

Monavale Vlei — Community-Led Restoration of Zimbabwe's First Urban Ramsar Wetland, Still Contested

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Zimbabwe

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Harare residents organising since 2001 turned a threatened suburban wetland into Zimbabwe's first urban Ramsar site (2013) and won a 2021 Supreme Court ruling against housing development, yet a 2026 attempt to build there shows the protection remains actively contested.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
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 2026-09-05

[Conservation Society of Monavale \(COSMO\) Trust, with BirdLife Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Agency](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Ramsar Sites Information Service: Monavale Wetland \(Site 2107\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Mongabay: Community-led wetland restoration](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[allAfrica: Top Court Stops Monavale Wetland Development](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[allAfrica: Government Declares Monavale Wetland 'No-Go Area'](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[UNESCO: Monavale Vlei Biodiversity Project](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

Cite this — Evidoria. *Monavale Vlei — Community-Led Restoration of Zimbabwe's First Urban Ramsar Wetland, Still Contested*. Persistent ID: 647cf874-954d-479e-8eed-b8fd0f3b91e8.