

Fight Fire with Finance — A Randomized Trial of Conditional Cash Incentives Against Land-Clearing Fires (West Kalimantan, Indonesia)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Indonesia

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A 275-village randomized controlled trial in West Kalimantan paid communities up to IDR 150 million (~US\$10,800) to stay fire-free in the 2018 dry season; independent re-analysis found incentivized villages burned just as often as unpaid control villages.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-08

TNP2K (Tim Nasional Percepatan Penanggulangan Kemiskinan / National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction); Stanford University; Australian National University; SMERU Research Institute — accessed 2026-09-08

Mongabay: Money to burn — Study finds fire-prevention incentives in Indonesia don't work (2020) — accessed 2026-09-08

Nurhati et al./SMERU: Using Conditional Cash Payments to Prevent Land-Clearing Fires: Cautionary Findings from Indonesia, *Agriculture* 12(7):1040 (2022) — accessed 2026-09-08

SMERU Research Institute publication page — accessed 2026-09-08

Edwards, Falcon, Hadiwidjaja, Higgins, Naylor & Sumarto: Fight Fire with Finance (NBER working paper PDF) — accessed 2026-09-08

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