

Palmyra Atoll Rat Eradication & Native Forest Recovery

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A 2011 aerial rat eradication on Palmyra Atoll (Island Conservation/TNC/USFWS) preceded a peer-reviewed study showing native tree seedlings rose from under 150 to over 7,700 in five years - though it also triggered a coconut-palm rebound needing active management.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Island Conservation / The Nature Conservancy / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[PLOS ONE: Invasive rat eradication strongly impacts plant recruitment on a tropical atoll](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[ScienceDaily: 5,000 percent increase in native trees on rat-free Palmyra Atoll](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Atlas Obscura: Restoring Palmyra Atoll from rainforest to reef](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

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