

# Climate Vulnerability Assessment

PRP-001-MEX-27112024 CARMEN, CAMPECHE,  
MÉXICO



**CDS**

Geoprospective  
Science

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This document presents a comprehensive Species Climate Vulnerability and Project Risk Assessment, conducted as part of the classification process under the NAT5 Project Scoring System. This system categorizes projects into six distinct risk and viability classes, ranging from AA+ (very low risk, highly resilient) to E (high risk, low resilience), to inform strategic investment and planning decisions in nature-based climate solutions. The assessments detailed herein are designed to evaluate the ecological and environmental stability of the project area, with a particular focus on its vulnerability to climate-related hazards. The core components of this analysis include:

- Species Climate Vulnerability Assessment, examining the current and projected future suitability for species integrated in the restoration program.
- Project Risk Factors Assessment, which evaluates:
  - Forest Fire Risk
  - Flood Risk
  - Drought Risk

These assessments were conducted using advanced spatial modeling techniques and satellite-based environmental data, ensuring scientifically robust and spatially explicit results. The outcomes are intended to support risk-informed project development, promote long-term sustainability, and enable transparent classification under the NAT5 framework.

## II. SPECIES CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section assesses the climate vulnerability of species proposed for restoration projects by evaluating their distribution across key bioclimatic variables under historical and projected climate conditions. The analysis provides insights into species adaptability and resilience under climate change scenarios.

### II.1 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The distribution and probability of presence of species found in the project area will be assessed using the **Climpact Data Science (CDS)** tool. Climpact is an integrated modeling platform that allows the evaluation of optimal zones for species distribution and presence, under both current and future climate conditions. The tool uses as its primary input physical, environmental, and biological factors related to each species and its ecological preferences, enabling the spatial identification—across a defined territory—of areas where a species or a community of species is most likely to thrive and persist.

CDS is based on the theory of ecological niches, which are defined as “the position of a species within an ecosystem, describing both the range of conditions necessary for its persistence and its ecological role within that ecosystem.” The model requires calibration of the relationship between the distribution of a species—or, where applicable, a group of species—and the spatial distribution of 20 environmental variables necessary for its development. Among these environmental variables, seven are related to climatic elements considered relevant to the





development and survival of the species, and one variable is directly related to the biological environment to which the species are adapted.

The analysis is conducted on a species-by-species basis. Bioclimatic conditions from WorldClim v2.1 and Net Primary Productivity (NPP) are used to assess species' occurrence and niche suitability. Climate change projections are based on future climate scenarios (e.g. CMIP6 models under SSP2-4.5). This assessment aids in scoring the project's alignment with climate resilience criteria.

The probability of species occurrence is determined by a combination of climatic, biological, structural, and environmental factors that influence the species' ability to adapt and survive (Table 1). This probability is expressed as a percentage, where 100% indicates that all necessary conditions for the species are present in a given area. As the percentage decreases, it reflects suboptimal environmental conditions, requiring the species to expend greater adaptive effort to survive and establish themselves in the new habitat.

## II.2 SPECIES OVERVIEW

### Scientific Names:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Croton reflexifolius</i> | 4. <i>Nasua narica</i>           |
| 2. <i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i>    | 5. <i>Panthera onca</i>          |
| 3. <i>Lonchocarpus rugosus</i> | 6. <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> |

**Project Area:** Carmen, Campeche, México

**Ecological Role:** Wildlife Conservation

**Proposed Restoration Use:** Ecosystem recovery

## II.3 BIOCLIMATIC VARIABLES USED

Table 1 presents the bioclimatic variables analyzed, obtained from WorldClim v2.1 and NPP datasets.

**Table 1. Bioclimatic Variables Used in Species Distribution Assessment**

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
BI01	Annual Mean Temperature	BI011	Mean Temperature of Coldest Quarter
BI02	Mean Diurnal Range (Mean of monthly (max temp - min temp))	BI012	Annual Precipitation
BI03	Isothermality (BI02/BI07) (×100)	BI013	Precipitation of Wettest Month





Variable	Description	Variable	Description
<b>BIO4</b>	Temperature Seasonality (standard deviation $\times 100$ )	<b>BIO14</b>	Precipitation of Driest Month
<b>BIO5</b>	Max Temperature of Warmest Month	<b>BIO15</b>	Precipitation Seasonality (Coefficient of Variation)
<b>BIO6</b>	Min Temperature of Coldest Month	<b>BIO16</b>	Precipitation of Wettest Quarter
<b>BIO7</b>	Temperature Annual Range (BIO5-BIO6)	<b>BIO17</b>	Precipitation of Driest Quarter
<b>BIO8</b>	Mean Temperature of Wettest Quarter	<b>BIO18</b>	Precipitation of Warmest Quarter
<b>BIO9</b>	Mean Temperature of Driest Quarter	<b>BIO19</b>	Precipitation of Coldest Quarter
<b>BIO10</b>	Mean Temperature of Warmest Quarter	<b>BIO20</b>	Net Primary Productivity (NPP)

## II.4 CLIMATE SUITABILITY AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The probability of distribution for the species was modeled using their observed bioclimatic minimum and maximum ranges under both historical and future climate scenarios. Climatic data representative of the broader state of Veracruz, rather than the specific project area, were used for this analysis. As shown in Table 2, the species *Croton reflexifolius*, *Guazuma ulmifolia*, *Lonchocarpus rugosus*, *Nasua narica*, *Panthera onca* and *Odocoileus virginianus* currently demonstrate high suitability (94.38%) on average across the region, with future projections indicating slightly reduced suitability (89.52%).

Table 3 provides the classification scheme used to interpret suitability values. Suitability values above 82.6% indicate high alignment between environmental conditions and species' ecological requirements, suggesting strong potential for persistence and minimal impact from future climatic shifts.

The results suggest that these key species retain a robust capacity for survival under anticipated climate scenarios. Overall, the modeled responses reflect the species' resilience to regional changes in temperature and precipitation, aligning with broader warming trends and reinforcing their continued relevance in ecological restoration efforts.





**Table 2. Historical and Future Distribution of *Species*.**

Species	Probability of Distribution (%)	
	Historical (Past)	Future (Projected)
<i>Croton reflexifolius</i>	94.34	86.19
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i>	94.40	91.19
<i>Lonchocarpus rugosus</i>	94.34	86.19
<i>Nasua narica</i>	94.40	91.19
<i>Panthera onca</i>	94.40	91.19
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	94.40	91.19
<b>Average</b>	<b>94.38</b>	<b>89.52</b>



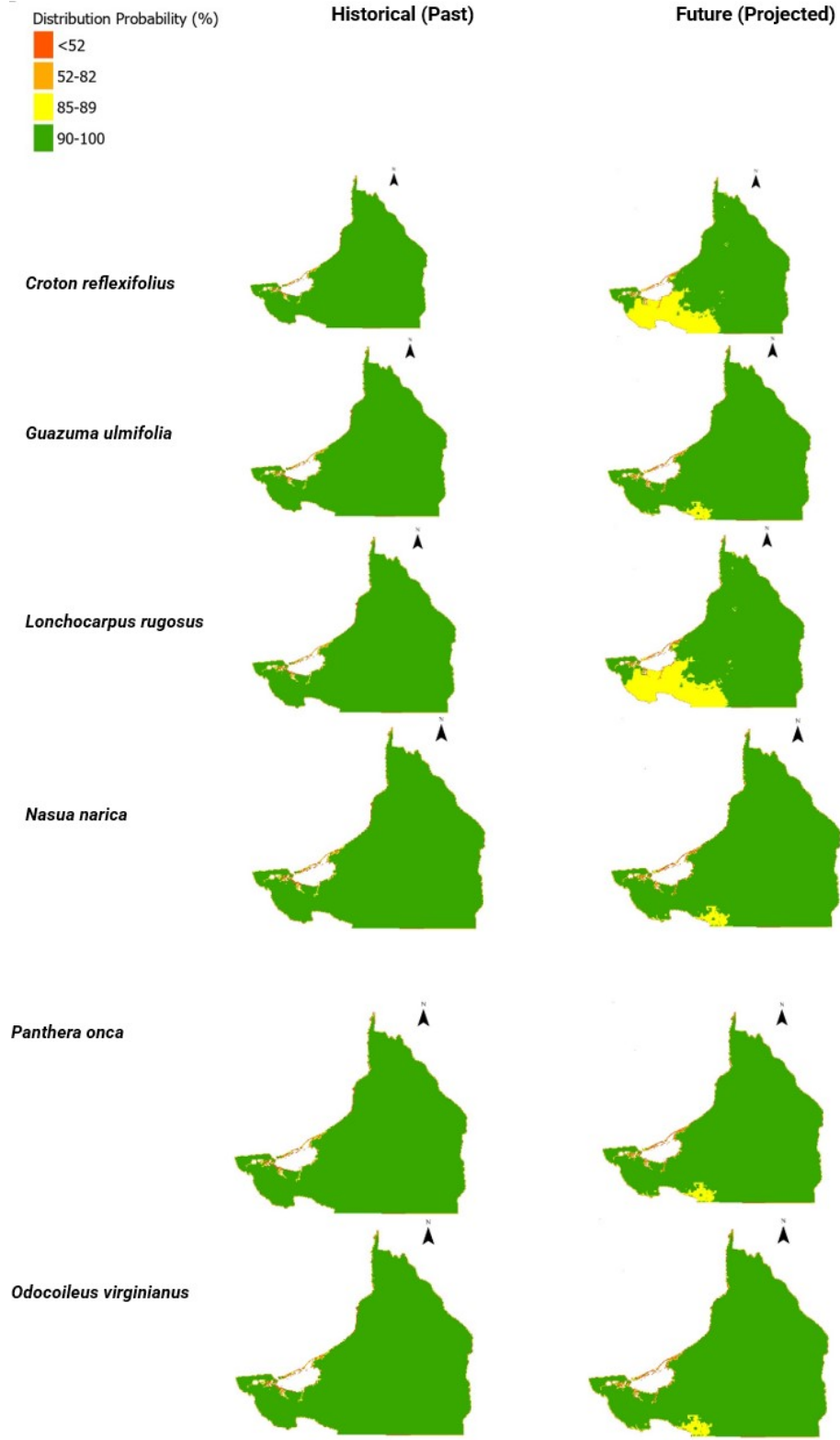


Figure 1. Species Probability Maps of Past and Future Distribution







**Table 3. Species Probability Distribution Classifications**

Percentage (%)	Interpretation
1-52.16	This range indicates that the area is poorly suited for the development of the species or species community. The environmental conditions are likely to pose significant challenges, and the species' capacity to adapt to future changes is considerably limited.
52.17-82.5	Areas within this range suggest moderate suitability, where the species may need to adjust to altered environmental conditions. Mild stress periods could occur, and there is a higher degree of uncertainty regarding the species' ability to successfully adapt to these changes.
82.6-99	This range reflects high suitability, with environmental conditions closely matching the species' ecological niche. The impacts of climate change in these areas are expected to be minimal, and the species is likely to adapt well to future environmental shifts.
100	A value of 100% indicates full suitability, meaning the environmental conditions perfectly align with the species' ecological requirements. In such areas, the species or community is expected to thrive, with optimal potential for long-term survival and development.

### III. PROJECT RISK FACTORS

In alignment with the aOCP standard for carbon, water, soil, and biodiversity credit certification, comprehensive risk assessment is essential to safeguard project integrity, ensure long-term sustainability, and maximize environmental and community benefits. This process involves the identification, analysis, and evaluation of potential threats that could hinder project implementation or compromise its outcomes.

The identified risk factors related to this project are assessed below.

#### III.1 FOREST LOSS RISK

Forest loss risk is evaluated by examining both environmental and anthropogenic factors that may contribute to deforestation or land degradation. The index incorporates variables such as:

- Historical patterns of deforestation
- Proximity to urban centers and infrastructure
- Fire incidence and history of burning
- River and farmland proximity





- Terrain accessibility, including elevation and slope

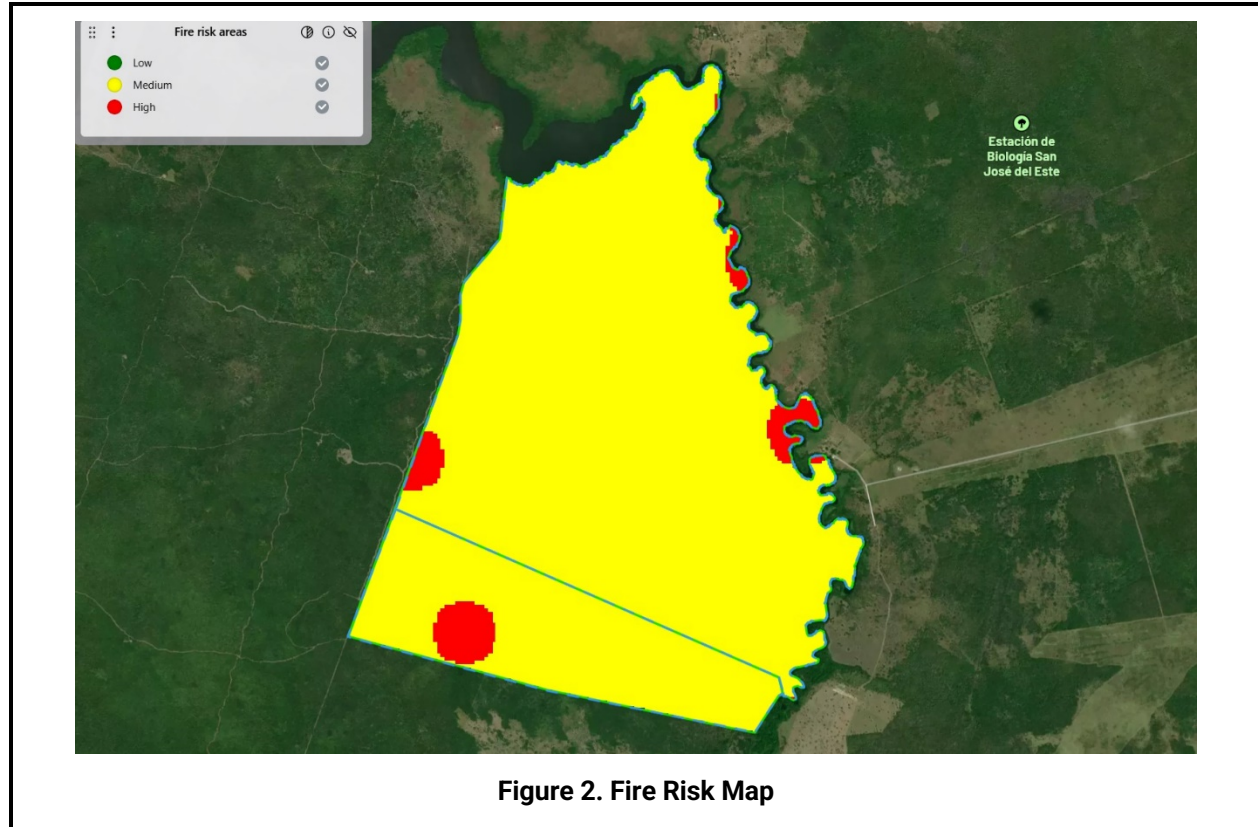
These indicators collectively inform spatial risk modeling for potential forest disturbance.

### III.1.1 FOREST FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Forest Fire Risk assessment utilizes the Fire Weather Index (FWI) to quantify wildfire susceptibility within the project area, based on historical and climatological data. This index integrates multiple variables, including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and fuel moisture content, to evaluate fire danger conditions comprehensively. The analysis draws on a decade of historical fire danger indices to capture temporal variability and long-term fire trends across the region. By aggregating fire danger values over a ten-year period, the model provides a robust estimation of fire risk grounded in climatic and environmental patterns. The cumulative index scores are categorized into three levels: Low, Medium, and High, reflecting the likelihood and potential severity of fire events. Each location within the project area is assigned a numerical risk score, offering a clear, data-driven basis for fire risk mitigation and management planning.

For this project, the assessment identifies a Medium Fire Risk across 96.2% of the project area, indicating moderate susceptibility to fire-related disturbances. Figure 2 illustrates the spatial distribution of fire risk, highlighting areas of elevated concern. In addition to the Medium Risk area, certain zones were also classified as High Risk (shown in red). Adaptive land management strategies and early warning systems should be considered to address any shifts in vegetation, land use, or climate that may increase vulnerability over time.



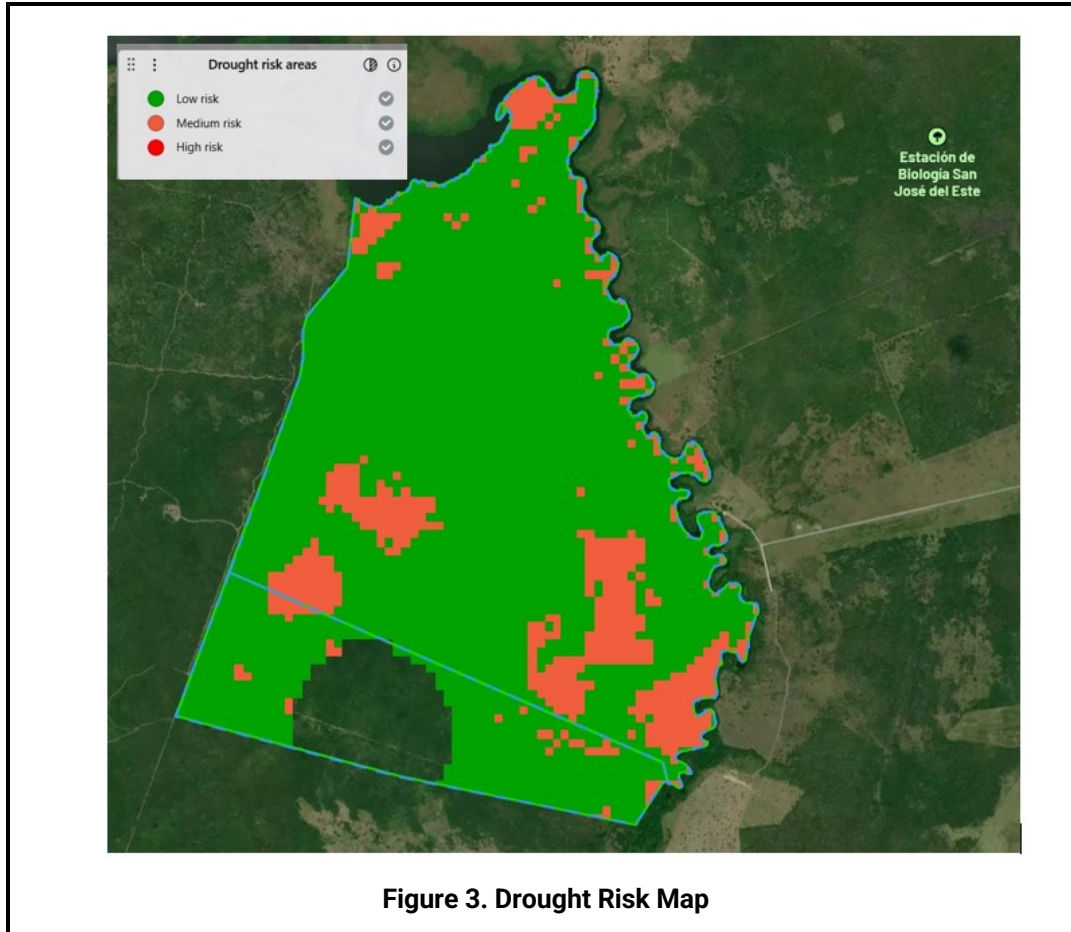


### III.2 DROUGHT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Drought Risk assessment provides a spatially explicit evaluation of the area's historical exposure to drought conditions, leveraging the Combined Drought Index (CDI), a comprehensive indicator that integrates multiple drought-related variables including precipitation anomalies, soil moisture deficits, and vegetation stress. Each pixel within the project area is evaluated and classified into one of three drought risk categories: Low, Medium, or High, based on historical CDI values. The overall risk score for the project area is determined by calculating the proportion of land area (pixels) that falls within each of the defined risk classes, allowing for a data-driven characterization of drought vulnerability.

The results of the analysis indicate that the project area is predominantly characterized by **Low to Medium** Drought Risk. Figure 3 presents the drought risk distribution map, highlighting minimal spatial variability across the landscape. These findings underscore the importance of incorporating adaptive land and water management strategies, especially in medium-risk zones, to safeguard long-term vegetation health and project sustainability under changing climatic conditions.





### III.3 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Flood risk is evaluated by integrating multiple environmental and historical parameters, including annual precipitation, the Topographic Wetness Index (TWI), proximity to rivers and flood plains, and records of past flood events. These variables are combined to produce a comprehensive flood risk layer that indicates the spatial distribution and severity of flood susceptibility across the study area.

A key driver in this assessment is precipitation, analyzed using a 35-year dataset of annual values expressed in mm/pentad. This data provides insight into long-term rainfall patterns and potential anomalies. Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of annual precipitation across the region at a resolution of 5.56 km, supporting the identification of flood-prone zones.

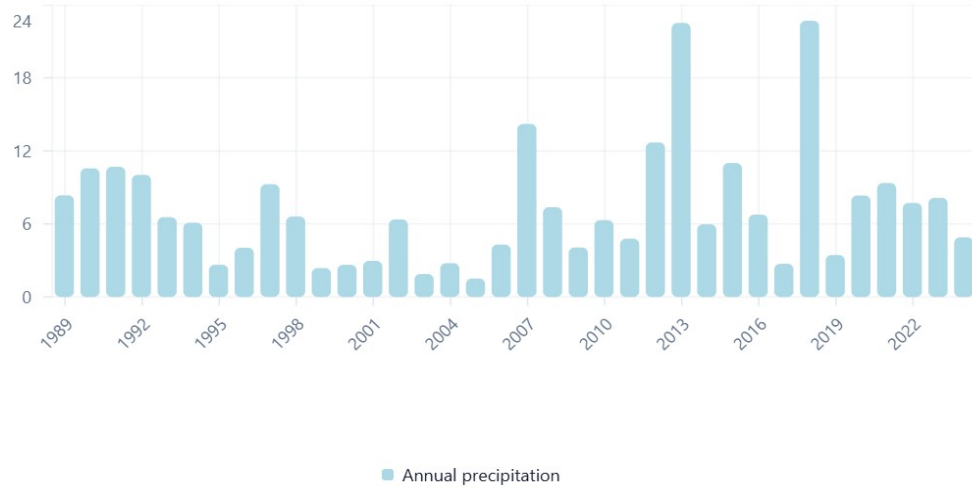
Based on the precipitation-driven model outputs, a minimum of 33% of the project area is classified as high flood risk, underscoring the need for targeted mitigation strategies in those zones.





## Annual Precipitation (mm/pentad)

Apr 2019 - Dec 2024



The **Non-Permanence Risk Score** describes the total risk brought about from fire, flooding and drought. Please consult the [AFOLU Non-permanence risk tool for guidance on Natural Hazards scoring](#)

The component highlights the dominant risk factor (fire, flood or risk) and the dominant risk class for the project area.

- **Devastating:** Over 50% loss of carbon stocks
- **Major:** 25 - 50 % loss of carbon stocks
- **Minor:** less than 5 % loss of carbon stocks or transient (full recovery of lost carbon stocks expected within 10 years of any event)

### Major

Natural Non-Permanence Risk

### Floods

Minimum 33% of project area exposed to high risk or greater

**Figure 4. Annual Precipitation within Project Area & Non-Permanence Risk Summary**





## IV. NAT5 SCORING

Scope	Variable	Description	Level	Weighting
Types of credits	Credits	The Xim-Báalam-Paseo del Jaguar in Carmen, Campeche project, is applying to one type of credit: biodiversity VBBC.	Single-credit project	0,50
Climatic catastrophes	Forest fires	It was evaluated at the area of influence level. Historical forest fire data from CONAFOR, published in the State Risk Atlas, was used. In 2022, a fire was recorded approximately 13 km southwest of the project area in the Laguna de Términos Natural Protected Area, with a "minimal" impact level over an area of about 1,363 ha. In 2024, another fire was recorded approximately 6 km west of the project, also with a "minimal" impact level, affecting about 1,268 ha. According to the National Risk Atlas, the project area is classified as medium to high within the category "Priority areas for forest fire attention, CONAFOR 2014".	Medium risk	0,30
	Floods	The risk level was evaluated using a multi-criteria analysis. Among the parameters considered were average precipitation, distance to rivers and alluvial plains, historical data, the Topographic Wetness Index (TWI), and its correlation with soil characteristics. Most of the project area is classified as medium/high risk, which underscores the need for continuous monitoring as well as the implementation of management measures.	Medium risk	0,50
	Drought	The Combined Drought Index (CDI) was used, which is an indicator that integrates multiple drought-related factors: precipitation, soil moisture, and vegetation health, represented by zSPI, zSM, and zFpar, respectively. The project area is classified at the "watch" level, indicating the first signs of a possible drought and requiring close monitoring.	Medium risk	0,50
	Storms	The hazard was evaluated at the municipal level using the 2020 indicators of Hazard, Exposure, and Vulnerability from the National Risk Atlas of CENAPRED, and the municipality of Carmen, Campeche is classified as having a "medium" level of risk to tropical cyclones.	Medium risk	0,50







Scope	Variable	Description	Level	Weighting
Climate change	Loss of ecological conditions necessary for the adaptability of reforested species.	Based on the average probability of distribution of the species present, currently 94.38% of the ecological conditions necessary for the species are present in the project area. In future climate change scenarios, the availability of optimal conditions is expected to decrease slightly to 89.52%, indicating a continued probability of survival and establishment of the species.	Low	0,75
Legal, political and social conditions	Legal risk	All legal documentation is complete, valid, and verified (titles, permits, agreements, etc.).	No risk	1,00
	Political risk	The Government of Mexico has undertaken targeted efforts to meet its climate-related commitments. As part of this, the country has worked on developing various mechanisms aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.	Positive outlook toward VCM and in favor of climate action as a national priority	1,00
	Social risk	The project is located on private property, and all stakeholders have been consulted. In addition, the developer has an agreement with the landowner for the conservation of the area for 40 years.	The project has full social backing, signed agreements, and active participation of local communities.	1,00
Project Developer	Project developer's risk	The developer is an organization dedicated to biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and the regenerative management of natural resources, with extensive experience in conservation projects.	The project developer has generated similar projects (VCM) in the past and has successfully completed them	1,00
	Strength of the project team	The internal team has more than 7 years of experience in developing similar projects.	The internal team has a combined technical experience of more than 7 years and a combined commercial experience of more than 7 years	1,00
Transparency and communication	Transparency and clarity of project communication	The project developer has shared all legal and social information in a timely manner as required by the aOCP. Provided a photographic record of the event where the project was socialized, as well as the acceptance agreement with the landowner.	The developer has made all non- confidential project information public and easily accessible in appropriate formats and has adopted appropriate strategies and measures to maintain communication with different stakeholder	1,00
Participation and alliances	Involvement of the local community in the project team	The project employs members of the local community, who participated or participate in the operational and day-to-day running of the project.		1,00





Scope	Variable	Description	Level	Weighting
	Ability of the project to form partnerships	The project has strong involvement with local/national government, business and other VCM stakeholders.		1,00
Financial additionality	Financial additionality format	The project's financial additionality was 100%, as established in the <i>Financial Additionality Form</i> .		1,00
Total				0,80



#### Notes:

- The project score is "A" (0.80).
- The variables that lowered the project's score are mainly for vulnerability to climatic phenomena: forest fires, floods, and climate change vulnerability.
- In terms of social, political and legal conditions the project was evaluated with the highest score (1).
- In terms of developer experience, the project was evaluated with the highest score (1).
- In terms of transparency and communication, the project was evaluated with the highest score (1).

A detailed explanation of Nat5 Scoring can be found in the aOCP Project Procedures document version 2.3 <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nat5.bio/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/1.3.-aOCP-Project-Procedures-V2.3.pdf>

