

Kushiro River Meander Restoration — Kushiro Wetland, Japan

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

A 2006-2011 project reconnected 2.4km of the Kushiro River's original meander in Japan's largest peatland; a 2025 peer-reviewed study found hydrology recovered within a year, but restored peat organic matter (13.1%) still lags well behind reference wetland (24.1%) a decade on.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	2/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
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 2026-07-16

Ministry of the Environment (Japan) / Hokkaido Prefecture / Kushiro Wetland Nature Restoration Council — accessed 2026-07-16

MDPI Sustainability (2025): Floodplain Topography, Peat, Soil Moisture, and Alder Growth Over a Decade After River Meandering Restoration in the Kushiro Wetlands — accessed 2026-07-16

Wiley Restoration Ecology (Nakamura et al.): The Significance of Meander Restoration for the Hydrogeomorphology and Recovery of Wetland Organisms in the Kushiro River — accessed 2026-07-16

Kushiro International Wetland Centre — accessed 2026-07-16

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