



CLIMATE
ACTION
RESERVE

Mexico Forest Protocol V3.0

Protocol Summary

Protocol Overview

Mexico forest projects can register under the Mexico Forest Protocol if they enhance forest carbon stocks. Credits are issued for activities that increase forest carbon stocks, including reforestation, restoration, agroforestry, urban forestry, and improved forest management. Avoided emissions from deforestation and degradation are not eligible for crediting under the Mexico Forest Protocol. Credits generated under this protocol meet the Reserve's high standards of being real, additional, quantifiable, permanent, and enforceable.

Project Requirements

Location: Projects must be in Mexico and exist within an ownership communally, privately, or publicly held.

Start Date: The date on which activities are initiated that lead to permanently increased greenhouse gas (GHG) removals relative to the project's baseline. The Forest Owner must officially approve (by general assembly for communal projects) or submit the project to identify the start date.

Crediting Period and Time Commitment: Projects may continue to receive credit for GHG removals for a period of 30 or 100 years following the project start date, depending on the project's permanence commitment. Projects may commit to maintain sequestered carbon due to project activities for any length of time between 30 and 100 years; however, credits are issued proportional to the length of commitment relative to 100 years.

Additionality: Projects must achieve GHG removals above any GHG removals resulting from compliance with any law, statute, rule, regulation, or ordinance and above and beyond "business as usual" activities (as determined through a baseline assessment). The protocol has standardized performance standard tests by activity type.

Permanence of Carbon Storage: Under this protocol, credits are issued based on the proportion of carbon that is maintained over a 100-year time period. Projects may commit to maintaining carbon for a period of time between 30 and 100 years; however, for projects that commit to maintaining carbon for a period of time less than 100 years, credits are issued based on their commitment period relative to 100 years. A "reversal" occurs when forest carbon that was credited is re-emitted to the atmosphere:

- *Unavoidable reversals* (fires, insects, hurricanes, etc.) are compensated with credits in a shared buffer pool; every project contributes to the buffer pool.
- *Avoidable reversals* (harvesting trees, development, etc.) must be compensated for by the Forest Owner depending on the contractual agreement.

Social Safeguards: Project Developers must ensure that community members understand forest carbon project concepts and the project's costs and benefits and approve the project and Project Developer. Project development must provide for community participation and transparency of credit sales and the use of funds generated. The protocol establishes the framework for project governance with a project coordinator selected by the community to represent the project both within and outside of the community. If a project is non-compliant with the Social Safeguards, the project will be suspended until it resumes compliance.

Environmental Safeguards: The protocol requires that native species are maintained and/or increased over the project life. Non-activity areas within the communities are monitored to ensure against leakage within the community, assuring ecosystems are maintained.

Regulatory Compliance: Projects must be in compliance with all applicable laws related to forest project activities and Forest Owners or Project Developers must sign an Attestation of Regulatory Compliance prior to every verification.

Project Monitoring: The Project Report must be submitted after the first or second Reporting Period (each Reporting Period must be 12 months with the first Reporting Period being up to 12 months). Monitoring reports must then be completed annually for the duration of the project.

Verification Schedule: Verification must occur within 12 months of the end of a Reporting Period being verified. A site verification is required at project initiation (within 36 months of the project Start Date) and at a minimum of every six Reporting Periods. Aggregated projects have less frequent verifications.

Important Note: This is a summary of the protocol. Please read the full protocol for a complete description of project requirements.