

Lake Urmia Restoration Program (ULRP)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Iran

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A decade-long Iran–UNDP programme cutting agricultural water use 25% and raising irrigation efficiency ~42% around Ramsar-listed Lake Urmia; independent monitoring shows recent water-level gains, though researchers debate how much is programme-driven versus rainfall.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-22

[Iran Department of Environment & UNDP, with Government of Japan co-financing](#) — accessed 2026-08-22

[UNDP Iran — Phase 7 partnership announcement](#) — accessed 2026-08-22

[ScienceDirect — 'Chronicle of a disaster foretold: the politics of restoring Lake Urmia'](#) — accessed 2026-08-22

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