

FIAES Rio Lempa Watershed PES - El Salvador Debt-for-Nature Conservation Programme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · El Salvador

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

World's largest debt-for-nature swap (US\$1 billion, October 2024) directs US\$200 M over 20 years to protect the Rio Lempa watershed, which supplies 68% of El Salvador's water; FIAES has invested US\$90 M+ over 31 years of operation.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[FIAES \(Fondo de la Iniciativa para las Americas - El Salvador\) / CRS](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[DFC: World's largest debt conversion for river conservation](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[CRS: Restoring the Rio Lempa](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[Green Finance LAC: El Salvador debt conversion](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[CAF: World's largest debt conversion for conservation](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

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