Mendoza's Acequia-Irrigated Urban Forest — A 615,000-Tree Street Canopy Cooling an Arid City, Strained by Drought and Sealed Channels (Argentina)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Argentina

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

In arid Mendoza, open irrigation channels (acequias) along every street water a public tree canopy that a 2020–23 census counted at 615,000 trees. CONICET measures a heat island of up to 10 °C, but drought and sealed channels are starving the canopy.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-11-15

Unicipio (Metropolitan Mendoza inter-municipal council) — accessed 2026-11-15

Los Andes (Dec 2022) — Metropolitan census: 615,000 trees, 35,000 missing — accessed 2026-11-15

Unidiversidad / UNCuyo (Aug 2023) — Saving the acequia-water-tree triad — accessed 2026-11-15

El Sol (Dec 2023) — CONICET-INAHE heat-island measurements for Mendoza City — accessed 2026-11-15

Ruiz et al. (2015), Urban Climate 14:197–212 — forested urban canyons in Mendoza — accessed 2026-11-15

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