



## INVITATION FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON PAYMENTS FOR WATERSHED SERVICES

IUCN Water & Nature Initiative (WANI) and the Nature Valuation and Financing Network (NV&F)<sup>1</sup> seek your ideas and knowledge on payments for watershed services

### Payments for water management

IUCN is in the process of **producing a booklet**: “PAY – A practitioner’s guide for rewarding and financing ecosystem services for water”. This guide aims to provide practical tools for government officials, NGOs and local communities to create platforms for negotiations that are balanced and open, in order to arrive at collaborative action to improve water resources management.

### With this message, we are asking two things:

- 1) we would appreciate very much if you could send us practical examples e.g. case studies and other information you could share with us the topics identified below (preferably to be sent to us before June 1<sup>st</sup>) – see “feedback and participation” section for details
- 2) Once a first draft of the booklet is available, we hope you will be willing to review a draft of the booklet, and possibly engage in a discussion-forum on one or two selected

### The PAY-booklet

The booklet will contain a brief overview of the theory in this field, followed by **practical tools and steps** to come to sustainable systems of payments for environmental services related to water. ‘PAY’ links the most recent practice on the management of ecological services to the current discourse and practice on integrated water resources management. It places a specific emphasis on benefit sharing and innovative financing mechanisms for watershed and river basin management. In doing so, it presents the different aspects to consider when exploring the potential feasibility of establishing rewards or payments for ecosystem services related to water security. For this it provides tools, case studies and stories from around the world. A series of practical lessons learned and insights on what worked and what did not work support the intent of PAY. It will be based on a ‘demand-driven’ approach, linking text, tools, and illustration to key questions asked by current and to-be practitioners.

### Feedback and participation

For this booklet, we are very interested to **receive your feedback and participation** on some specific questions (we do not expect detailed answers at this stage; for now very brief indications and preferably references to publications, websites, and organisations are sufficient). We are looking for **practical examples** of specific projects and case studies not for detailed scientific contributions

1. Do you know of any practical toolkits available in the field of payments for water services?
2. Which questions/issues are water managers and river basin planners confronted with?
3. What types of water services were financed in your project, what type of mechanism was set, which stakeholders were involved, what was the impact on poverty and livelihoods?
4. Were valuation approaches useful in determining payments for water services? How was valuation conducted to design payment?
5. Do you know pilots or case studies that failed or that were delayed and why?
6. Do you know of experiences with payments for environmental services that contributed to improved catchment management, conservation activities and financing mechanisms?
7. What bottlenecks did you perceive and what opportunities and break-throughs were most important for the outcome of your project?
8. What are the major insights you gained or lessons learned you would like to share?

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<sup>1</sup> The NV&F ([www.naturevaluation.org](http://www.naturevaluation.org)) network is part of the Foundation for Sustainable Development ([www.fsd.nl](http://www.fsd.nl)).

### **What do you get out of it?**

- Your feedback may be included in the final booklet, and your name and institution will be duly recognized.
- You will receive a free hard copy of the “PAY” booklet
- You make a difference to other practitioners around the world
- You will very likely expand your network

### **What does IUCN get out of it?**

- A practical guide that will help people change the practice in water resources management, and work for more sustainable and economically sound management
- An opportunity to learn from others

### **For your information**

IUCN – The World Conservation Union, the IUCN Water & Nature Initiative and the Nature Valuation & Financing network are non-commercial: their products are freely accessible for non-commercial purposes. WANI collaborates with NV&F in order to offer decision makers and managers an interactive clearing house on water valuation and financing issues.

The overall aim of the Nature Valuation and Financing network is to stimulate the development and exchange of practical tools for proper valuation of the goods and services provided by ecosystems, so that decisions concerning economic development are made with the full understanding of all the costs and benefits involved. WANI aims at demonstration of good water management supported by the development of tools for financing, governance, empowerment, and information.

### **How to Participate**

In case you wish to participate;

1. Please send **any practical information** or experiences as mentioned in the above to [bas.verschuuren@fsd.nl](mailto:bas.verschuuren@fsd.nl) ; the sooner the better but on **1<sup>st</sup> of June** we will evaluate the reactions received to that date and include it in Draft-1 of the PAY-booklet. Information can still be sent after June 1<sup>st</sup> and will as much as possible be taken into account in the final version.
2. After June 1<sup>st</sup>, we hope you will be willing to be engaged in the review-process and possibly participate in a discussion group on a selected topic (you will receive news on that in due course)
3. In the mean time, please visit our website ([www.naturevaluation.org](http://www.naturevaluation.org)) for further information (please go to “ongoing projects” and then click on “Water and Nature Initiative)

### **THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!**

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### **Legal note**

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