

Chon-Aksuu Watershed PES Pilot — Central Asia's First Payment for Ecosystem Services Scheme (Kyrgyzstan)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Kyrgyzstan

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

CAREC used a Swiss Re grant to run Central Asia's first Payment for Ecosystem Services pilot in Kyrgyzstan's Chon-Aksuu watershed (2011–2014): ~400 mushroom pickers planted 50,000 seedlings on 4 ha as in-kind payment for forest access; later scaled into a four-basin programme.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia \(CAREC\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[Swiss Re Foundation — Integrating economic mechanisms for boosting carbon storage in Central Asia](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[CAREC — Promoting the concept of ecosystem services in Central Asia](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[FAO Mountain Partnership — Payment for Ecosystem Services Update from Central Asia](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

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