

Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation Project — Terracing and Grazing Bans Cut Sediment 57 Mt/Year (China)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · China

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

World Bank-financed terracing, afforestation and grazing bans across 1.56M ha of China's Loess Plateau (1994-2002) cut Yellow River sediment by 57Mt/year and lifted farm incomes, though later research found the wider afforestation drive it inspired cut regional water yield ~43%.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[China Ministry of Water Resources / World Bank \(IDA\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[World Bank case study: The Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation Project \(2004\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[Peer-reviewed meta-analysis: ecological restoration and water shortage on the Loess Plateau \(PMC, 2022\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

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