

Agglomeration Payments for Catchment Conservation — Shire River Basin Watershed PES Pilot (Malawi)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Malawi

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

A randomised-trial payment scheme paid 1,450-2,800 Shire River Basin smallholders per season to adopt conservation agriculture, testing whether hydropower-linked avoided-sediment payments work; results informed a \$157 million World Bank watershed programme.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-02

[Government of Malawi / IFPRI-ESPA Research Consortium \(World Bank MWASIP\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-02

[World Bank - MWASIP approval](#) — accessed 2026-08-02

[Global Sustainability \(Cambridge\) - Jack et al.](#) — accessed 2026-08-02

[Scientific Data \(Nature\) via PMC - Smart subsidies dataset](#) — accessed 2026-08-02

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