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Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project

INDO-GERMAN BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Himachal Pradesh Forest Department

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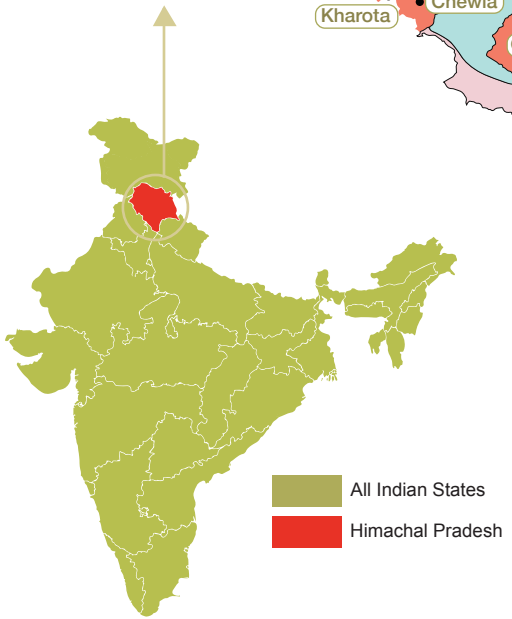
HP-FES Demonstration Sites
GIZ-HP Forest Ecosystem Services Project



LEGEND

- Forest Divisions of selected sites
- HP-FES Demonstration Site

Biogeographic Zones

- North-Western Himalaya
- Shiwalik
- Trans-Himalaya
- Western-Himalaya

- Boundaries of forest divisions have been marked based on information provided by the field officers
- Not to be published without the permission of surveyor General of India, SOI.
- Not for sale. Maps for internal use and not for circulation

HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (HP-FES) PROJECT

Project Background

Since, April 2016, GIZ is implementing the HP-FES Project on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department.

Himachal Pradesh (H.P) is one of the Western Himalayan mountain states of India which is both rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Especially in the Himalayas, forests play a crucial role in the livelihoods of people. Here, the most important forest benefits are water, fodder, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and recreation. However, the forests of the hill state provide many other services like fuel wood, maintenance of biodiversity, soil protection, and spiritual inspiration.

For the Forest Department, the focus is on conservation of the resource, not on commercial use. This is due to the green felling ban of 1984.
Till recent years, the Forest Management in H.P was very much focused to manage forests for timber. The Working Plan Code 2014 has triggered a paradigm shift in the state government to manage forests for the services they provide. Himachal Pradesh is the first Indian state that has a policy on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in place. This project applies the Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) approach. In this approach, the forests are managed for the supply of specific services as prioritised by the stakeholders. By this, the project supports the management of forests of H.P for a sustainable flow of FES.

FES Approach: Forest Management that aims at the sustainable provision of a set of prioritised ecosystem services based on stakeholder choices.

Project Objective

To enable Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh to introduce FES approach in the Forest Management systems of the state.

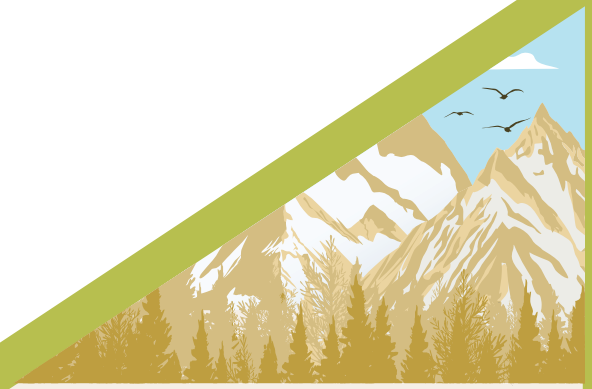
Current Status

- **Zone-wise planning** for the management of FES and enhancement of biodiversity is being done at the 9 demonstration sites of the state.
- **A framework for the Long-Term Ecological Monitoring (LTEM)** system has been developed and approved to be institutionalised at the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department.
- **Methodologies integrating the FES approach** in the Working Plan of Solan Forest Division is developed and being implemented.
- **Capacity building** for the integration of FES approach has been developed and carried out for the front line staff of the Forest Department and the communities.

Expected Results

- **Improved and protected biodiversity** by the communities of the selected demonstration sites.
- **Improved living conditions** for the communities in the project areas of H.P are reached by new FES methods.
- **Management practices** for sustainable and economical use of natural resources of the forest sector, e.g. NTFPs are implemented in H.P.
- **Other Western Himalayan states** are able to test and use H.P's implementation experiences on FES for further dissemination.

Bohal, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh



Forest Area Covered by Himachal Pradesh

H.P has a geographical area of **55,673 Km^2**

Area under tree cover: 27.12% of total geographical area

Source: FSI Report 2017

The forest types of H.P range from **Subtropical Forests to Alpine Scrubs**

What do the forests of Himachal Pradesh harbour?

Nearly 3300 plant species

Over 5700 animal species

Major Forest Ecosystem Services provided by Forests of Himachal Pradesh

Water

The most important ecosystem service provided by forests is water supply. The project is implementing measures to maximise it.

Climate Regulation

Forests regulate and reduce the carbon dioxide in the air, slowing the impact of climate change.

Soil Conservation

Trees prevent soil erosion and also maintain the soil structure.

Resources critical for local livelihoods

Forests provide fuelwood, fodder and non-timber products such as bamboo, amla and medicinal plants.

Symbol Copyright: Jan Sosse

Recreational values

Forest Ecosystem Services include recreational opportunities, aesthetic enjoyment and spiritual enrichment.

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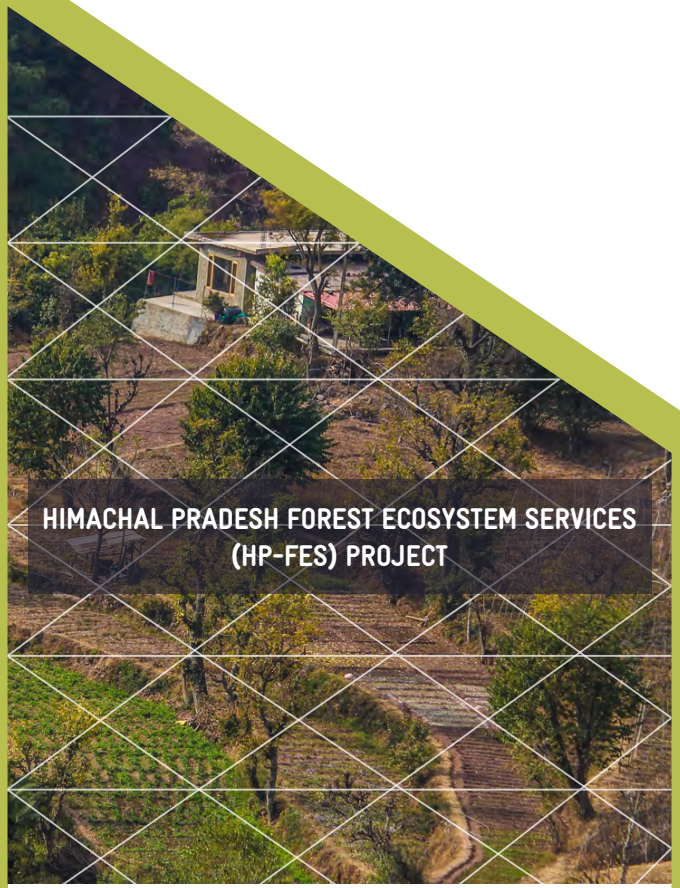

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