

Han River Water Use Charge — Statutory Upstream-Downstream Watershed PES (South Korea)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Korea

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 1999 South Korea's Han River Act has charged Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi-do water users KRW 170 per m³ to fund upstream forest and farmland protection. The resulting River Maintenance Fund had raised over KRW 10.1 trillion nationally by 2015, with the Han basin contributing

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
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 2026-07-04

[Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea / Han River Watershed Management Committee](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Seoul Solution: Water Management Policy of the City of Seoul](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[MDPI Water: Water Policy Reforms in South Korea](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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