

Costa Rica Payments for Environmental Services (PSA / FONAFIFO)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Costa Rica

Quality score: 87/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Costa Rica's national PES, created by the 1996 Forest Law, has paid landowners US\$565M to conserve 1.15M+ hectares for carbon, water, biodiversity and scenic services, funded by a fuel tax.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE evaluation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[FONAFIFO — PSA](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[SDG16+/Pathfinders case](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

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