

GRASSROOT LEVEL RESPONSE TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT AND NURTURING (GREEN) MEGHALAYA 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 (like arecanut, Pine tree, Sal plantation, cashewnut plantation, coffee, rubber etc.). However, exceptions will be given to secondary forests and grasslands that are registered or in the process of registration as Community Reserve with the State Forest department.

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 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 10](#) 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 10** below.

- 9) I am the Hima/Raid and the forest is under my control. However, several villages near the forest depend on the forest for their daily needs. Do I need to share the PES benefits with these villages?

Yes, the benefits will have to be shared with all the users of the forest. 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 10** below. In case more than one village is dependent on the forest, and getting the list of all dependent households is not practical, then the Hima or Raid can share the benefits with the Dorbars of the respective villages while ensuring that this benefit is passed on to the users of the forest.

- 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
- i. Undertaking from the village authority

- 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:

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

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

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

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

- b. In addition to the above amount, if the forest is notified as a Community Reserve with the State Forest Department or covered under Working Scheme with the Autonomous District Councils (ADC), 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 1,250 for any additional area. For 250 hectares, the total benefits per year will be as follows:

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

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

$$\underline{150 \text{ hectare} \times \text{Rs. } 1,250 = \text{Rs. } 1,87,500/-}$$

$$\text{Total: } 250 \text{ hectare} = \text{Rs. } 5,62,500/-$$

- 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:

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

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

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

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

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.16,87,500/- 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 or covered under Working Scheme with ADC, 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.1,250 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.1,250 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.13,12,500/- 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.1,250 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.1,250 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 Bhoiymbong C & RD Block	9436998440 wildlifenongpoh@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 Bhoiymbong C & RD Block	9436998464 ronehruparkwildlife@gmail.com

					(Ri-Bhoi District)	
		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 Court, South West Khasi Hills	South-West Khasi Hills District	9436998481 wildlifensr@gmail.com
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 anniemarak2@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	Chimitap Independent Beat P.O & P.S Rongara South Garo Hills		98622 11292 cgm06400@gmail.com

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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) My forest is not covered under Working Scheme. How do I apply for Working Scheme?

You can submit a letter to the Autonomous District Council (ADC) indicating your interest to apply for working scheme, indicating the size and location of the area you are applying for. The letter can be given to the CLLMP office for submission to the ADC

18) What is a Working Scheme?

A working scheme is a plan of activities to be carried out to sustainably manage a forest and to judiciously harvest or use forest resources including timber.

19) 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)

20) 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

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

Utilization Certificates need to be provided for all the activities undertaken where the funds from PES has been used. 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.

22) 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.

23) 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.

24) 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.

25) 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

26) 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.

27) 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.

28) I have a forest that is natural. However, I am growing pepper or betel leaf or other creepers that does not affect the trees in the forest. Is my forest eligible to apply?

Yes, forest where horticulture creeper crops like pepper, betel leaf, peas etc. are grown, that do not require clearing of trees or tilling of the forest soil, such forests are eligible for PES.

29) If I sell part of the forest which is supported under this PES scheme, will I still get the PES benefits for the remaining part of the forest.

If part of the land supported under PES is withdrawn from the scheme, then it will no longer be eligible for support under this scheme and this may extend to future similar scheme depending on the circumstances of withdrawal. For the remaining land, it will be re-evaluated against other pending applications for support under this scheme on a merit basis.

30) Can I apply without registering for Community Reserve with the Forests Department or without being covered under Working Scheme under the ADC?

Yes, however, you will not get the additional benefit Rs.5,000 which is meant only for forests that are notified or in the process of getting notified or forest that are covered under Working Scheme or in the process of applying for Working Scheme.

31) If I want to apply for notification of the forest as Community Reserve with the Forests Department or for Working Scheme through the ADCs, can I submit the registration certificate at a later date post submission of the PES application?

Yes, you can submit the PES application form without the Registration Certificate. Once you apply for registration you will have to submit a copy of the Receipt issued by the Forests Department or by the ADC to our office.

32) I do not have a bank account. Can I open one later after I have been selected under the scheme?

Yes, an account can be opened later upon successful selection under the scheme.

33) Do I need to take NOC of the Nokma if the land I am applying for PES is A'king land?

Yes, the consent of all stakeholders is necessary for application for PES. The NOC will act as proof that there is no conflict on the land you are applying for PES.

34) I am a forest owner but I am also a Govt Employee, can I be a beneficiary to this scheme?

Yes, government employees are also eligible to participate in this scheme.

35) What activities can be taken up in the forest once supported under this scheme?

There are many activities that can be taken up in forests supported under this scheme which will lead to improvement of the forest. However, certain activities that are detrimental to the forest are prohibited. The list of permissible and prohibited activities are given in the PES Guidelines.

36) Can Secondary forests receive support under this scheme?

Yes, Secondary forests can be supported provided the it is notified as Community Reserve or has applied for notification as Community Reserve with the State Forest Department.

37) My land is already registered with the Autonomous District Council. Will I get the additional benefit of Rs. 5000?

No. The additional benefit of Rs. 5,000 is only for Community Reserve or Forest covered under Working Scheme.

38) Can barren land be applied under this scheme if conservation is done?

No. Barren lands are not natural forests.

39) If I have less than 5ha and I combine with another person to make 5ha and I wish to register with the Forests Department, but the other person is unwilling to get his land notified as Community Reserve or apply for Working Scheme. Will I still get the additional benefit of Rs.5000 for registration?

Yes, the additional benefit will be provided, but only for the plot of land that has been notified or in the process of notification as Community Reserve or is covered under Working Scheme or is in the process of applying for Working Scheme.

40) I have 150 Hectare of land. Can I submit three separate applications for 50 Hectares each so that I can get 100% benefit for the entire 150 Hectare?

No. the entire plot of land will have to be submitted under one application. The principle of one owner one application will be followed, which means the same owner cannot submit multiple applications for different plots of land under his ownership. Ownership will have to be proven with necessary documents as given in the guidelines.