



A PROGRAM OF  
LA CRUZ HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT

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**Project Update with Monitoring Results for LCHPP and MHAIA Partnership**

**September 22, 2025**

**2025 Data & Project Information**

La Cruz Habitat Protection Project (dba: Forests for Monarchs) has planted 1,800,000 trees as part of the MHAIA partnership. 200,000 trees were planted during the 2025 planting season (June-September). The trees planted through this partnership include **1,252,500** *Pinus pseudostrabus* (“Pseudostrobus Pine” or “Smooth-Bark Mexican Pine”), **198,550** *Pinus Greggii* (“Gregg’s” Pine), **70,000** *Pinus Leiophylla* (“Chihuahua Pine” or “Smooth-leaf Pine”), **26,750** *Oyamel fir* (“Abies religiosa”), **20,800** *Pinus Ayachuite* (“Mexican White Pine), **15,000** *Lawson Cypress Trees*, **8,750** *Pinus Michoacana* (“*Pinus devoniana*”), **7,000** *Pinus montezumae* (“Montezuma Pine” or “Rough-branched Pine”), and **2,900** *Cupressus Lindleyi* (“Cedro Blanco” or “White Cedar”).

The 2017-2024 trees were planted in the following project areas and communities:

**Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Area:**

Comunidad Indígena San Cristobal	78,000
Ejido Ocampo	21,000
Ejido El Paso	6,000
Comunidad Indígena Cerro Cacique, Zitácuaro	23,500
Comunidad Indígena Carpinteros, Zitácuaro	27,000
Comunidad Indígena Zirahuato, Zitácuaro	12,000
Comunidad Indígena Senguio	92,700
Ejido Asoleadero, Ocampo	19,000
Ejido El Rosario	1,300
Comunidad Indígena Laguna Verde	108,350
Hervidero y Plancha, Ocampo	49,150
Comunidad Indígena Turicato	5,000
Ejido San Jose de Gracia	5,000
Comunidad Indígena San Juan, Zitácuaro	30,000
Municipio de Aporo	119,000
Ejido Zicata de Morelos, Benito Juarez	10,000
Ejido Jesus del Monte, Palomas, Maravatio	25,000
Ejido San Francisco Epunguio, Irimbo	20,000
Ejido Hacienda de Soto, Rancho el Sapote, Senguio	10,000

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Ejido Clicerio Villafuente el Grande, Maravatío	2,000
Ejido Chincua, Senguio	30,000
Ejido San Nicolas Tarimoro, Senguio	20,000
Comunidad Indígena San Felipe de los Alzati, Zitacuaro	58,250
Ejido San Miguel el Alto, Maravatío	2,000
Ejido Santiago Puriatzicuaro, Maravatío	1,000
Ejido el Rincon de San Felipe, Zitacuaro	41,500
Ejido Rincon de Nicolas Romero, Zitacuaro	10,000
Ejido Nicolas Romero, Los Alamos, Zitacuaro	14,000
Ejido Tuxpan	20,000
Ejido el Paso	24,500
Ejido Tupataro	90,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>975,250</b>

**Highland Lakes Area (Lakes Pátzcuaro and Zirahuén watersheds):**

Comunidad Chapa	9,000
Ejido Casas Blancas	31,000
Cerro Jicalan Uruapan	27,000
Ejido Tzurumutaro, Pátzcuaro	1,000
Cerro Blanco, Pátzcuaro	10,000
Comunidad Capacuaro	2,000
Campamento Zirahuen	1,000
Cerro del Aguila Quinceo	10,000
Ejido Tzintziro Erogaricuaro	4,000
Ejido de San Isidro	14,600
Comunidad Indígena Paracho	11,000
Comunidad Indígena Ihuatzio, Tzinzuntzan	5,000
Comunidad Indígena Puacuaro, Erongaricuaro	20,000
Comunidad Indígena San Andres Tzirondiri	27,000
Comunidad Indígena Fontezuelas, Lagunillas	1,000
Pedernales Tacámbaro	22,000
Comunidad de Santa Cruz Tanaco	38,400
Comunidad Indígena de Turicuaro	70,000
Ejido Zirahuen	41,200
Municipio de Zinapecuaro	15,000
El Carmon Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	3,000
Sevina Municipio de Nahuatzen	82,000

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La Cruz Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	20,000
La Española Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	3,000
Comunidad Indígena de Capacuaro, Uruapan	15,000
Narcisco Mendoza Primary School, Salvador Escalante	1,000
Zinapécuaro	3,000
Ejido Auga Verde	2,500
Comunidad Indígena Huecorio	23,000
Ario de Rosales	30,000
Ejido Hervidero y Plancha	6,300
Municipio de Pátzcuaro	40,000
Ejido de Santa Cruz, Zinapécuaro	1,000
Ejido Turirán, Municipio de Salvador Escalante	10,000
Morelia, Michoacán	2,000
Comunidad Indígena San Felipe Tzintzun, Salvador Escalante	12,000
Ejido Ixtaro, Mesa Alta, Salvado Escalante	1,000
Ejido Turiran, Salvador Escalante	14,600
Comunidad Indígena Turicuaro, Nahuatzen, Michoacán	38,400
<b>Total:</b>	<b>627,000</b>

*The tree species breakdown and site names for 2025 were not available at the time of this report.\**

**Monitoring Results Monarch Area 2024 Trees:**

In 2024, 5 communities received 200,000 trees. Three sites were monitored. Monitoring results for these sites are summarized below:

Community	Project Area	Reforestation Project Type*	Number of Trees Monitored	Number of Hectares Monitored	Survival Rate (Percentage)
Ejido Tuxpan (La Cuevitas)	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	10,000	4	65%
Ejido Zitácuaro (Rincon de Nicolas Romero)	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	10,000	8	80%
Ejido el Paso	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	10,000	5	68%
		TOTAL:	30,000 trees	17 hectares	71%

\* **Forest Restoration:** trees planted to restore degraded or thinned forestland.



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### **State of the Monarch Butterfly:**

In December 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed listing the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The initial public comment period closed on March 12, 2025, but was later reopened through May 19, 2025. To date, over 70,000 public comments have been submitted. A final decision is expected by December 2025.

If listed, monarchs will receive protections and regulatory flexibilities under Section 4(d) of the ESA. This section allows the USFWS to tailor conservation measures that are “necessary and advisable” for threatened species. These protections apply only within the United States and do not directly impact reforestation efforts in Mexico. However, the designation is expected to complement international conservation strategies.

Encouragingly, the eastern monarch population has nearly doubled—occupying just 2.2 hectares in 2024 to 4.42 hectares in 2025. While this is still below the long-term average and the threshold needed for population sustainability, it marks a positive shift. The increase is largely attributed to favorable weather conditions and ongoing conservation efforts.

Additionally, forest degradation in the region has slightly decreased since 2024, offering another hopeful sign for monarch habitat recovery.

### **Partnership Accomplishments to Date:**

Since 2017, the MHAIA and LCHPP partnership has positively impacted communities and forestland in the following ways:

- 1,800,000 native trees have been planted in high-need areas around the Monarch Biosphere Reserve and the Highland Lakes Watershed areas.
- 7,105 volunteers have supported our nursery efforts by transporting the seedlings to planting sites and planting trees. \*Not yet updated with 2025 data.
- Forest restoration efforts have directly impacted 83 communities. \*Not yet updated with 2025 data.
- 1,651 hectares of land has been reforested (3,999 acres).
- We have an overall tree survival rate of 76% over seven years of monitoring.

### **Planting Priority for the 2026 Season:**

Entering into the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our partnership, LCHPP will prioritize restoring sites in and around the monarch winter habitat for the 2026 season. All 200,000 trees will be planted in this area as the need to conserve the habitat is great. This shift will also help balance APEAM forest restoration efforts in and around the greater Uruapan area.

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