

Volcano Valley Reforestation

Planting Report 2023



*Plant-for-the-Planet supports the
United Nations Environment Programme*

Introduction

The trees planted during 2023 were made possible by Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation and the Plant-for-the-Planet Service GmbH and were planted by farmers in the **State of Mexico**, or Edom  x.

Edom  x, the most populous state in Mexico, spans 22,487.67 sq. km, with nearly half its territory (48%) covered by coniferous forest dominated by pine, oak, and fir. However, these forests face significant threats from illegal logging, overuse of firewood and charcoal, intensive grazing, agriculture, road construction, and rapid population growth (PROBOSQUE, 2021). To arrest the forest loss and promote sustainable agriculture, Plant-for-the-Planet A.C. in partnership with the Protectora de Bosques del Estado de M  xico (PROBOSQUE) took up the mission to recover Edom  x's forests. The project plants in areas that are degraded by overgrazing, agricultural exploitation, or logging. Participants enter by allocating part of their lands to be reforested and receive indirect economic incentive, forestry plants, and technical assistance from the partnership.

The project corresponds to a social development programme 'Reforestando Edom  x' by PROBOSQUE (Protectora de Bosques del Estado de M  xico). The program is guided by a model that makes the plantations non-harvestable for 3 years,

during which the participants receive an annual economic incentive for maintenance work. After the 4th year, these plantations are transferred to another PROBOSQUE program called Procarbono, within which the owners can make future forest use under certain conditions. Program participants are generally inducted voluntarily and can be individuals, Ejido groups, or cooperatives that have lands with reforestation potential and operate under the rules set forth by PROBOSQUE.

In order to be truly long-term effective, reforestation and restoration efforts should work and involve local communities in an integral manner so that they can benefit from the work. This means that projects take into account the local context, necessities and interests to increase the likelihood of success.

Through active restoration of native species since 2019, the partnership has supported reforestation in the Toluca Valley. These included 53 species such as pines, cypresses, and mesquites, contributing to biodiversity, environmental conservation, and improved quality of life for local communities. In 2023, the collaboration resulted in the planting of 3,000,000 trees across 5,074.43 hectares, bringing the total number of trees planted since the beginning of the collaboration to 14.8 million trees (Figure 4).



What did we plant in 2023?

This year's efforts spanned nine regions and 54 municipalities located within the Transvolcanic Belt, predominantly characterized by Trans-Mexican volcanic belt pine-oak forests, Subtropical Coniferous Forests (Figures 1 and Figure 2).

Planting activities in 2023 benefited several sites like last year, including new participation from communal properties (Bienes Comunales), along with Ejidos, private lands, and other community-managed areas (Figure 3). Specifically, 1,734,278 trees were planted by Ejido communities, 910,292 trees by Bienes Comunales, and 355,430 trees by private landowners and others. These sites varied in degradation levels, requiring tailored approaches.

A total of 22 species from 5 botanical families were planted, with species selection guided by PROBOSQUE's technical expertise. Site evaluations ensured that species and methods matched the unique characteristics and ecological needs of each area. All seedlings, grown under controlled conditions in project nurseries, were distributed directly to beneficiaries when ready. Planting was done during the rainy season to improve the survival of seedlings – from the third week of June until the end of September or the beginning of October, depending on the area.

Tree planting sites are mapped and are accessible [online](#). The platform provides detailed documentation of tree numbers and species for respective sites as well.



TABLE 1

Species planted

Species planted in 2023 in the Volcano Valley Reforestation program.

Family	Species	Number of saplings planted
Bignoniaceae	<i>Tecoma sp</i>	500
Cupressaceae	<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i> (syn. <i>Hesperocyparis lusitanica</i>)	30,040
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia schaffneri</i> (syn. <i>Vachellia schaffneri</i>)	38,400
Fabaceae	<i>Eysenhardtia polystachya</i>	2,000
Fabaceae	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	21,350
Fabaceae	<i>Mimosa guatemalensis</i>	19,698
Fabaceae	<i>Prosopis laevigata</i> (syn. <i>Neltuma laevigata</i>)	47,980
Fabaceae	<i>Senna multiglandulosa</i>	250
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus crassipes</i>	3,000
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus rugosa</i>	55,642
Pinaceae	<i>Abies religiosa</i>	95,376
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus ayacahuite</i>	85,755
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus cembroides</i>	130,324
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus greggii</i>	456,870
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus hartwegii</i>	495,925
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus leiophylla</i>	15,375
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus montezumae</i>	425,928
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus oocarpa</i>	185,700
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus patula</i>	242,948
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus pseudostrobus</i>	597,139
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus teocote</i>	49,100
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	700

TOTAL

3,000,000

Figure 1: Trees planted by region in the State of Mexico.
The total number of trees planted in 2023 was 3,000,000.

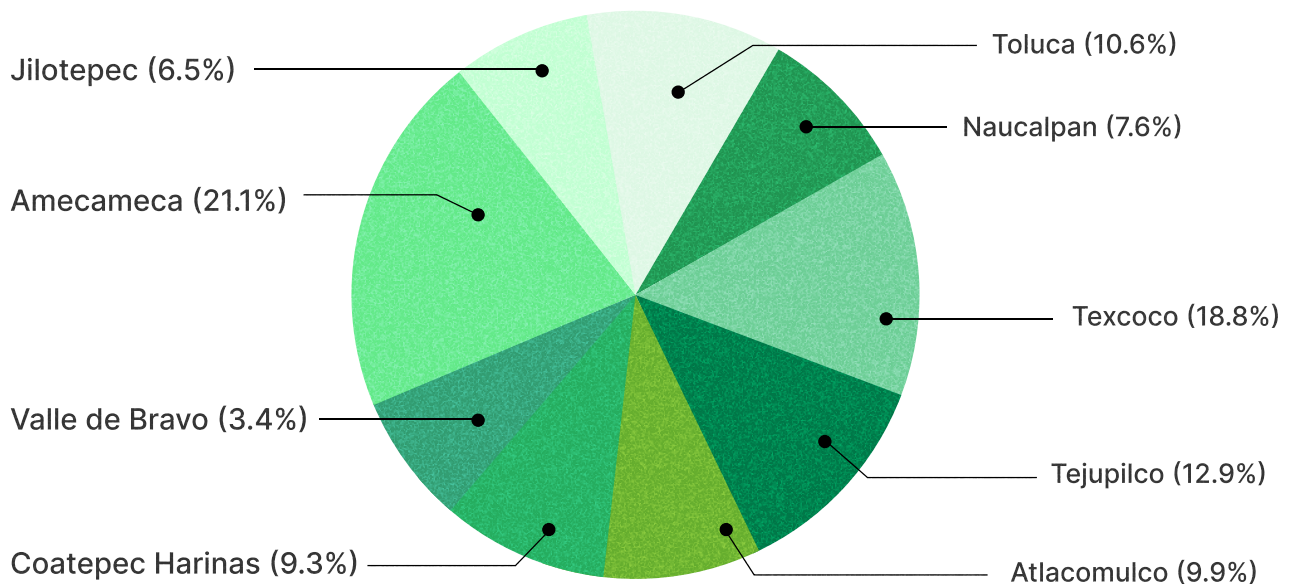


Figure 2: Map of the State of Mexico where plantation activities were carried out in 2023. The State of Mexico is not to be confused with the country of Mexico or the city of Mexico, which is outside of the State of Mexico.

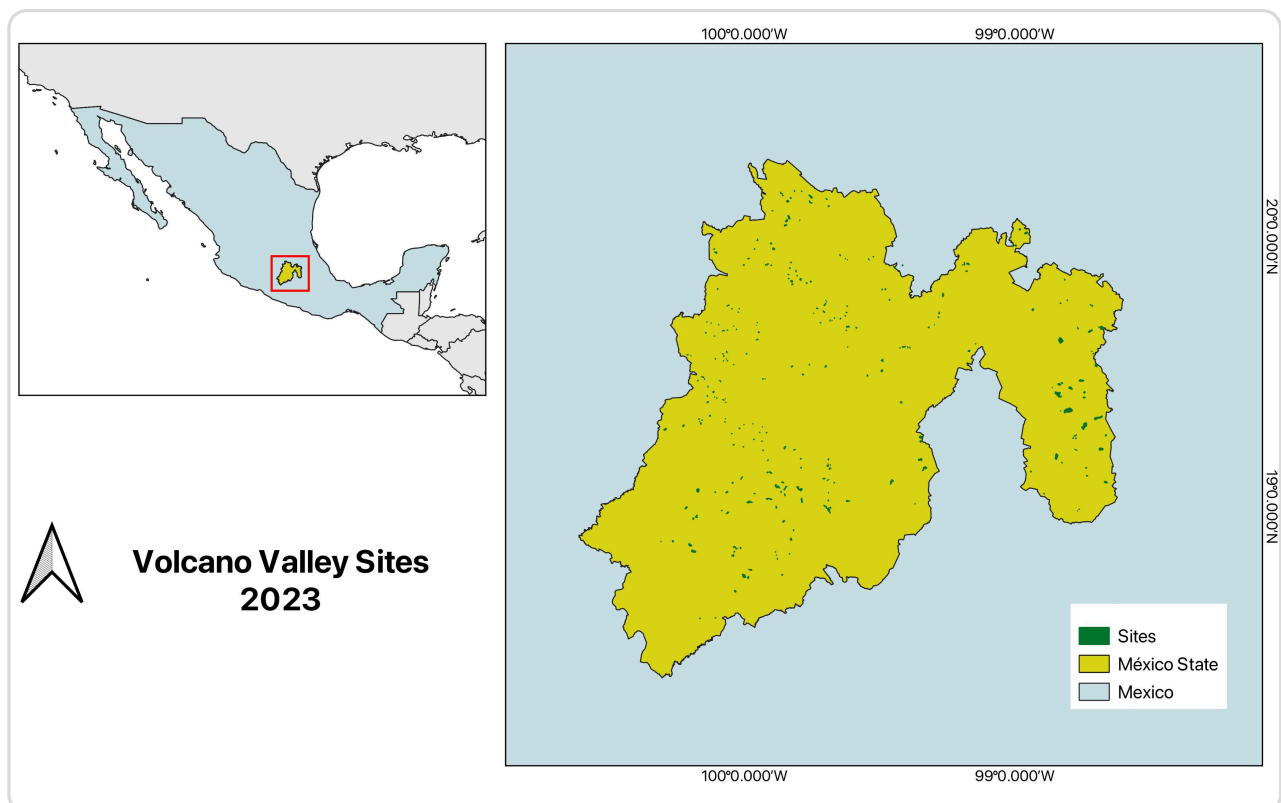


Figure 3: Trees planted per land ownership type.

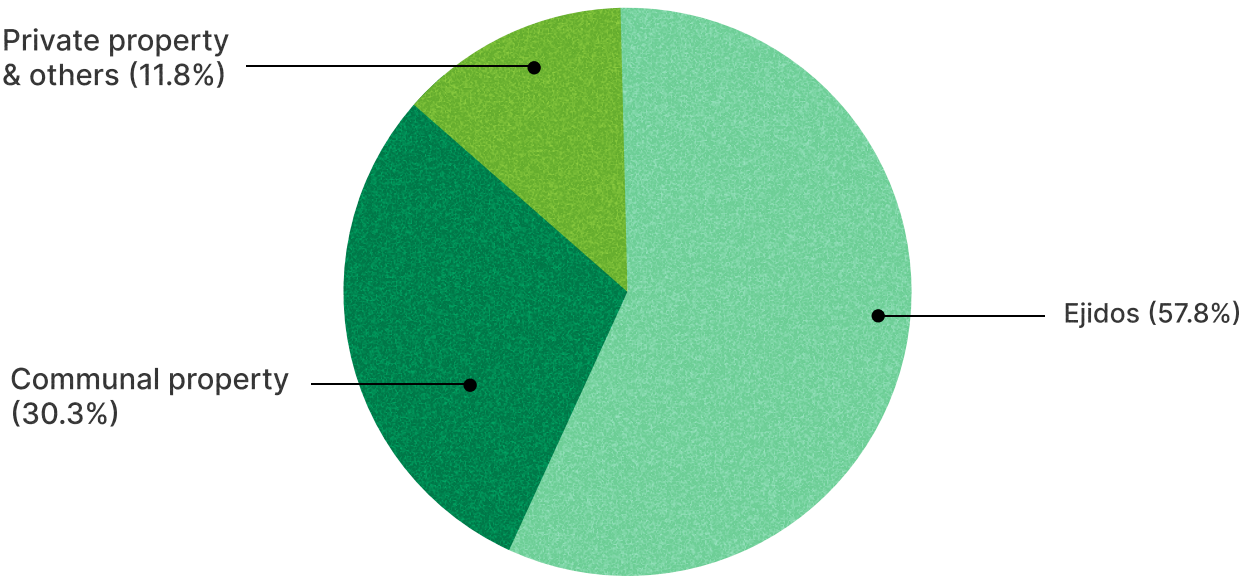
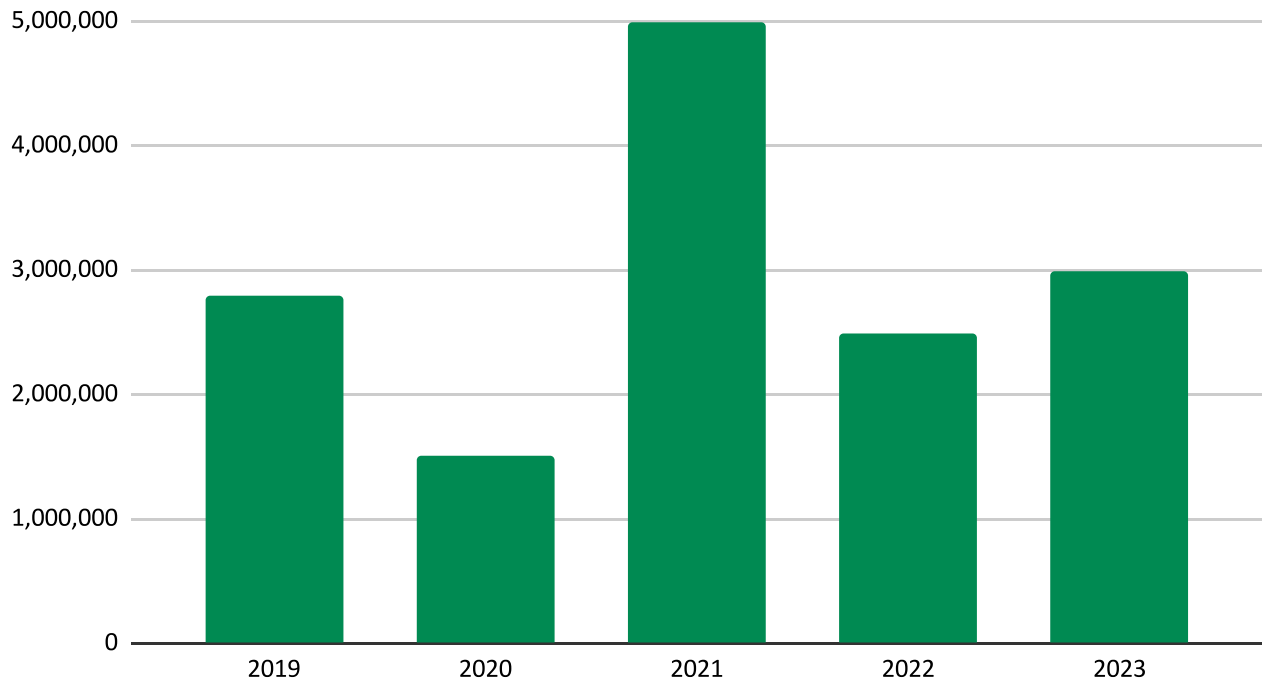


Figure 4: Trees planted as part of the Plant-for-the-Planet and PROBOSQUE partnership.






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