

# PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## PRACTICAL TIPS FOR POLICY MAKERS

Lessons learned from the Cidanau watershed about fair and sustainable implementation

### 1. APPOINT A MEDIATOR



Buyers of environmental services, such as forest conservation efforts, are often (trans)national organisations while sellers are mostly rural communities. Unequal power relations between these parties may put sellers in a disadvantaged position in negotiations. A mediator can promote an equitable process, making sure that sellers get paid a fair price for their efforts.

### 2. INVESTIGATE THE LOCAL CONTEXT

PES projects rarely, if ever, follow their original model. Instead, schemes are shaped by structural forces and fitted to the socio-cultural context by local actors. By assessing the context before implementation, many issues can be prevented. What is the social order in a community? Who are important gatekeepers? Are there any tensions between groups that should be taken into account?



### 3. FOCUS ON INCLUSION



PES schemes are market-based interventions based on a capitalist ideology with pure environmental objectives. However, it must not be denied that such schemes impact all aspects of human life. Focusing on the inclusion of less wealthy members of communities and specifically women can prevent the reinforcement of pre-existing inequalities.

### 4. BOLSTER MUTUAL LEARNING

To reach sustainable positive effects, mutual learning between all parties should be encouraged. On the one hand, local knowledge of rural communities should be valued and used while on the other hand, buyers and mediators can put forward new knowledge about agricultural systems. A communication system should be built to facilitate mutual learning.



### 5. PROMOTE PARTICIPATION AND OWNERSHIP



Rural communities often become involved in PES in a later stage of the implementation than other stakeholders such as buyers. However, to facilitate fair and sustainable implementation, participation and ownership of all stakeholders should be encouraged in every step of the process.