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# Community-based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resource Conservation in Manipur (COSFOM)

## KEY FACTS

<b>COUNTRY</b>	India
<b>CLIENT</b>	KFW
<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>	EUR 3,615,774.00
<b>DURATION</b>	09/2018–03/2027

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The climate resilience of upper watershed ecosystems in selected areas of Manipur state are improved or sustainably restored and the adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities has increased through sustainable forest management and water resource conservation.

## SPRINGSHEDED MANAGEMENT APPROACH

### CHALLENGE

Many communities in Manipur depend on natural springs for drinking water and irrigation, yet spring discharge is declining due to land degradation, changing rainfall patterns, and limited technical understanding of groundwater recharge zones.

### HOW IT WORKS

Springshed rejuvenation is a community-led, science-based approach to restore and safeguard spring water sources.

It involves:

- Conducting baseline surveys and hydrological mapping to identify recharge areas and water flow patterns.
- Implementing physical and biological measures (ponds, trenches, vegetation cover) in recharge zones to improve infiltration and stabilise spring discharge.
- Training a pool of para-hydrogeologists through cooperation with ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development), enabling long-term, locally anchored expertise and a future self-sustaining service model.

- Establishing village monitoring teams to regularly measure water quality and spring discharge
- Facilitating farmer-to-farmer exposure visits to spread locally rooted solutions and strengthen peer learning
- Engaging landowners to allow interventions on privately owned recharge areas, ensuring collective stewardship



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## SPRINGSHED MANAGEMENT APPROACH

### IMPACT/BENEFITS

- Ensures sustained spring discharge and improved water quality through scientifically guided, community-driven interventions.
- Builds strong local technical capacity by training para-hydrogeologists who can continue the work beyond the project period.
- Strengthens cooperation and collective decision-making among landowners, village committees and district authorities.
- Enhances climate resilience by increasing groundwater recharge and stabilising critical water sources.
- Promotes cost-effective and scalable solutions through peer learning and farmer-to-farmer exchanges.
- Increases the adoption of improved practices, as communities observe successful examples in nearby villages.



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