

# Xin'an River Basin Ecological Compensation — China's First Cross-Provincial Watershed PES

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · China

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

## Summary

China's first trans-provincial watershed PES: downstream Zhejiang pays upstream Anhui to protect Xin'an River water quality; CNY 2.2 billion exchanged 2012–2020, reducing COD by 13–21% and total phosphorus by 9–18%.

## 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 2026-06-22

[Ministry of Finance of China / Anhui & Zhejiang Provincial Governments](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[ADB: Improving Watershed Management through Eco-Compensation](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[ADB Brief: Innovative Finance for Water Resources — Xin'an River](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[Academic study — Ecological Compensation Xin'an River Basin \(MDPI Water 2023\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

---

Cite this — Evidoria. *Xin'an River Basin Ecological Compensation — China's First Cross-Provincial Watershed PES*. Persistent ID: dd023d65-b480-44a3-a0df-b31cc770f661.