

Văcărești Natural Park — Bucharest's Abandoned Reservoir Reclaimed as an Urban Wetland Reserve (Romania)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Romania

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A ~183 ha reservoir basin abandoned in 1989 rewilded on its own into Bucharest's richest habitat (reports of 140–175 bird species) and became Romania's first urban natural park (IUCN Category V, 2016); reed fires, poaching and exotic species persist; funding mostly private.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-10-06

Asociația Parcul Natural Văcărești / Bucharest City Hall — accessed 2026-10-06

Wetland Link International — Văcărești Natural Park — accessed 2026-10-06

Cooperative City — Văcărești Urban Park — accessed 2026-10-06

Romania Insider — City Hall and NGO to manage the park — accessed 2026-10-06

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