Monsanto Forest Park — Lisbon's 1934 State-Decreed Afforestation of Exhausted Farmland Into a ~1,000-Hectare Urban Forest (Portugal)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Portugal

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Decreed in 1934 and planted from 1938 on soil exhausted by cereal farming, Monsanto is a ~1,000-ha urban forest (~10% of Lisbon) with 250,000+ trees. Heat measurements show >15°C sun-vs-shade gaps, but no city-wide cooling or carbon audit exists.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-11-23

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa — accessed 2026-11-23

RTP — Monsanto, o pulmão verde lisboeta que nasceu há 90 anos — accessed 2026-11-23

Interreg Euro-MED COOL NOONS — Lisbon pilot brief — accessed 2026-11-23

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