Al Wathba Wetland Reserve — An Accidental Treated-Wastewater Lake Managed as Arabia's Only Regular Greater Flamingo Breeding Site (UAE)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United Arab Emirates

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A 5 km² wetland formed by accidental treated-sewage discharge near Abu Dhabi, fenced as a reserve in 1998 and Ramsar-listed in 2013. EAD manages water levels and an artificial nesting island; 236 bird species recorded and 200+ flamingo chicks in 2013.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-25

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) — accessed 2026-11-25

The National (2013) — Record numbers of flamingos breeding at Abu Dhabi reserve — accessed 2026-11-25

Campbell et al. (2018), Sandgrouse Supplement 4 — Al Wathba Wetland Reserve: successful mixing of birds and people — accessed 2026-11-25

Ramsar Sites Information Service — Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (Site 2142) — accessed 2026-11-25

WAM via Zawya (2012) — The Greater Flamingo breeds again at Al Wathba — accessed 2026-11-25

Cite this — Evidoria. *Al Wathba Wetland Reserve — An Accidental Treated-Wastewater Lake Managed as Arabia's Only Regular Greater Flamingo Breeding Site (UAE)*. Persistent ID: ec37b8f4-753a-4dbe-9ed7-4b142e799466.