

ESPH Pago por Servicios Ambientales Hídricos — Municipal Water-Tariff PES (Heredia, Costa Rica)

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

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 2000, Costa Rica's Heredia water utility ESPH has charged customers a dedicated water tariff to fund direct payments to upstream landowners — over █1.2 billion (~US\$2M+) invested 2002-2020 across roughly 1,000 hectares of conserved and reforested watershed.

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 2026-07-10

[Empresa de Servicios Públicos de Heredia \(ESPH S.A.\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[World Bank: El Programa de Pago por Servicio Ambiental Hídrico \(ESPH\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[Watershed Markets: Costa Rica – ESPH case study](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[ESPH S.A.: Protección del Recurso Hídrico](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

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