

Canaima National Park & the Caroní Watershed — A Hydropower Lifeline Undermined by Illegal Gold Mining

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Venezuela

Quality score: 13/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Canaima National Park protects the Caroní headwaters feeding Venezuela's Guri dam (near half its power), but FAO, CSIS and Mongabay document ~22,000 ha cleared by illegal gold mining since 2017 and mercury pollution - a cautionary case on unenforced watershed protection.

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	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Instituto Nacional de Parques \(INPARQUES\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[CSIS — Illegal Mining in Venezuela analysis](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Mongabay — The price of gold: mining threatens Indigenous Pemón](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Mongabay — Hydropower in the Pan Amazon: Guri complex](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

Cite this — Evidoria. *Canaima National Park & the Caroní Watershed — A Hydropower Lifeline Undermined by Illegal Gold Mining*. Persistent ID: 8fd1c8ff-f78a-4f82-ac85-102bc0ddba09.