

Abstract Submission for 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference

Title of Presentation:

PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: INNOVATIONS IN INTEGRATED WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Category: River Management

Presenter:

Dimple Roy

International Institute for Sustainable Development
6th Floor 161 Portage Ave East
Winnipeg Manitoba
R3B 0Y4

Ph: (204) 958-7737

Fax: (204) 985-7710

Email: droy@iisd.ca

Abstract:

Ecosystem services are, simply, the benefits that people receive from ecosystems. These ecosystem services can include watershed protection, forest conservation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, wildlife husbandry and more. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international instrument released by the UN in 2005, suggests that there are four main categories of ecosystem services: provisioning services, regulating services, cultural services and supporting services. Ecosystem services from watersheds specifically can include flow regulation, flood control, habitat preservation, climate stabilization, water filtration/purification, water supply, erosion and sedimentation control and many more recreational, agricultural, industrial, and cultural values.

Payments for such watershed-based ecosystem services are fast becoming policy instruments for the effective management of water resources around the world. The valuation of such watershed services, their communication by service providers, their appreciation by beneficiaries of services and an effective system to make such payments are important steps to their inclusion into integrated water resource management practice. The best know forms these PES schemes may take on include government incentives and payments for private owned watershed property and negotiated payments made by (usually) downstream beneficiaries to (usually) upstream service providers

We see such effective implementation of payment schemes in cases such as New York City's water supply, the Danube River basin management in Europe and lesser known cases from Bolivia and India. We then speculate on how payments for ecosystem services (PES) instruments could be applied to improve water resources management within the Red River Basin given the current institutional context.

Biographical sketch:

Dimple Roy is a project officer in the Sustainable Natural Resource Management team at the International Institute for Sustainable Development. She is currently working on research on governance for integrated water resources management in the Canadian prairies and in the Lake Winnipeg watershed context. Her training and experience include a variety of roles in environmental education, environmental and social policy research and analysis and project management. She also has experience in working with a number of community level groups, non governmental organizations and various sectors of government.