Grensmaas — Gravel-Financed Meuse Floodplain Restoration and 250-Year Flood Protection (Netherlands)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Gravel extraction widened the ~50 km Grensmaas and funded a floodplain nature reserve of at least 1,000 ha; full flood protection (1-in-250-year) was reached in Oct 2017. Restoration remains fragile and outcome data are thin.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-06

De Maaswerken (Rijkswaterstaat, Province of Limburg) with Consortium Grensmaas, Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer — accessed 2026-11-06

Stroming — The living Grensmaas — accessed 2026-11-06

WUR — Resilient water systems and communities: lessons from the Grensmaas project — accessed 2026-11-06

Maastricht University — From rain to mud — accessed 2026-11-06

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