

Panama Canal Authority Watershed Reforestation Incentive Programme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Panama

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Panama Canal Authority pays landowners flat annual fees to restore forest in the 342,000-ha Canal watershed: 10,846 ha reforested (3,650 ha agroforestry, 4,776 ha silvopastoral). Secures Canal lock-water and drinking water for 1.3 million people.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	2/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-21

[Autoridad del Canal de Panamá \(ACP\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-21

[ACP: 21 years of reforestation \(official\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-21

[PNAS: Bundling ecosystem services in the Panama Canal watershed](#) — accessed 2026-06-21

[WRI: How Panama breathed new life into degraded lands](#) — accessed 2026-06-21

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