

# Karura Forest — Community-Managed Restoration of a 1,041-Hectare Urban Forest in Nairobi

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Kenya

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

## Summary

After Wangari Maathai's 1998–99 campaign halted illegal development, Friends of Karura Forest has co-managed Nairobi's 1,041-hectare urban forest with Kenya's Forest Service since 2010, planting 200,000+ trees and self-financing restoration via modest entry fees.

## Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[Friends of Karura Forest \(Community Forest Association\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[Kenya Biodiversity Clearing-House: Karura Forest](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[Mongabay: New arrangements should preserve Karura Forest](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

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