

Al-Azhar Park — A Self-Financing 30-Hectare Urban Green Space Reclaiming Cairo's Rubble Hills

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Egypt

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A \$30M Aga Khan gift transformed a rubble mound in central Cairo into a self-financing 30-hectare park drawing 1.5–2 million visitors a year, while excavation uncovered a buried 12th-century Ayyubid wall and spurred restoration of the adjoining Darb al-Ahmar district.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Aga Khan Trust for Culture \(Aga Khan Development Network\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Aga Khan Development Network — Historic Cities Programme Egypt](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Cairo Urban Initiatives Platform — Al Azhar Park](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

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