

Participant Selection Criteria and Areas

zeroCARBON project



1. Selection of Participants

The zeroCARBON project aims to benefit people and rural communities in need of economic and environmental opportunities in the Petén department. Individuals must meet the following basic criteria to be eligible for the project:

1. All participants must possess a property title or right of possession of the plot to be included in the project, whether it is individual or communal property.
2. The individual must not be participating in any other carbon credit projects.
3. The individual must show interest and commitment to participate in the project in the long term.
4. The individual must have sufficient land available and with the appropriate conditions for the introduction of a forest plantation (see Selection of Areas).
5. There must be no land conflicts, and property boundaries must be well defined.
6. The individual and their property must not be located in an area influenced by drug trafficking.

2. Selection of areas

As general eligibility criteria, areas with the following characteristics will be admitted:

1. The areas must have a minimum surface of 1 hectare (criterion included for forest plantations since 2023)*
2. Accepted land uses are low productivity livestock and agriculture. For more details on the distribution of land uses and specific cases, refer to section 2.1.
3. Areas where the predominant use is managed or unmanaged forest, or where there is advanced guamil, will not be admitted.
4. A preliminary analysis of the historical land use, topography, drainage, and soil characteristics will be conducted to determine if conditions are favorable for establishing a forest plantation.

2.1. Distribution of Land Uses and Risk of Leakage

Participants in the zeroCARBON project have their farm areas distributed according to use. While it has been mentioned that the land tenure situation is with a property title or right of possession, in both cases the titles or rights of possession are communal or individual. However, in both situations, the parcels are divided into agricultural areas, livestock areas, and forest areas (unmanaged or under management).

As a mitigation measure for the risk of leakage from the zeroCARBON project, the participation of individuals with very small land areas of less than 1 hectare is limited. Entry

is possible for individuals with 2 hectares or more of land, depending on the current use and productive capacity of the land. The following land use criteria must be considered:

1. 100% Agricultural
2. 100% Livestock
3. 50% Agricultural, 50% Livestock
4. Agricultural, Livestock, and Forest (unmanaged or under management)

For individuals with two hectares, criteria (1 and 2) are considered so that 50% of the land forms part of the zeroCARBON project, i.e., 1 hectare. This allows the individual to continue with the productive activity they were engaged in prior to the project.

For individuals with land areas greater than 2 hectares, all four described criteria are considered, taking into account the percentage each land use occupies in the farm or property. This aims to allow beneficiaries to continue with the productive activities they were engaged in before the zeroCARBON project. In other words, they choose what percentage of the farm area used for agriculture or livestock will be part of the zeroCARBON project.

In the case where the beneficiary's land areas are not productive agricultural areas, they can be part of the project. If the area is productive in agriculture, it will be determined by the beneficiary's history with the land and observations of the area's conditions (relief, stoniness, drainage, among others) during the visit by the zeroCO2 technical team.