

# Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas

## Project Background

The Himalayan forest ecosystems are one of India's most important ecoregions. They play a larger role in our survival, apart from being a timber source. In addition to a wide array of services critical for sustaining livelihoods, they also provide ecosystem services that enhance the supply of water that flows into streams and larger rivers.

As an initiative to intend the forest management towards Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) and its sustainable use, The Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project (Duration: 2016-2020) was implemented in Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) which aimed at integrating the FES approach into the forest management systems of the state. Including the learnings from HP-FES, a follow-on module titled '**Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem Services in the Western Himalayas**' (HIMFES) Project (Duration: 2021-2023) is being implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand Forest Departments.

**The project supports the increased orientation of forest management towards FES with a focus on water availability at the partner states.**

This technical cooperation (TC) project is an initiative for strengthening the paradigm shift in the forest developmental policies and procedures towards the FES and participatory forest management centric approach, so that forests are managed sustainably for the most important ecosystem services.

Since this is a TC project, it has no financial implications to the partners. The partners' contributions will be in kind, such as provision of office space and availability of the forest department officials for trainings and for agreed project implementation activities.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the management of forest ecosystem services with emphasis on water availability in the Western Himalayas.

## Project core areas and broader interventions

- 01 Institutionalisation and up-scaling of the FES approach in forest management:** by developing working aids such as work templates, toolkits, digital applications *etc.* for decision making and orienting project planning towards sustainable FES management, documenting and disseminating best practices for improving water availability.
- 02 Providing implementation support, to demonstrate the feasibility of cross-sectoral approaches and innovative approaches for FES management:** by developing and implementing forest management plans at the project sites focusing on incentive based mechanisms and activities for improving water availability.
- 03 Knowledge management, to improve access to available knowledge on sustainable FES management:** by developing digital formats for knowledge exchange on sustainable FES management and training participants on handling those formats, upgrading of existing curricula for forest training courses and developing training modules for the same.

## Expected Outputs

