

Hirkan National Park — Protected-Area Expansion & UNESCO World Heritage Forest Protection (Azerbaijan)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Azerbaijan

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Azerbaijan tripled Hirkan National Park's protected relict Caspian Hyrcanian forest from 29,760 ha (2004) to over 55,000 ha (2022–23), confirmed Caucasian leopard presence by camera trap, and won a 2023 UNESCO World Heritage listing.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan / Caucasus Nature Fund](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Wikipedia](#) — [Hirkan National Park](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Caucasus Nature Fund](#) — [Hirkan National Park](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Azerbaijan-UNESCO Relations](#) — [Hirkan State Nature Reserve](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

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