

# C■n Gi■ Mangrove Biosphere Reserve — 47 Years Rebuilding a War-Defoliated Forest, Now Threatened by Development

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Vietnam

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

## Summary

Since 1978, Ho Chi Minh City has replanted roughly 20,000 ha of mangroves defoliated by US wartime herbicide spraying, earning Vietnam's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (2000) — but shrimp ponds and an approved 2,870-ha development plan now threaten the recovered forest.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 2/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 2/3   |
| 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 2026-08-31

[Ho Chi Minh City Forest Protection and Development Sub-Department](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Efforts undertaken to revive, develop C■n Gi■ mangrove forest \(Vietnam News\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[A vital mangrove forest hidden in Vietnam's largest city could be at risk \(Mongabay\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Payment for Urban Mangrove Forest Conservation in Vietnam \(MDPI Sustainability\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

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