What are PES?

No payments for ecosystem services!
Pay the agents for their efforts!

Environmental services as positive benefit that people obtain from an environment, for example watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, atmospheric regulation, and landscape beauty. 

Pagiola et al. (2002)

> Environmental and Ecosystem Services as synonyms?

“(...) provided only as externalities (...), unintended consequences of primary land management activities”

Food and Agricultural Organization (2010)

> But what about intentionally provided services?

Supporting
> Nutrient Cycling
> Soil Formation
> Primary Production
> ...

Regulation
> Climate Regulation
> Flood Regulation
> Disease Regulation
> Water Purification
> ...

Cultural
> Aesthetic
> Spiritual
> Educational
> Recreational
> ...

Provisioning
> Food
> Freshwater
> Wood and Fibre
> Fuel
> ...

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)

Specifying 'PES':

Environmental services might be defined as services intentionally (or unintentionally) provided by human agents and through human effort, whereas ecosystem services might be defined as services provided by 'nature'.

The consequence: We pay the agents for their effort and not nature for provisioning services!

> A consistent use of the acronym PES then is to translate the term 'PES' to 'Payments For Environmental Services'!