

Cascaded Tank-Village System Restoration, North Central Sri Lanka

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Sri Lanka

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Sri Lanka's 2,000-year-old cascaded tank irrigation network, an FAO-designated agricultural heritage system since 2017, is being restored under a GEF/UNEP-backed programme after decades of neglect, chemical soil degradation and invasive species.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-13

Sri Lanka Ministry of Environment, with GEF, UNEP and the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT — accessed 2026-09-13

FAO GIAHS: Sri Lanka Cascaded Tank-Village System — accessed 2026-09-13

Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT: An ancient water management system in Sri Lanka comes back to life — accessed 2026-09-13

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