

*Type of submission:* Abstract (voluntary contribution)

## S2 ES in Rural landscapes in Brazil

### Knowledge and information to support payment for water environmental services in Brazil

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Payment for Water Environmental Services (Water PES) schemes are expanding throughout Latin America. In Brazil, since the creation of the Water Producer Program in 2006, by the National Water Agency, several schemes have emerged, reinforcing its importance for the water conservation. On the other hand, during the development of these programs, the professionals involved have faced shortage of information for important issues such as methodologies for the selection of priority areas and for monitoring and evaluation of the results of the programs. In order to contribute in this context, a project was developed by Embrapa team and partners to gather information on methodologies applied in Brazil and other countries seeking answers to the key information gaps identified. The main activities were: database development; mapping and description of Water PES evolution; definition of criteria and guidelines for the identification of priority areas for intervention; selection and ranking of indicators, and establishment of guidelines for monitoring Water PES impacts; elaboration of a handbook to disseminate guidelines for identification of priority areas for intervention and monitoring Water PES. The handbook uses simple language to help decision-makers in implementing the Water PES. To identify priority areas for intervention, it describes a set of steps to guide the selection, including the identification of the objective of the interventions, the categorization of types of intervention and the choice of criteria for selecting these areas. Regarding the indicators, the handbook shows a model to guide the selection and ranking indicators of the main ecosystem services and benefits related to Water PES in a participative process. About the monitoring, many guidelines are presented, such as the feasibility of applying indicators, frequency of monitoring, equipment cost, organization and dissemination of the results and effectiveness in the responses.

*Keywords:* Priority areas, decision support, monitoring, indicators, handbook