

Dimbangombe Ranch Holistic Planned Grazing — Measured Gains and a Community-Scale Reality Check (Zimbabwe)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Zimbabwe

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

On its 4,600 ha ranch, Zimbabwe's Africa Centre for Holistic Management measured 31% less bare ground and 56% more litter cover (2001-2009) under holistic planned grazing. Its own parallel monitoring found no watershed gain in the four communal villages meant to replicate it.

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	1/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-16

Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM) — accessed 2026-09-16

FAO — Holistic management of livestock, Zimbabwe, 2001-2009 (Savory Institute case study) — accessed 2026-09-16

Independent peer-reviewed critical review of Allan Savory's grazing method — accessed 2026-09-16

Sierra Club — Allan Savory's Holistic Management Theory Falls Short on Science — accessed 2026-09-16

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