

Nauru's Topside Rehabilitation — A Statutory Corporation's Long Bid to Regrow Soil on Mined Land

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Nauru

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Phosphate mining left roughly 80% of Nauru's 21 km² landmass a jagged limestone moonscape; the state-run Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation aims to restore a quarter of the mined Topside plateau in 20 years, but 25 years on only one pit has seen substantial rehabilitation.

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 2026-09-05

[Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[RNZ \(2019\): Nauru moves ahead with land rehabilitation](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Global Landscapes Forum: How phosphate mining ruined Nauru](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Fiji Sun: Nauru turns to bold climate-smart development as 80% of land lies degraded](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Wikipedia: Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

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