

different themes such as land use/land cover, hydro geo-morphology, soils etc. may be used for selection of a watershed area. The project will primarily aim at treatment of non-forest wastelands area consists of some forestlands, it should also be treated simultaneously under the project as provided in para 16 of these Guidelines.

Scope

10. These Guidelines should be taken as general principles for implementation of watershed development projects and should not be used as a tool to make their implementation a complex exercise. The basic philosophy of these general principles is to seek gainful and transparent utilization of public funds for watershed development, with a view to promoting the overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and the disadvantaged sections of the people inhabiting the project areas. The State Watershed Development Committees (para 19) are empowered to clarify the provisions of these Guidelines to suit local social, infrastructure and geographical problems subject to the basic philosophy mentioned earlier on.

Objectives

11. The objectives of Watershed Development Projects will be: -

- (i) Developing wastelands/degraded lands, drought-prone and desert areas on watershed basis, keeping in view the capability of land, site-conditions and local needs.
- (ii) Promoting the overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas.
- (iii) Mitigating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions such as drought and desertification on crops, human and livestock population for their overall improvement.
- (iv) Restoring ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources i.e. land, water, vegetative cover.