



Mexico Forest Protocol Summary of Changes from V2.0 to V3.0

October 2022

Version 2.0 to Version 3.0

2.3 Project Activities

- Updated activity definitions for Agroforestry, Silvopastoral and Improved Forest Management Activities.

3.2.3 Public Lands

- For Public Lands, including federal lands, managed by a third-party, the third-party must obtain a legal concession or document from the appropriate governing agency granting the carbon credits rights to serve as the Forest Owner.
- Public Lands with an assigned entity through a Destination Agreement (Acuerdo de Destino) issued by the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) will be considered the Forest Owner and granted carbon rights unless otherwise stated in the Destination Agreement.

3.7 Required Documentation for Land Tenure Status

- Simplified the documentation required for ejidos and communities.

3.9 Social Safeguards

- Included Social safeguard 4 to require that credit sales and funds generated by a carbon project be discussed in a general assembly.
- Social Safeguard 6 and Social Safeguard 7 updated to clarify that Project Developers, Aggregators, and the participation in an aggregate, as well as the terms of related contracts, must be presented to the general assembly and approved through a general assembly vote. The contracts must further include measures to reassess the terms of contract on an ongoing basis or in the event of noncompliance.
- Social Safeguard 9 modified to require Forest Owners to describe how community members are involved in the project in ongoing monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV).
- Social Safeguard 11 modified to strengthen the role of the Project Coordinator and require the Project Coordinator to be included in all communications related to the project and/or sale of credits.
- Social Safeguards 14 updated to require the establishment of a dispute resolution process.

3.10 Environmental Safeguards

- Environmental Safeguards 2 and 3 were updated for Agroforestry activities to require the use and diversity of native species under certain project conditions.

3.12 Project Crediting Period

- The baseline for a Forest Project will be valid with a crediting period of 30 or 100 years, based on the permanence commitment.

3.13 Additionality

- Updated the Restoration Performance Standard Test (PST) Tool to include a section for mangroves.
- Updated the Restoration PST requirement such that if a Restoration Activity Area does not pass the PST after the second subsection, they must complete the third subsection evaluating the forest cover trendline using the Project Area.

3.14 Minimum Time Commitment

- Project must commit to maintaining carbon sequestered due to project activities for a minimum of 30 years up to the Reserve's 100-year permanence requirement. Projects that commit to a period less than 100 years will be issued credits in an amount proportionate to the length of the commitment relative to 100 years.

5.2 Determining the Activity Area Baseline

- Reforestation Activity Areas may include previously existing trees in their carbon inventory so long as they are degrown to the start date in CALCBOCK for the baseline quantification; reforested trees would not be included in the baseline.

6 Ensuring the Permanence of Credited GHG Removals

- Updated minimum commitment period for projects, such that projects may commit to maintaining carbon sequestration due to project activities for 100 years or a time period less than 100 years with a minimum commitment of 30 years. Projects that commit to less than 100 years are subject to crediting proportional to the stored or secured carbon relative to the 100-year permanence period.
- Incorporated the use of multiple mechanisms to ensure permanence obligations, including the Project Implementation Agreement, a formal ejidal or communal commitment through the General Assembly, a project specific risk assessment for the Buffer Pool, and a long-term economic incentive through redistributions of the Buffer Pool contributions.

6.1 Project Implementation Agreement and Communal Permanence Commitment

- Communities and Ejidos will sign the PIA in a general assembly, have it notarized and register it with the RAN, unless state or municipal laws prohibit the registration, in that case notarization is sufficient along with evidence demonstrating that the PIA could not be legally registered with the RAN.
- The Assembly Act for communities and ejidos serves to define the period of time in which the Forest Owners commit to maintain the carbon sequestered due to project activities up to 100 years.

6.3.5 Determination of Buffer Pool Contribution

- Updated Equation 6.2 to require the use of a project specific reversal risk as determined in Appendix H.

7.2 Monitoring Guidance for Social Safeguards

- Updated monitoring guidance for social safeguards based on updates to social safeguards 4, 6, and 7 related to transparency of the use of funds and credit sales, project developer and aggregate approval, ongoing community participation, and

requiring that the Project Coordinator must attest to their inclusion in the Forest Project MRV and compliance with the social safeguards.

7.3 Monitoring Objectives and Results for Non-Compliance

- Included results for non-compliance of social safeguards such that project activity will be suspended until the project is brought into compliance.
- Included guidance for the updated Environmental Safeguards for Agroforestry activities.

8.3 Project Verification Activities

- During the Verification, verifiers should ensure the compliance with social safeguards by interviewing the Project Coordinator independently to discuss project themes and may interview other community members if needed.
- Included verification guidance for the updated Environmental Safeguards for Agroforestry activities.
- Included verification guidance for updated permanence requirements.
- Included verification guidance for stratified Activity Areas.

Appendix B Field Sampling Tree Inventory Quantification Methodology

- Activity Areas may be stratified for inventory purposes to simplify verification and lower costs. Stratification should represent potential carbon stocking in the live and dead tree pools and is recommended to be divided into low, medium and high carbon stocking.
- Included QA/QC recommended measures for Project Developers to conduct check-plots in field sampled inventories.
- Included guidance for border plots using the “Walkthrough Method”.
- Clarified the inclusion of belowground CO_{2e}.

Appendix F. Tonne-Year Accounting

- Tonne-year accounting is applied to projects that make less than 100-year permanence commitments, whereas tonne-tonne accounting is applied to projects that make 100-year permanence commitments.

Appendix G. Determination of Buffer Pool Contribution

- Included the determination for project specific Buffer Pool contributions. Risks that may lead to reversals are classified into the categories identified in Table G.1 and assessed based on landowner type, project activities, and other considerations. The Buffer Pool, however, is treated as a combined risk pool and all Buffer Pool credits may be used for a reversal due to any risk category. The Reserve will adaptively manage Buffer Pool contributions and will update the estimated risk values as needed. Current Buffer Pool contributions range from 28% to 42%.
- Projects with a commitment period of less than 100 years have a lower risk of reversal due to having a shorter period of time in which the carbon must be secured and consequently reduced crediting according to their permanence commitment relative to 100-years. The Buffer Pool contribution is adjusted based on the commitment period relative to the 100-year permanence requirement according to Equation G.1.

Appendix H. Redistribution of Buffer Pool Contribution

- Tonne-Year accounting principles for 100-year permanence periods are applied to long-term management of the Buffer Pool by redistributing the Buffer Pool contributions over time.