

Watershed Associations

33. Where a watershed is coterminous with a Village Panchayat or its area is confined within the boundaries of a Village Panchayat, the Gram Sabha of the Panchayat concerned will be designated as the Watershed Association (WA). However, where a watershed comprises of areas coming under the jurisdiction of more than one Panchayat, members of the community who are directly or indirectly dependent upon the watershed area, will be organised into a Watershed Association. Such a Watershed Association should be registered as a Society under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. The Watershed Association will meet, at least, twice a year to evolve/improve the watershed development plan, monitor and review its progress, approve the statement of accounts, formation of User Groups/Self-Help Groups, resolve differences of disputes between different user groups, self-help groups or amongst members of the user groups/self-help groups, approve the arrangements for the collection of public/voluntary donations and contributions from the community and individual members, lay down procedures for the operation and maintenance of assets created, approve the activities that can be taken up with money available in the Watershed Development Fund, nominate members of the Watershed Committee from amongst the user groups/self-help groups by a system of rotation, and take disciplinary action of removal of membership from the Watershed Committee or user groups and whatever other disciplinary action it deems fit. The WA will elect its own President, who shall also be the Chairman of the Watershed Committee. The Watershed Secretary shall assist the President of WA in the discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to the WA.

Watershed Committee

34. Subject to the overall supervision and control of the Watershed Association, a Watershed Committee (WC) shall carry out the day-to-day activities of the Watershed Development Project. The Watershed Committee may consist of 10-12 members who will be nominated by the Watershed Association from amongst the user groups