

Working for Water (South Africa)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 87/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1995 South Africa has paid the unemployed to clear water-hungry invasive alien plants — 2.5M+ hectares cleared and 300,000+ people employed — restoring water yield, reducing fire fuel and creating jobs.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE evaluation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[DFFE — Working for Water](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[WRI — South Africa invasive plants](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

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