

Cantareira Water Producer Programme — Payments for Watershed Restoration (São Paulo, Brazil)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Brazil

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Brazil's pioneering Water Producer scheme, piloted 2008–2015 in São Paulo's Cantareira system, signed 41 PES contracts covering 342 hectares of forest restoration and soil conservation, paying landowners US\$6–31/ha/year to protect water for 15 million residents.

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 2026-07-16

[Agência Nacional de Águas \(ANA\) / SABESP / The Nature Conservancy Brasil](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Gestão dos recursos hídricos na área do Sistema Produtor de Água Cantareira \(SciELO/Revista Ambiente & Água\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Natural Infrastructure in São Paulo's Water System \(WRI\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Lessons Learned from the Water Producer Project in the Atlantic Forest, Brazil \(MDPI Forests\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

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