

ESPH Procuencas Watershed Tariff Programme (Costa Rica)

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

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Heredia's public utility ESPH has charged customers a watershed fee (US\$0.01-0.03/m³) since 2000 to pay upstream landowners ~US\$120/ha/year, reaching ~1,900 ha under contract with 21 landowners by 2008 -- an early Central American utility-financed watershed PES scheme.

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	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[Empresa de Servicios Publicos de Heredia \(ESPH\) - Procuencas Programme](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

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

[CBD: Costa Rica - introducing water use charges to pay for environmental services](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[Ecosystem Marketplace: Water Trading, Costa Ricans Keep It Simple](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

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