

# Sebeya Catchment Restoration — State-Led Cash-for-Work Terracing to Protect a Flood-Prone Watershed (Rwanda)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Rwanda

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

## Summary

Rwanda's Water Resources Board ran a Rwf22bn (~\$24M) cash-for-work programme (2019–2023) building terraces across the 286km<sup>2</sup> Sebeya catchment: erosion fell ~90%, potato yields tripled and 15,000+ were employed — though a 2023 audit found unpaid workers and unused terraces.

## Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[Rwanda Water Resources Board \(RWB\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[AFR100 — Fighting Floods in Rwanda's Sebeya Catchment by Growing Trees](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[IUCN — Rwanda Ministry of Environment launches Sebeya landscape restoration project](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

[Reasons to be Cheerful — Radical Terraces Are Transforming the Hills of Rwanda](#) — accessed 2026-08-08

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