Aral Sea Seabed Afforestation Programme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Uzbekistan

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Uzbekistan's Forestry Agency has planted saxaul across ~1.7M ha of the dried Aral seabed in five years, employing ~150 foresters plus 300+ locals; World Bank models $39M/yr in benefits vs $44.2M/yr storm losses, but seedling survival is 30-70% and drought risk is unresolved.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-10

Uzbekistan Forestry Agency / Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change — accessed 2026-07-10

Uzbekistan's fight against desertification — diplo.news — accessed 2026-07-10

Uzbekistan plants a forest where a sea once lay — Mongabay — accessed 2026-07-10

Greening the Desert — World Bank — accessed 2026-07-10

Green Aral Sea Initiative — UNDP Uzbekistan — accessed 2026-07-10

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