

Renaturation of the Aire — Geneva's 5 km River Revitalisation with 300-Year Flood Protection (Switzerland)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Switzerland

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Geneva's four-stage Aire renaturation (2002–2023) moved the river out of a 19th-century canal into a new meandering bed, revitalising over 5 km and protecting villages against a 300-year flood.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-27

[Canton of Geneva \(Département du territoire\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-27

[Canton of Geneva — Renaturation de l'Aire, 4e étape](#) — accessed 2026-10-27

[Landezine LILA 2018 — Renaturation of the River Aire](#) — accessed 2026-10-27

[Architectural Record — A Swiss river canal reimagined](#) — accessed 2026-10-27

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