

France's Payments for Environmental Services (PSE) Pilot — Three Years of National Agri-Environmental Contracts

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · France

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

France's 2021–2024 national PES pilot paid nearly 3,500 farmers across 130 territories for water-quality, soil and biodiversity outcomes, contracting up to roughly 280,000 hectares with a €170 million state and water-agency budget.

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	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-16

[Ministère de la Transition écologique, with the Agences de l'Eau \(regional Water Agencies\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-16

[Ministère de la Transition écologique — PSE publics](#) — accessed 2026-09-16

[Agence de l'eau Adour-Garonne — 1ère évaluation du dispositif PSE](#) — accessed 2026-09-16

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