

Training Workshop on Forest Accounts, Himachal Pradesh

September 22-24, 2014

Agenda

1. Background

Forests are an important natural asset for Himachal Pradesh, and provide a range of critical goods and services that are important to the state's economy. Yet, policymakers do not have the information they need to manage this important economic asset, particularly information on the economic contribution of forests and impacts of non-forestry policies on forest resources and services. Forest accounts, compilation of detailed statistics using a framework like the System of National Accounts which countries use to assess economic performance, support policy analysis, and inform decision-making, can help fill this information gap.

As part of the technical assistance program of the World Bank's Development Policy Loan – Promoting Inclusive Green Growth and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh – in January of 2014, the HP Department of Environment, Science, and Technology and the World Bank co-organized a workshop to assess the feasibility of building forest accounts in Himachal Pradesh. Based on the findings of a scoping study and stakeholder consultations, the government made a commitment to construct forest accounts in Himachal Pradesh to inform policies to help increase the contribution of forests to GDP sustainably. The workshop participants also identified the need for technical training for officers in Himachal Pradesh on compiling forest accounts.

2. Workshop Objectives

- a) Strengthen technical understanding and capacity among participants by:
 - Sharing international experiences
 - Providing basic training on forest accounting, from defining policy questions to identifying the accounts needed to answer the questions to compiling the accounts
- b) Define a draft implementation plan and provide the participants with a space to discuss the workplan and goals.

3. Audience

- The first session in the morning of September 22, 2014 is an open session, with senior officials and technical specialists from relevant departments, representatives of non-governmental organizations, academics, and members of the press
- Starting with the afternoon session on September 22, 2014, the rest of the workshop would be limited to up to 25 people who are most likely to be involved in the compilation of the forest accounts. These are likely to include two participants each from Aryabhata Geoinformatics and Space Application Centre, Revenue Department, Tourism Department, Energy Department, and Department of Irrigation and Public Health, and five participants each from the Forest Department and the Department of Economics and Statistics.

Day 1: September 22, 2014
Building forest accounts in Himachal Pradesh: Why and How

Description	
09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:30	<p>Welcome and introductions Mr. Alok Prem Nagar, Forest Department (Master of Ceremony) Dr. Urvashi Narain, World Bank</p>
10:30-11:30	<p>Keynote address: Green Accounting in India (and Q&A) Prof. T. C. A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India, Ministry of Statistics and Project Implementation</p> <p>Brief introduction by Dr. S.S. Negi, Director, Department of Environment, Science, and Technology</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee/Tea break
11:45-13:00	<p>Session 1: Why build forest accounts in Himachal Pradesh – Key Policy Questions Moderated panel discussion – Panelists make brief remarks followed by moderated discussion</p> <p><i>Panelists</i> – Prof. T.C. A. Anant, Mr. Shrikant Baldi (Principal Secretary, Department of Finance), Mr. Tarun Shridhar (Principal Secretary, Forest Department), Dr. S.S. Negi, Mr. R.K. Gupta (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department), Mr. Pradeep Chauhan (Director, Department of Economics and Statistics, GoHP)</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> – Urvashi Narain (World Bank)</p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch break (including group photo)
14:30-16:30	<p>Session 2: Building forest accounts - process and implementation (and Q&A) Mr. Juan Pablo Castaneda, Senior Natural Accounting Specialist, World Bank</p>
16:30-	Coffee/Tea break and wrap up

Day 2: September 23, 2014
Flow and Asset Accounts

Description	
09:30-09:45	Re-design of agenda Urvashi Narain
09:45-10:45	Session 3: Brief Introduction to SNA and HP State Accounts (including forest accounts) Mr. Pradeep Chauhan
10:45-11:00	Coffee/Tea break
11:00-11:30	Session 4: Physical and Monetary Supply and Use Tables – 101 (Answering Policy Question 2) Haripriya Gundimeda, Professor, IIT-Mumbai & Juan-Pablo Castaneda
11:30-12:15	Group exercise I: Physical SUT Led by Juan-Pablo Cataneda - Exercise asks participants to complete a PSUT
12:15-12:45	Group exercise I: Reporting back
12:45-13:45	Lunch break
13:45-15:15	Session 5: Discussion: How can existing flow estimates be improved? Guided group discussion of data challenges and next steps
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Session 6: Land and Timber Asset Accounts – 101 (Answering Policy Question 1) Haripriya Gundimeda
16:00-16:45	Group exercise II: Asset Accounts Led by Haripriya Gundimeda – Exercise asks participants to complete area and volume asset accounts
16:45-17:15	Group exercise II: Reporting back

Day 3: September 24, 2014
Getting into the weeds: focus on compilation of accounts

Description	
9:30-10:00	<p>Session 7: Proposed Classification</p> <p>Short presentation from Haripriya Gundimeda followed by discussion</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>Session 8: Possible sources of data</p> <p>Guided group discussion led by Juan Pablo Castaneda of data challenges and next steps</p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:00	<p>Session 8 (contd.): Possible sources of data</p> <p>Guided group discussion led by Juan Pablo Castaneda of data challenges and next steps</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:00	<p>Session 9: Tourism accounts and statistics in HP</p> <p>Presentation from Government of HP</p>
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 10: Draft workplan for SUT</p> <p>Presentation by Haripriya, followed by discussion</p>
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-17:15	<p>Session 11: Draft workplan for Asset Accounts</p> <p>Presentation by Juan-Pablo Castaneda, followed by discussion</p>
17:15-17:30	Closing Remarks (GoHP, World Bank)
18:00-	Workshop Dinner