

Jessour Water-Harvesting Terraces — Reviving Mountain Runoff Capture in Tunisia's Matmata Hills

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Tunisia

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Communities and Tunisia's Water and Soil Conservation Programme maintain jessour — stone terraces harvesting wadi runoff in the Matmata Mountains — with field data from 620 structures showing water savings equal to 500mm of rain from a 200mm annual average.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-09-08

[Tunisia Ministry of Agriculture \(Water and Soil Conservation Programme\)](#), with historical [FAO technical assistance](#) — accessed 2026-09-08

[NASA ADS — Assessment and Optimizing of Traditional Rainwater Harvesting Technique Jessour \(EGU 2018\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-08

[ResearchGate — Benefits of Water-Harvesting Systems \(Jessour\) on Soil Water Retention](#) — accessed 2026-09-08

Cite this — Evidoria. *Jessour Water-Harvesting Terraces — Reviving Mountain Runoff Capture in Tunisia's Matmata Hills*. Persistent ID: ec141781-9dae-44da-adcd-71f4ad98eb48.