

Forest restoration from the grassroots in Veracruz, Mexico.

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Huasteca Alta

Huasteca Baja

Totonaca

De Nautla



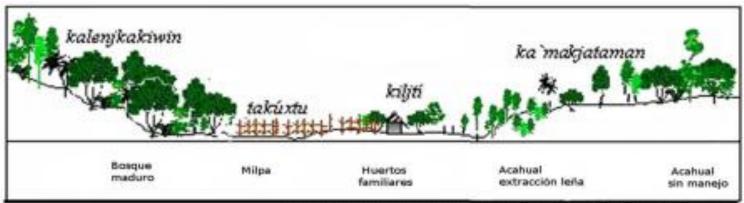
A biocultural legacy

valuable, intangible elements for sustainable forestry development











Development











Ritual de los Voladores UNESCO Intangible Heritage (2011)













Diversified agroforestry systems

- High biodiversity
- Refuge for native flora and fauna (birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects)
- Key environmental services (carbon sequestration and watershed renovation)
- Broad variety of tree and plant species
 - economic, nutritional, ritual, cultural and ecological importance

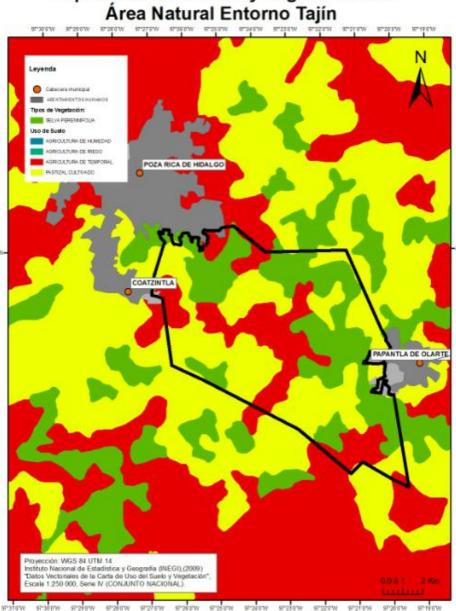


Agroforestry and action research

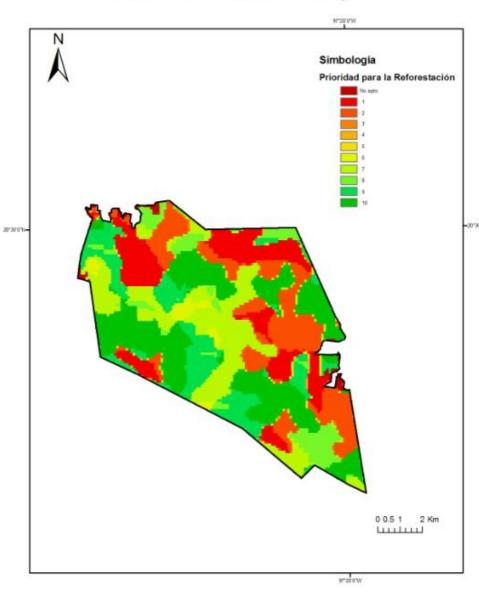
Zuelania guidonia – biocultural element



Mapa de Uso de Suelo y Vegetación del



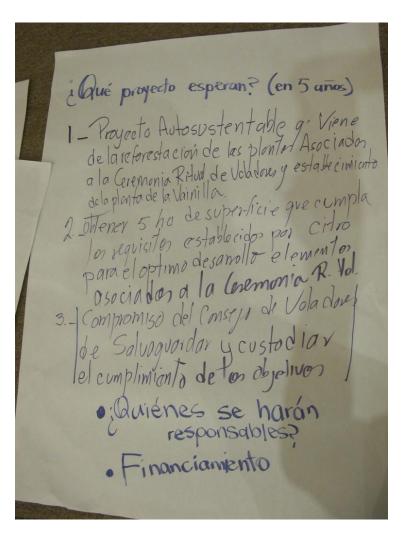
Zonas Prioritarias para la Reforestación del Área Natural Entorno Tajín





Techniques and knowledge revitalization about species and systems of ecological, economic and cultural importance for landscape planning.







Reconnecting – knowledge dialogues





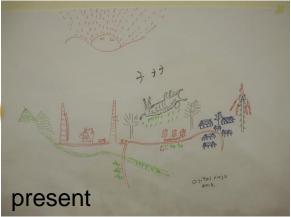
















Diversified Agroforestry Model

Rules

Avoid land use changes in rainforest fragments
Stop or ameliorate the advance of cattle
ranching

Active participation of local groups in decision making about natural resource management at the municipal level

Strengthen social and political presence of the organization

Social system

To re-dignify traditions and the ritual dance of voladores Revaluation of biocultural elements Improvement of quality of life in local communities

Paradigm

Short term and long term planning according to local people's needs and context





Ecosystem

Agroforestry systems planning

Deforested areas (grasslands and abandoned wells)

Abandoned areas recovery susceptible for management Funding search for sustainable development

Reforestation with multi-use native species associated to *Zuelania* sp.



Traditional productive systems characterization Environmental characterization of the potential sites
Training in native species' management

Municipal and state support schemes for developing the proposed strategies



Agroforestry systems (native species)

Education about Totonac culture and traditions y cultura totonaca through flying schools

Training in native species management Recovery of traditional productive systems

Agroforestry ecosystem diversification

Figura 2. Ecological restoration model proposed for the influence area of the Voladores organization. Adapted from:Hobbs, *et al* (2011)





Complementary elements

Diversified Agroforestry Systems

Sustainable development in a biodiverse region

Participatory process from within where local communities are the main actors an responsible for their own development



Operation principles

- Strategic planning
- Inter-institutional inter-actoral dialogue
- Regional restoration perspective
- Adaptability
- Flexibility
- Research and exchange networks
- Alliances
- Supporting grassroots initiatives
- Participatory action research



Program stages

- Diagnosis and strategic planning
- Local projects implementation
- Experimentation and research
- Leaders identification and community researchers
- Formation and training
- Monitoring and process documentation
- Materials production and other forms of knowledge and experiences exchange







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