

Durban Water Recycling — A 20-Year Industrial Water Reclamation Public-Private Partnership (South Africa)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 2001, a private consortium (majority Veolia/Vivendi) has run a 47.5 ML/day plant reclaiming Durban's wastewater to near-potable industrial standard under a 20-year BOOT concession, supplying the Mondi paper mill and SAPREF refinery without municipal capital outlay.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
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 2026-09-02

[Durban Water Recycling \(Pty\) Ltd — Veolia / Vivendi Water, with eThekweni Municipality](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Veolia — Durban Water Recycling](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[World Bank — Wastewater: From Waste to Resource, the Case of Durban, South Africa \(2018\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[World Bank PPP Knowledge Lab — Durban Water Recycling Project](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[GRID-Arendal / UN Environment — Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas of Africa \(2021\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

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