

Vienna's Alpine Spring-Water Protection Forests — Avoided-Cost Watershed Management (Austria)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Austria

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1873, Vienna has piped untreated drinking water from two protected Alpine catchments (675 km²), avoiding filtration-plant costs; its forestry department manages 33,500 ha of dedicated Quellenschutzwälder (spring-protection forests) to keep the water clean at source.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-11

City of Vienna — Vienna Water (MA 31) and Forestry & Agriculture Operations (MA 49), Forstverwaltung Quellenschutz — accessed 2026-07-11

City of Vienna – The Journey of Vienna's Drinking Water — accessed 2026-07-11

City of Vienna – Quellenschutzwälder (Spring Protection Forests) — accessed 2026-07-11

Wikipedia – Water supply in Vienna — accessed 2026-07-11

Cite this — Evidoria. *Vienna's Alpine Spring-Water Protection Forests — Avoided-Cost Watershed Management (Austria)*. Persistent ID: 0e7a1352-95d8-40d7-b534-e748e6736f49.