

Wuhan's Sponge City Programme — National Subsidy for Urban Water-Retention Infrastructure

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · China

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

China's central government allocated CNY 20.7 billion (about US\$3bn) to 16 pilot 'sponge cities' from 2015-2017; Wuhan alone built 389 water-retention projects across 38.5 km², saving over CNY 4 billion versus conventional drainage.

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 2026-08-01

Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Water Resources (China), with the Wuhan municipal government — accessed 2026-08-01

Coalition for Urban Transitions (WRI/C40) — Building climate resilience and water security in cities: lessons from the Sponge City of Wuhan, China — accessed 2026-08-01

China Daily — 'Sponge cities' soak up rain, pain — accessed 2026-08-01

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