

Payments for Biodiversity Protection: Four Requirements to Sustain the Reward and Conservation

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Rewarding the Upland Poor for the Environmental Services they provide (**RUPES**) is an innovative strategy to reward Asia's upland poor for conserving and protecting the environment. The environmental services they may be rewarded include **biodiversity protection**, carbon sequestration, watershed protection and landscape beauty.

GOAL: To enhance the livelihoods and reduce poverty of the upland poor while supporting environmental conservation on **biodiversity protection**, watershed management, carbon sequestration and landscape beauty at local and global levels.

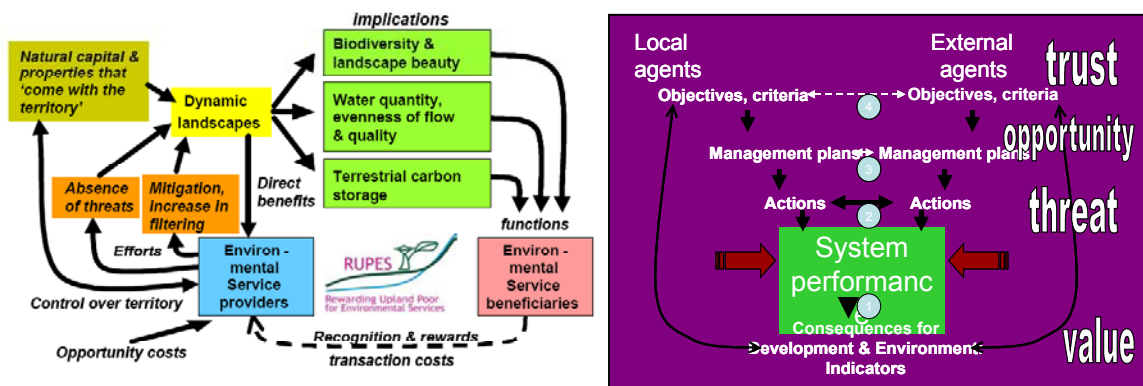


Figure 1. (Left) Show the scheme of rewards for environmental services where the landscape-level implications of land use can be perceived as environmental service functions [1]. Figure 2. (Right) Illustrate the 4 requirements where reward mechanisms depend on [2].

$$\text{ReRUPES} = \text{Value} * \text{Threat} * \text{Opportunity} * \text{Trust}$$

ReRUPES = relevance of rewarding upland poor for the environmental services they provide

Value = the amount of 'natural capital' that is at stake in the local 'environmental service – land use' issue

Threat = the human land use practices that are affecting the environmental service levels, with both low and too high values of threat reducing the relevance of RUPES

Opportunity = local regulation of land use practices based on bonding social capital that reduce the levels of threat posed by individuals

Trust = the 'bridging' forms of social capital that allow relations between local actors and outside stakeholders to be transparent, conditional and reciprocal

Environmental Service that Potentially Merit Compensation and Rewards in the Biodiversity Domain

- Protecting the integrity of conservation areas by preventing loss of habitat and threats at population level in the areas directly around core protection areas.
- Providing habitat for sub-set of the original fauna and flora inside agriculturally used landscapes.
- Maintaining connectivity between protected areas via corridors.
- Creating opportunities for local-level 'restoration' in landscapes where connectivity is still maintained.
- Various forms of ex situ conservation.

RUPES is examining reward mechanisms through action research in six pilot sites in Asia – 3 in Indonesia, 2 in the Philippines and 1 in Nepal. This program is supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

For more details please visit the website:

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sea/networks/RUPES/index.asp>

Reference:

- [1] van Noordwijk, M. 2005. RUPES typology of environmental service worthy of reward. RUPES working paper. Bogor. 53pp.
- [2] van Noordwijk, et al 2004b. An introduction to the conceptual basis of RUPES: rewarding upland poor for the environmental services they provide. Bogor. 41pp.