



2024

FIELD MONITORING REPORT

BEL-003-MEX-20082024 PICHUCALCO, CHIAPAS, MÉXICO
Manejo Forestal y Biodiversidad Pichucalco
Desarrollos Sostenibles BELMEX S.A. de C.V.

November, 2024





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Context.....	2
On-site Monitoring Period	2
I. Method of analysis.....	3
I.1. Vegetation Sampling Procedure	3
I.1.1. In cabinet	3
I.1.2. In the field	4
II. Results	6
II.1. Verify the correct location of the project site	6
II.2. Corroborate the plantation through vegetation sampling	6
II.2.1. Species diversity.....	6
II.2.2. Reforested vs. pre-existing species	6
II.2.3. Composition by point	7
II.2.4. Development stage	7
II.3. Corroborate that there was no logging and/or clearing	8
II.4. Corroborate the biodiversity inventory for the calculation of VBBC	8
II.4.1. Fauna sampling	8
III. Conclusions	9
IV.1. Photographic annex	9



CONTEXT

The project “Manejo Forestal y Bioversidad Pichucalco”, with the aOPC identification code **BEL-003-MEX-20082024-PICHUCALCO, CHIAPAS, Mexico**, is in the onboarding stage for being registered under the ASES on-chain protocol. Since Project activities have been implemented before the start of the onboarding process, it participates as a project of Modality B. According to the aOCP rules and procedures, Modality B projects shall go through the following process in order to be registered:

1. Application via the Project Submission Form (PSF), done by Project proponent.
2. Documentation review and alignment assessment, done by aOCP Internal Team of Technical Experts.
3. Project pre-registration, done by aOCP Internal Team of Technical Experts.
4. **On- site Validate of the implemented Project activities by Audit Team (current activity)**
5. Elaboration of Baseline report, Monitoring plan, Contingent table of credits issuance, done by aOCP Internal Team of Technical Experts.
6. Project proponent agreement.
7. Project Verification by an external, independent, 3rd-party Verifier, delivering a Project Verification Report.
8. Project registration letter and first credits issuance, done by aOCP Internal Team of Technical Experts.

This report has been independently prepared by the Internal Team of Technical Experts of the aOCP, based on the information collected on the ground by the Audit Team, as part of Activity 4 of the process previously described.

ON-SITE MONITORING PERIOD

Date	November 2024
Period	1 10 On-site monitoring corresponds to 1 out of 10, as established in the project monitoring plan
Modality	On-site
Project stage	Validation



I. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The on-site audit visit, during the Validation stage, will be carried out by the aOCP Audit Team, who will be responsible for conducting the first evaluation in the project area to:

1. **Verify the correct location of the project site.**
2. **Corroborate the plantation (in forest management projects).**
3. Corroborate soil and water works (in applicable projects).
4. **Corroborate that there was no logging and/or clearing.**
5. **Corroborate the biodiversity inventory for the calculation of VBBCs (when applicable).**
6. Conduct vegetation sampling for carbon sequestration monitoring.

The present project qualifies for the generation of Verified Carbon Credits (VCCs) and, in a subsequent phase, for Verified Biodiversity-Based Credits (VBBCs), in accordance with the modalities defined by the Ases On-Chain Protocol (aOCP). The project is currently in the Validation stage, and therefore, the activities carried out by the audit team in the field correspond to activities **1, 2, 4, and 5** from the previously mentioned list, in alignment with the procedures established for this phase of the certification process.

I.1. VEGETATION SAMPLING PROCEDURE

I.1.1. IN CABINET

Vegetation was assessed at three designated sampling points within the project area, with coordinates provided in Table 1. However, during the field visit to sampling point P3-BEL-003-MEX (covering 2.03 hectares), no evidence of plantations corresponding to the six inventoried species was found. As a result, this site was excluded from vegetation sampling and credit evaluation due to the absence of reforestation activities.

Table 1. Geographic coordinates of assessed quadrats

UTM 15N		
ID	X	Y
1	478442	1936197
2	482926	1936501
3	487517	1937065

I.1.2. IN THE FIELD

Location and delimitation of the sampling site

An inventory of flora and fauna was taken at two different points within the project area. The precise location of the project area and the audit points can be seen in Figure 1.

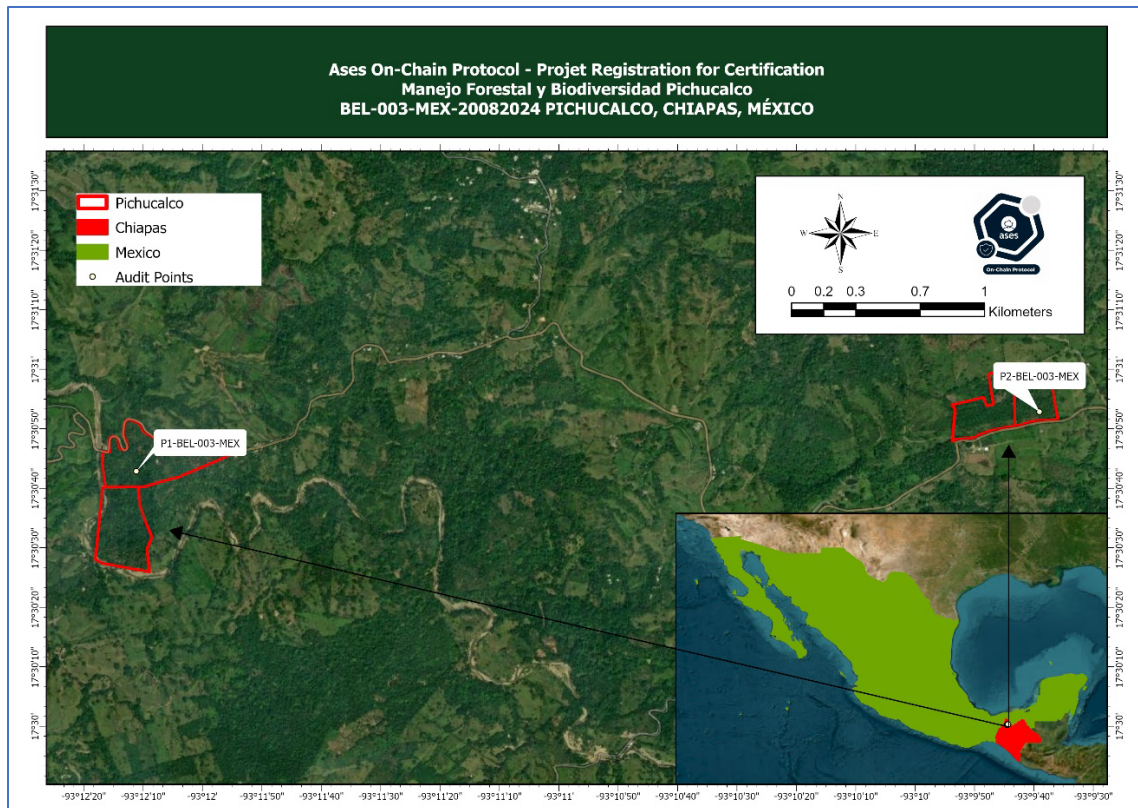


Figure 1. Audit Points in Project Area

Individual Registry direction

At each audit point, any observed individuals were recorded in a clockwise direction.

a) Registration of trees and shrubs

1. The individuals were identified by their scientific or reference name.
2. The diameter and height of the main trunk were measured.
3. The total height of the individual was measured.
4. The diameter of the largest crown and its perpendicular crown were recorded.
5. Photographic evidence was taken of the species that were measured and identified.



The regenerative Standard

6. Photographic evidence of the activities of the registration of tree individuals was taken to integrate the photographic annex of activities.

b) Herbaceous Register

1. Identified by the scientific name or reference to the individual or group of individuals.
2. The percentage of surface area occupied at the sampling site was estimated.
3. Photographic evidence of the species was taken.

c) Vegetation Registration

1. Sampling criteria were unified with the work team.
2. All vegetation was recorded per sampling point using the proprietary aces application.
3. A person responsible for the use of the application was designated.
4. An overview of the job site was made.
5. It will begin with the filling out of the overview of the sampling site and once.
6. The vegetation was recorded by strata, first the tree stratum was recorded, then the shrubs and finally the herbaceous ones

Wildlife Sampling

d) Location and delimitation of the sampling site

Wildlife was not directly inventoried during the audit visit; however, a variety of species were observed. The audit team noted that the presence of birds, reptiles, and small mammals in a healthy condition suggested a positive food supply and suitable conditions.



II. RESULTS

II.1. VERIFY THE CORRECT LOCATION OF THE PROJECT SITE

During the project site visit, the correct geographic location of the reported area was verified, confirming in the field that the polygons matched the boundaries established in the documentation. However, it was determined that one of the originally included polygons is not eligible, as no planting activities were carried out in that area. For this reason, the polygon was removed from the final project area and was not considered in the certification process or in the calculation of Verified Credits.

II.2. CORROBORATE THE PLANTATION THROUGH VEGETATION SAMPLING

During the visit carried out by the audit team to the project site, sampling was conducted at two points within the arboreal stratum, recording floristic composition, number of individuals, as well as height and diameter data. Below is a general analysis of the results:

II.2.1. SPECIES DIVERSITY

A total of 10 different tree species were identified across sampling points 1 and 2. These include both native and introduced species, though noninvasive, such as *Citrus aurantifolia*, resulting in a composition that suggests a mixed agroforestry system. The species recorded at the sampling points include:

- Cacao
- Cedro
- Cocohite
- Tatuan
- Limón (*Citrus aurantifolia*)
- Pachaco
- Pimienta dioica
- Bojon

II.2.2. REFORESTED VS. PRE-EXISTING SPECIES

It is important to note that, according to the information provided by the developer, the following species were introduced as part of the reforestation process:

- *Theobroma cacao* – 4,680 individuals (30.9%) – Native
- *Gliricidia sepium* – 3,489 individuals (23.0%) – Native
- *Cordia megalantha* – 1,997 individuals (13.2%) – Native
- *Cedrela odorata* – 2,076 individuals (13.7%) – Native
- *Alseis yucatanensis* – 2,151 individuals (14.2%) – Native

- *Citrus aurantifolia* – 758 individuals (5.0%) – Introduced

The remaining species recorded during the sampling were already present at the site prior to the start of the project, which is relevant for the assessment of additionality.

II.2.3. COMPOSITION BY POINT

- **Point 1** shows a high density of cacao, accompanied by cedar (*cedro*), tatuan, and cocohite. Multiple entries of cacao with varying height ranges suggest establishment at different growth stages.
- **Point 2** stands out for its diversity, with additional species such as lime, pachaco, bojon, and *Pimienta dioica*, along with predominant cacao and timber species like cedar.

II.2.4. DEVELOPMENT STAGE

The heights and diameters of the individuals vary widely, ranging from young plants (3 m in height and 4–6 cm in diameter) to mature trees reaching 30 m in height and over 35 cm in diameter, as seen in some cedar and pachaco specimens. This reflects a combination of recently established individuals and pre-existing vegetation.

Table 2. Number of planted species and individuals recorded

Vegetation sampling points	Strata	Species	Number	Height (m)	Diameter (Cm)
Point 1	Arboreal	Cacao	44		8
Point 1	Arboreal	Cedro	2	16	20
Point 1	Arboreal	Cocohite	2	12	14
Point 1	Arboreal	Tatuan	2	25	21
Point 1	Arboreal	Cacao	16	3.5	6
Point 1	Arboreal	Cacao	16	3	6
Point 1	Arboreal	Cedro	3	13	24
Point 1	Arboreal	Cedro	3		23
Point 1	Arboreal	Cocohite	4	13	14
Point 1	Arboreal	Tatuan	3	25	24



Vegetation sampling points	Strata	Species	Number	Height (m)	Diameter (Cm)
Point 2	Arboreal	Cacao	69	3	6
Point 2	Arboreal	Limon	13	3	7
Point 2	Arboreal	Cedro	4	30	35
Point 2	Arboreal	Cedro	2	3	4
Point 2	Arboreal	Tatuan	16	15	8
Point 2	Arboreal	Bojon	5	20	9
Point 2	Arboreal	Pachaco	8	29	24
Point 2	Arboreal	Pimienta dioica	4	2	3
Point 2	Arboreal	Cocohite		2	2

II.3. CORROBORATE THAT THERE WAS NO LOGGING AND/OR CLEARING

During the field visit, it was confirmed that no deforestation has occurred in the project area. This observation was verified by the audit team through on-site inspections and visual confirmation, supporting compliance with the eligibility criteria established by the aOCP.

II.4. CORROBORATE THE BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY FOR THE CALCULATION OF VBBC

II.4.1. FAUNA SAMPLING

During the audit visit, various species of birds, reptiles, and small mammals were directly observed at the property, indicating healthy habitat conditions. Although specific species were not catalogued in the audit, the confirmed presence aligns with wildlife conservation goals. Therefore, the project developer may proceed with the execution of the biodiversity inventory in accordance with the guidelines established by the aOCP.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The Project activity submitted by the Project proponent Desarrollos Sostenibles BELMEX S.A. de C.V., under the Manejo Forestal y Biodiversidad Pichucalco, has been monitored on-site. Audit findings confirmed that implementation is consistent with the PSF documentation. Vegetation sampling confirmed the establishment of multiple species, including cacao, cedro, cocohite, tatuan, and others, with a total of over 200 individuals observed. Wildlife was present at P1 and P2, supporting the claim of biodiversity enhancement. However, at sampling point P3, no plantation matching inventory records was found. The project owner acknowledged this, and it was recommended to initiate monitoring using the aOCP biodiversity methodology at that site. Overall, the audit found compliance with environmental and social safeguards, and the project appears aligned with aOCP registration criteria, pending further documentation on land tenure and full biodiversity monitoring.

IV.1. PHOTOGRAPHIC ANNEX

The following photographs show the Project area, the state of the plantation done by the Project proponent, and the monitoring activities performed by the Audit Team during the field visit in November 2024.







The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



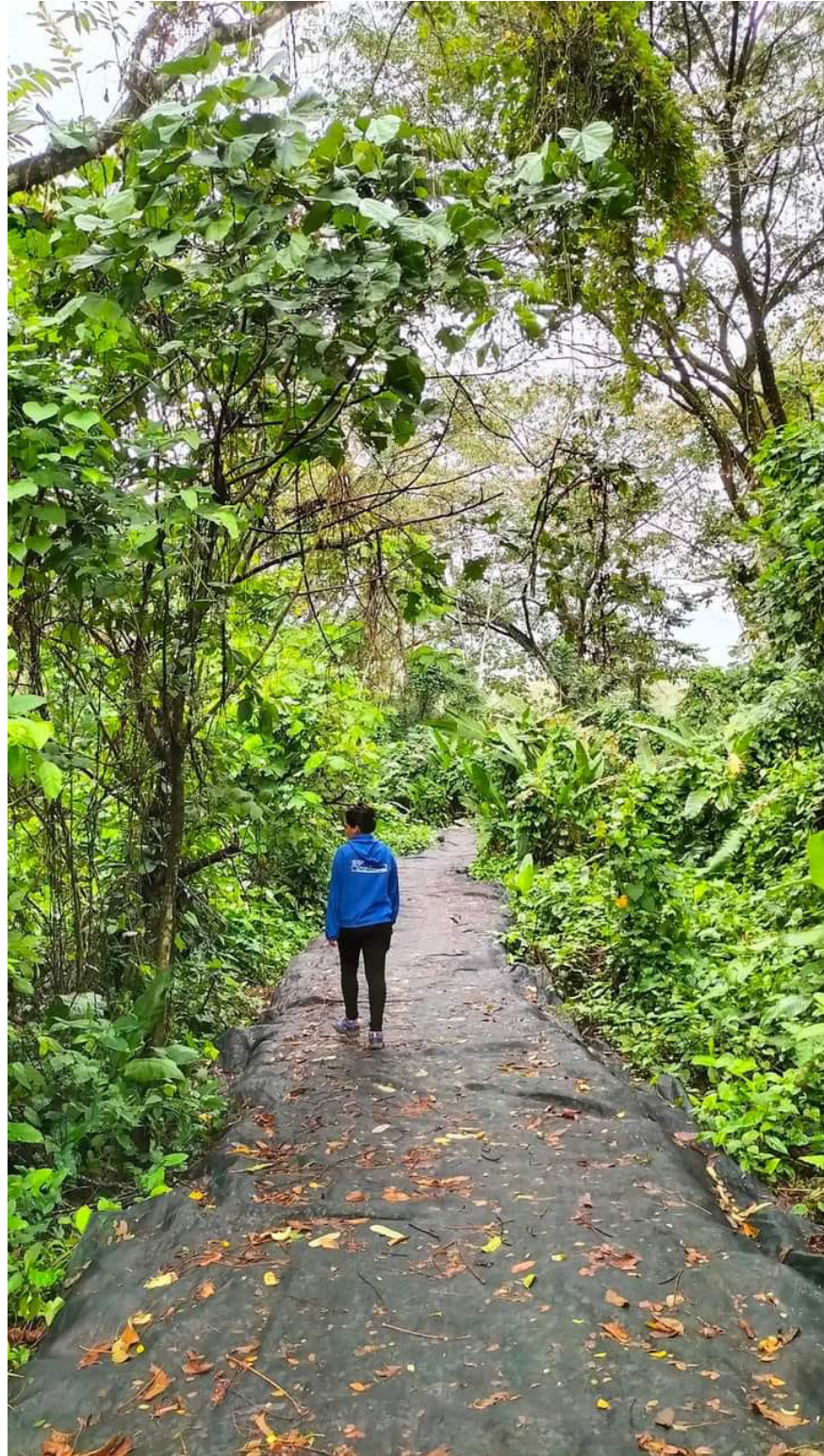
The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard





The regenerative Standard





The regenerative
Standard



N⁺



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard



N+



The regenerative
Standard

