

Xochimilco Chinampas — Treated-Wastewater Canal Recharge Sustaining a Wetland-Farming and Axolotl Refuge System

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Mexico

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 2004, UNAM's Chinampa Refugio Project has worked with Xochimilco farmers to rehabilitate canal-farming plots recharged partly by treated wastewater, building axolotl refuges — even as surveys record a ~98% collapse of the wild axolotl population between 1998 and 2008.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México \(UNAM\), Laboratorio de Restauración Ecológica](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[UNESCO World Heritage listing](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[FAO GIAHS designation](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[Zambrano et al., Biological Conservation \(axolotl decline\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[Water reuse study \(PMC/NIH\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

[Mongabay, Chinampa Refugio Project \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-29

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