

# UNDP Green Aral Sea Initiative — Saxaul Afforestation on the Dried Seabed, Karakalpakstan

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Uzbekistan

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

## Summary

Since 2020, UNDP and Uzbekistan's forestry service have planted 823,000 saxaul trees over 658 hectares of the dried Aral Sea bed near Muynak, stabilising sand-dune drift and adding roughly 1.1 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption per hectare a year, though experts flag drought risk to long-t

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 2/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 1/3   |
| 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 2026-08-30

[UNDP Uzbekistan & State Committee of Forestry of Karakalpakstan](#) — accessed 2026-08-30

[UNDP – Green Aral Sea Initiative](#) — accessed 2026-08-30

[Mongabay – Uzbekistan plants a forest where a sea once lay](#) — accessed 2026-08-30

[Times of Central Asia – Aral Sea Restoration Could Prevent 605 Million Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions](#) — accessed 2026-08-30

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