

Rio Claro Water and Forest Producers Project — Guandu Watershed PES (Brazil)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Brazil

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 2008, Rio de Janeiro's Guandu river-basin PES program has paid smallholders USD 6.25-31.25/ha/year to conserve or restore riparian forest; a peer-reviewed evaluation found 41 contracts delivered 489 ha (39% of its 1,258 ha goal), for a watershed supplying ~90% of Rio's water

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Comitê Guandu \(river basin committee\) / The Nature Conservancy Brasil / INEA](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Comitê Guandu: Water and Forest Producers project page](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[MDPI Forests \(2019\): Lessons Learned from the Water Producer Project in the Atlantic Forest, Brazil](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[World Resources Institute: Restoring Rio de Janeiro's Forests Could Save \\$79 Million in Water Treatment Costs](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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