

Philippi Horticultural Area — Protecting Cape Town's Aquifer-Recharge Farmland Through the Courts (South Africa)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Cape Town's Philippi Horticultural Area sits over the Cape Flats Aquifer's key recharge zone. A 2018 impact study urged its protection; in 2020 the High Court set aside Oakland City's approvals (15,000 homes) for ignoring aquifer impacts. Zoning remains contested.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
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 2026-10-10

[PHA Food and Farming Campaign; City of Cape Town; Western Cape Government](#) — accessed 2026-10-10

[Daily Maverick \(2018\) — study findings](#) — accessed 2026-10-10

[GroundUp \(2020\) — Court blocks development on Cape Flats Aquifer](#) — accessed 2026-10-10

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