

Bali's Subak System — Temple-Governed Rice-Terrace Water Sharing Under Tourism Pressure

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Indonesia

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Bali's millennium-old subak system — farmer collectives coordinated through water temples — manages irrigation for roughly 19,500 UNESCO-protected hectares of rice terraces, but is losing an estimated 1,000 hectares a year to tourism-driven land conversion and water competition.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-09-02

[Subak water-temple congregations / Bali Provincial Government \(UNESCO World Heritage management\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Wikipedia — Subak \(irrigation\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Mongabay — In Bali, water temple priests guide a sustainable rice production system \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

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