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Goa: Forest department to use rainwater to revive degraded forest patches

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PANAJI: The forest department will construct 'soil and water conservation' structures at an estimated cost of Rs 70 lakh, to revive a few hundred hectares of degraded forest patches in the state. As per the Union environment ministry's instructions, the degraded forest patches have already been identified for the state by the Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), India.

The detailed project report for Goa submitted by the WAPCOS has already been forwarded to Goa forest officials for implementation and the centrally-funded project has to be implemented in nine months.

WAPCOS has used the light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology to identify major ridge areas inside forest areas of Goa. LiDAR is an active remote sensing system used to measure vegetation height across wide areas.

To conserve water under the project, 'ridge-to-valley' approach of watershed management will be used. The ridge-to-valley approach detains, diverts, stores and uses available rainwater.

This means that efforts will be made to save every drop of rainwater in the identified area, starting at the ridge and by reducing to a considerable extent surface run-off volume and velocity of water.

Appropriate and feasible micro soil and water conservation structures will be constructed, which are best suited to Goa's geography, topography and soil characteristics. WAPCOS has suggested the type of soil water conservation structures required in the state.

The National Authority for Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) is overseeing the implementation of the project and Goa has been asked to use funding from state CAMPA funds.

Source: https://goa.news/goa-forest-department-to-use-rainwater-to-revive-degraded-forest-patches