

Sand Dams for Drought-Season Water Security — Shashe Catchment, Zimbabwe

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Zimbabwe

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Twenty sand dams built by Zimbabwe's Dabane Trust in the semi-arid Shashe catchment gave 19 villages water for 4.4 more months a year on average (3.9 in a drought year) and ~58 extra litres/day, per a 2024 IWMI peer-reviewed evaluation.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
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 2026-09-03

Dabane Trust, in partnership with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) — accessed 2026-09-03

Assessing sand dams for contributions to local water security and drought resilience in the Shashe catchment, Zimbabwe — Regional Environmental Change (Springer) 2024 — accessed 2026-09-03

Assessing sand dams for contributions to local water security and drought resilience in the Shashe catchment, Zimbabwe — PreventionWeb summary — accessed 2026-09-03

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