

Freetown's Chief Heat Officer — Institutionalising Urban Afforestation & Market Shade Cooling (Sierra Leone)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Sierra Leone

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

In 2021 Freetown named Africa's first Chief Heat Officer, pairing the new office with solar-powered market shade canopies and a landslide-driven afforestation drive that has planted over 550,000 trees (about 82% survival) since 2019.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-09-04

[Freetown City Council — Office of the Chief Heat Officer](#) — accessed 2026-09-04

[Building heat resilience in Freetown, Sierra Leone \(One Billion Resilient / Arsht-Rock\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-04

[Early lessons from Freetown's Heat Action Plan \(HeraNow\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-04

[AP: She is Africa's first heat officer. Can she make her city livable?](#) — accessed 2026-09-04

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