

# Your Impact in Xilitla

-  **Project area:** 7,493 acres
-  **Project timeframe:** 5 years
-  **Biomass carbon stocks:** Estimated
-  **Total estimated carbon benefit:** 68,880 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
-  **Climate benefits:**  
Forest protection and regeneration
-  **Trees protected:** 1,266,978
-  **Terrestrial species protected:** 552
-  **UN Sustainable Development Goals:** 10



# Project Profile: Mexico

High in the mountains of the Sierra Madre Oriental, in the municipality of Xilitla, our partner Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) oversees a Carbon Balanced project with community at its heart. The project area covers almost 7,500 acres of cloud and temperate forests, a mosaic of oak, fir, sweetgum, magnolia and Mexican Yew trees – habitat high in biodiversity value that provides a home for a great many species, including wildcats like Puma, Jaguar and Margay.

**“ The Carbon Balanced programme allows the residents of Xilitla to remain as stewards of their land ”**

A large proportion of this project area is reserved for *ejidos* – areas of communal land managed by a traditional system of land tenure. Through Carbon Balanced, WLT have established community-based forest management areas within the four *ejidos* currently owned by local residents.

In a region with few economic opportunities, the income these residents receive from the Carbon

Balanced programme allows them to remain as stewards of their land, instead of turning to unsustainable practices like cattle ranching. Improvements to community infrastructure and local livelihoods are also included as part of the project.

In exchange for the Carbon Balanced payments, the owners of these forests commit to monitoring their properties, preventing forest fires, and eliminating cattle grazing, logging, hunting, and poaching of animal and plant species. Careful management of the carbon stocks here helps to increase the carbon capture capacity of the forests, producing regenerative offsets.

These forests not only store high amounts of carbon, but by remaining standing, they also influence the high rainfall patterns that regulate the rivers and streams that are critical to life in the Huasteca Potosina region, which covers 20 nearby municipalities. The Xilitla project is located close to the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, where WLT work with GESG through our other programmes, including Action Fund and Keepers of the Wild.