

No, the financial support is for 5 years. However, to be eligible for this support under PES scheme, you will have to commit to conserve the forest for at least 30 years.

6) What happens after 5 years when the PES scheme is over?

For those owners and users of forest who are able to conserve their forest well under this scheme, the government under the PES scheme will facilitate linkage of other national and international markets so that you can continue to get payment in the future.

7) I/we am/are the sole owner of the forest. However, there are households from the village that uses this forest for their daily needs. Will the benefits from PES be mine/ours alone?

No.

The PES scheme is meant to reduce dependency on natural forests so that they can be conserved for many years into the future. If the benefits from PES are not shared with all users who are dependent on your forest for day-to-day living, then they will have no choice but to continue to use the forest. This will make it difficult to conserve it, which will lead to your disqualification under this PES scheme. **However, if there are no other users of the forest that you own, then the benefits can be retained by you.** The benefits can be shared as explained in Question 9 below.

8) I am the Nokma and I own the forest but I have allotted to my community for their daily requirements. Will I get the complete benefits of the financial reward or do I need to share it with my community?

The benefits will have to be shared with all the users of the forest. As mentioned in the previous question, if the benefits are not shared with those who are dependent on your forest for survival,

then they will continue to use the forest which will make it difficult to conserve it and hence can lead to disqualification under the scheme. The benefits received will have to be shared with all users or dependents of the forest as explained in Question 9 below.

9) I am the Hima/Raid and the forest is under my control. However, the households living in villages near the forest use the forest for their daily needs. Do I need to share the PES benefits with the users?

Yes, the benefits will have to be shared with all the users of the forest. As mentioned in question 6, if the benefits are not shared with those who are dependent on your forest for survival, then they will continue to use the forest which will make it difficult to conserve it and hence can lead to disqualification under the scheme. The benefits received will have to be shared with all users or dependents of the forest as explained in Question 6 below.

10) What is the share of owner & users of forests from the financial support received?

A part of the PES fund given to you is meant for taking up activities as prescribe in the guidelines. For the remaining amount, the owner and the users of the forests can collectively decide how the benefits can be shared amongst themselves.

11) What documents can be submitted as proof of ownership?

Any of the following documents can be submitted:

- a. Patta
- b. Land registration certificate issued by the Government
- c. Sale Deed
- d. Gift Deed
- e. Deed of Declaration
- f. Power of Attorney
- g. Consideration to Sale
- h. Lease Deed

12) Our village owns 250 ha of forests, how much financial reward per year will I/we get under this scheme?

I. In the case of Forest owned by Villages or Communities or Clans

- a. As indicated in the Guidelines, for forest owned by Villages or Communities or Clans, for the first 50 hectares you will get Rs. 8,000 per hectare per year. For the next 50 hectares you will get 50% of this amount, which is equal to Rs. 4,000 per hectare per year. For any additional forest land after this, you will get 25% of the above amount which is equal to Rs. 2,000 per hectare per year. Therefore, for 250 hectare of land, the total amount you can get per year is as follows:

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}8,000 = \text{Rs. } 4,00,000/-$$

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}4,000 = \text{Rs. } 2,00,000/-$$

$$\underline{150 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs. } 2,000 = \text{Rs. } 3,00,000/-}$$

$$\textbf{Total: 250 hectare} \quad \quad \quad \textbf{= Rs. 9,00,000/-}$$

- b. In addition to the above amount, if the forest is registered as a Community Reserve then you will get additional amount of Rs. 5,000 for the first 50 hectare, Rs. 2,500 for the next 50 hectare and Rs 1,660 for any additional area. For 250 hectares, the total benefits per year will be as follows:

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}5,000 = \text{Rs. } 2,50,000/-$$

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}2,500 = \text{Rs. } 1,25,000/-$$

$$\underline{150 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs. } 1,660 = \text{Rs. } 2,49,000/-}$$

$$\textbf{Total: 250 hectare} \quad \quad \quad \textbf{= Rs. 6,24,000/-}$$

- c. Lastly, if your forest is very dense forest or is traditionally recognised as a Sacred Grove or has Living Root Bridge or is located in eco-sensitive zones around protected areas, then you will get an additional amount Rs. 2,000 for the first 50 hectare, Rs. 1,000 for the next 50 hectare and Rs 500 for any additional area. For 250 hectares, the total benefits per year will be as follows:

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}2,000 = \text{Rs. } 1,00,000/-$$

$$50 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs.}1,000 = \text{Rs. } 50,000/-$$

$$\underline{150 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs. } 500 = \text{Rs. } 75,000/-}$$

$$\textbf{Total: 250 hectare} \quad \quad \quad \textbf{= Rs. 2,25,000/-}$$

Hence if eligible, the minimum amount that you will get for 250 hectare of forest is **Rs.9,00,000/- per year** and the maximum that you can get is **Rs.17,49,000/- per year**.

II. In the case of Individually owned forest

- a. For forests that are owned by individuals, the amounts that can be availed is as follows:

For first 25 hectares : Rs.8000 per hectare per year

For next 25 hectares : Rs.4,000 per hectare per year

Any additional area above 50 hectare : Rs.2,000 per hectare per year

- b. In addition to this, if the forest is registered as community reserve with Forest Department, the following amount can be availed:

For first 25 hectares : Rs.5000 per hectare per year

For next 25 hectares : Rs.2,500 per hectare per year

Any additional area above 50 hectare : Rs.1,660 per hectare per year

- c. Lastly, if the forest is very dense forest or is traditionally recognised as a Sacred Grove or has Living Root Bridge or is located in eco-sensitive zones around protected areas, then the following amount can be availed:

For first 25 hectares : Rs.5000 per hectare per year

For next 25 hectares : Rs.2,500 per hectare per year

Any additional area above 50 hectare : Rs.1,660 per hectare per year

- d. Therefore, if eligible, the minimum amount that can be availed for an individually owned forest of 250 hectare is **Rs.7,00,000/- per year** and the maximum amount is **Rs.13,94,500/- per year**

13) If the forest is already registered before applying for this scheme, will I/we get the additional amount of Rs. 5,000?

Yes, existing registered forest will be eligible to get the additional amount as per the guidelines as follows:

In the case of Villages, Communities and Clans

For first 50 hectares : Rs.5000 per hectare per year
 For next 50 hectares : Rs.2,500 per hectare per year
 Any additional area above 100 hectare : Rs.1,660 per hectare per year

In the case of Individuals

For first 25 hectares : Rs.5000 per hectare per year
 For next 25 hectares : Rs.2,500 per hectare per year
 Any additional area above 50 hectare : Rs.1,660 per hectare per year

14) My/our forest is not registered as Community Reserve and I/we want to apply for registration. Where can I/we do that?

For registration of your forest as a Community Reserve, you can visit any of the following offices of the Wildlife Division of the State Forest Department:

| Sl. No | Name of Division | Sl. No. | Name | Name & Address of Range | Jurisdiction | Contact |
|--------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Khasi Hills Wildlife Division, Shillong | 1 | Shri Leening S J Wahlang | Headquarter Range Address- Forest Management Building, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong | Whole East Khasi Hills District except Mawlai C & RD Block | 9436998440 shillongrohqwildlife@gmail.com |
| | | 2 | Shri Leening S J Wahlang | Nongpoh Range Address- Nongpoh Wildlife Range, Near o/o DFO, Social Forestry, Nongpoh | Whole Ri-Bhoi District except Bhoirymbong C & RD Block | 9436998440 wildlifengpoh@gmail.com |
| | | 3 | Smti Evanylla Iangap Mawrie | Lum Nehru Park Address- Near Water Sport Complex, Orchid Hotel, Umiam, Ri-Bhoi District. | Mawlai C & RD Block (East Khasi Hills District) and Bhoirymbong C & RD Block (Ri-Bhoi District) | 9436998464 ronehruparkwildlife@gmail.com |
| | | 4 | Smti Yoowandak a Najjar | Nongstoin Range Address- Mawiaban, Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills | West Khasi Hills District and Eastern West Khasi Hills District | 9436998481 lhp.zoorange@gmail.com |
| | | 5 | Smti Yoowandak a Najjar | Nongstoin Range Address- Wildlife Beat Office, Opp. District | South-West Khasi Hills District | 9436998481 wildlifensr@gmail.com |

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|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| | | | | Court, South West Khasi Hills | | |
| 2 | Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division, Jowai | 1 | Shri Shanbormiki Law | Umkiang Range & Jowai Range | Jaintia Hills | 9862872890 |
| 3 | East & West Garo Hills (WL) Division, Tura | 1 | Shri Suman B Marak | Park & Protection Range Tura | | 8787592564 |
| | | 2 | Smti Jezebeld N Areng | Daddengre Range | | 9612470235 jezebeldareng@gmail.com |
| | | 3 | Smti Annie Valentina Ch Marak | Northern Nokrek Range & Williamnagar Protection Range | | 9612401003 anniemark2@gmail.com |
| | | 4 | Shri Chagla M Sangma | Southern Nokrek Range | | 8011341767 |
| 4 | Balpakram National Park Division, Baghmara | 1 | Shri Chingseng Claya Momin | Mahadeo Wildlife Range P.O Mahadeo P.S Rongara South Garo Hills | | 98622 11292 cgm06400@gmail.com |
| | | 2 | Shri Grahambell Sangma | Siju Wildlife Range P.O Siju P.S Baghmara South Garo Hills | | 93662 57794 grahambellsangma331@gmail.com |
| | | 3 | Shri Greenfield Ch. Marak | Baghmara Wildlife Range P.O & P.S Baghmara South Garo Hills | | 7005867143 gfield304@gmail.com |
| | | 4 | Shri Chingseng Claya Momin | Rongara Wildlife Range P.O & P.S Rongara South Garo Hills | | 98622 11292 cgm06400@gmail.com |
| | | 5 | Shri Chingseng Claya Momin | Chimitap Independent Beat P.O & P.S Rongara South Garo Hills | | 98622 11292 cgm06400@gmail.com |

15) Will I/we lose ownership of my/our forest if we register it as a Community Reserve?

No. There will be no change in ownership.

16) If my/our forest is already registered with District Council, can I/we register again with Forest Department?

Yes

17) How do I/we know if my/our forest is dense?

The density of the forest will be determined by the office of MBMA using the data from the Forest Survey of India (FSI)

18) How do I/we know if my/our forest is located in an Eco-sensitive zone?

This will be determined by MBMA using data of the Forest Department

19) For all the activities mentioned, do I/we have to submit utilisation certificate?

Utilization Certificates need to be provided only for the activities undertaken by you. Once you receive this fund, the following documents are required to be maintained by you and submitted to the office.

- a. **Acknowledgement Receipt:** This document has to be filled, signed and submitted by you upon receiving the funds in your account. The document states that you have received the funds under this scheme. A standard format will be shared for you to fill and submit
- b. **Statement of expenditure:** Once the funds have been utilised, you will have to submit a statement which lists down all the items or activities where the funds have been spent.
- c. **Vouchers and Bills:** These are all the bills, vouchers, receipts etc. that is given by the vendor/seller of items you have bought or services you have engaged, using this fund. Ensure to collect bills for every item or activity that you have paid money.

20) Once I/we become part of this program, can we withdraw from this program before 30 years?

Yes, you can withdraw from this scheme at any time before 30 years. However, upon withdrawal, you will lose all current and future benefits. Further, depending on the circumstances of withdrawal, you may also no longer be able to participate in future similar schemes that would be given to other interested villages instead.

21) Is penalty going to be imposed if I/we violate the agreement to conserve the forest under this scheme?

No, there will be no penalty imposed. However, if any party is found to have broken the agreement, they will no longer be eligible for financial support under this scheme nor will they be eligible to participate in future similar schemes.

22) In my forest I/we have some commercial plantation, will it be eligible?

No, if the forest contains commercial plantations within it, then it will be ineligible. However, if the commercial plantation is confined to very specific area, then only the other parts of the forest that are Natural Forest and do not have any plantation, can be considered, provided the total area of the Natural Forest is at least 5 hectares.

23) I have a plot of land for on which some parts have commercial plantations while other parts are natural forest. Am I eligible?

Only the parts of the land that are Natural Forests can be considered, provided the total area of natural forest is at least 5 hectares

24) My forest land is less than 5 hectares. Can I participate?

If your forest land area is lesser than 5 hectares, you can club you land with other owners of forest land to reach the 5 hectares and jointly apply for the scheme as a group. Please note though that this can be done only if the lands are near to one another.

25) If we apply as a group, in whose name should we apply?

The group can apply in any 1 (one) of the group members' name and can provide 1 (one) bank account number to which the funds would be transferred. The application should clearly mention the area of land that each member of the group owns to ensure the share of benefits is clear.