ASES ON-CHAIN PROTOCOL

ALIGNMENT REPORT

Ecological restoration in Alía, Cáceres, Spain

LT-007-SPA-072023 CÁCERES, SPAIN
Stichting Life Terra
Type B Project

October 2023

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ases
On-Chain Protocol

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CONTEXT

As part of the process for the certification of nature-positive projects and the consequent issuance of Verified Nature-Positive Credits (VNPCs) under the ASES on-chain protocol, the Project developer “Life Terra Foundation” submitted the project “Alía Ecological Restoration Project Spain”. This Project activity is in the onboarding stage with the aOPC identification code LT-007-SPA-072023 CÁCERES, SPAIN. Since Project activities have been implemented before the start of the onboarding process, it participates as a project of Modality B. According to the aOCP rules and procedures, Modality B projects shall go through the following process in order to be registered:

1. Application via the Project Submission Form (PSF), done by Project proponent.
2. Documentation review and alignment assessment, done by aOCP Operations Team.
3. Project pre-registration, done by aOCP Operations Team.
4. On- site Validate of the implemented Project activities, done by aOCP Operations Team.
5. Elaboration of Baseline report, Monitoring plan, Contingent table of credits issuance, done by aOCP Operations Team.
6. Project proponent agreement.
7. Project Verification by an external, independent, 3rd-party Verifier, delivering a Project Verification Report.
8. Project registration letter and first credits issuance, done by aOCP Operations Team.

This report corresponds to step 2, alignment assessment. The methodology and data gathered on-site are presented here.

The proposed Project activity belong to the aOCP category of *Forest management* and consists of the planting of 60717 trees and shrubs from 19 species native to the region and adapted to the local conditions. The removal of individuals of Pinus spp. and Eucalyptus globulus was done as part of the project.

Compliance with the aOCP rules and requirements is assessed as part of the onboarding process for the registration of projects under the aOCP. In the case of Forest management projects, the following conditions shall be met in order for the proposed Project activity to be considered eligible:

1. The project does not harm society or ecosystems;
2. The project generates underlying benefits for biodiversity;
3. The project does not alter or cause disturbance to biodiversity;
4. The Project was developed less than 24 months ago;
5. The Project area has not been degraded, deforested or burned in the last 24 months;
6. Documentation of land ownership granted by the project developer is legal and verifiable;

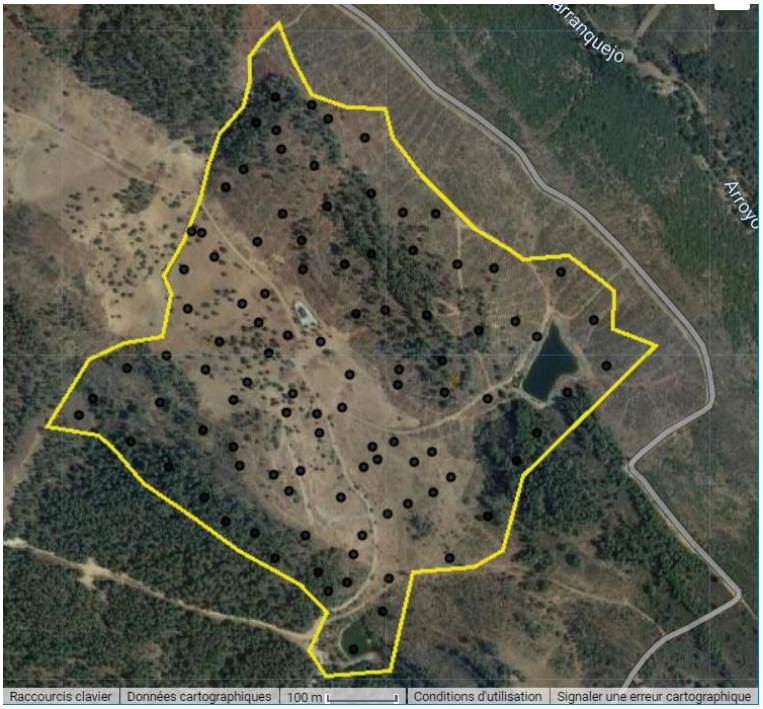

Image 1. Project area and control points used in this analysis

I. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Historical land cover was analyzed using Google Earth. Additionally, NDVI analysis was conducted. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a widely used remote sensing metric that provides information about the density and health of vegetation in a specific area. It is calculated from the difference between near-infrared and red light reflectance from the Earth's surface.

When analyzing historic land cover, NDVI can be used to track changes in vegetation over time. By examining archived NDVI data, researchers can observe trends in vegetation density, identify shifts in land use patterns, and monitor the effects of factors like urbanization, deforestation, or natural disasters.

II. RESULTS

Satellite images (figure 2) show that vegetation cover in the Project area has remain unchanged, except for the *Pinus spp.* and *Eucalyptus globulus* that were removed to make space for the new selection of species, as declared by the Project proponent.

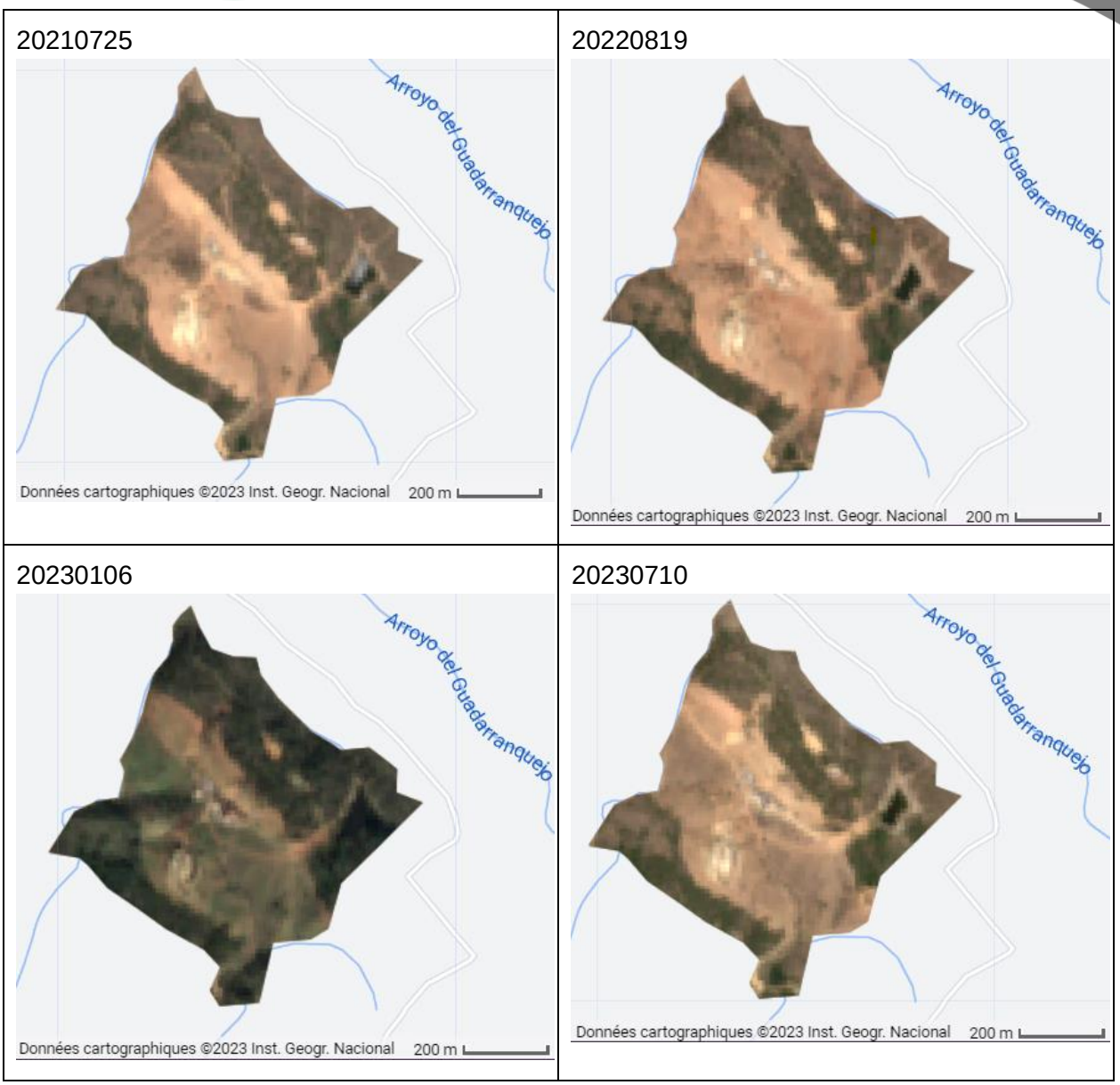

Image 2. Sentinel-2 images from different dates from 2021 to 2023

The highest amount of trees were planted in areas where vegetation was absent (figure 3), accordingly with the site's restoration needs, as well as on the northwest and southwest borders of the Project area. The implemented Project activities are, therefore, an important contribution to increasing forest cover in the Project area at the same time it keeps providing important economic and social benefits to the local community.

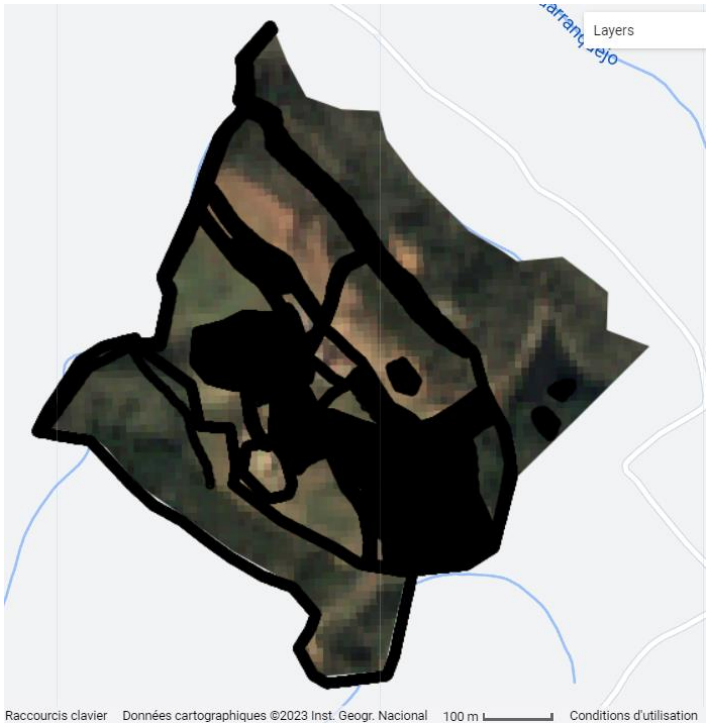

Image 3. Planted trees location

The NDVI timeline (figure 4) shows natural seasonal variations following rainfall variations, as well as sustained vegetation cover since 2019. NDVI 12-month mobile average seems steady since 2019, which is expected to change, as the trees planted grow. NDVI values below 0 correspond to a water pond in the southern angle of the polygon.

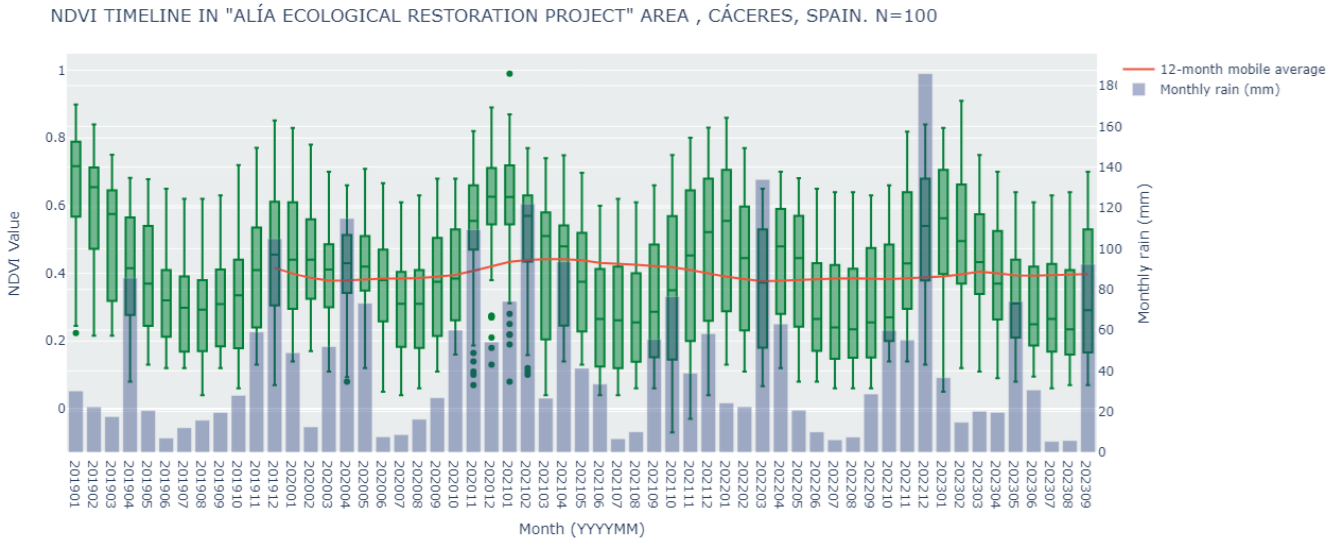

Image 4. NDVI and precipitation timeline in the Project area

CONCLUSIONS

- The Project activities, consisting in the plantation of 19 native species, are aligned with the aOCP's principles and criteria, by positively impacting biodiversity in terms of forest cover and species diversity. Furthermore, in addition to capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, by increasing vegetation cover, the project is likely to protect the soil from erosion and improve water infiltration.
- The Project activities have not caused net-harm to ecosystems or society, on the contrary, they are expected to create ecological, social and economic benefits, being a driver of sustainable development. Labelling of VNPCs for their contribution to SDGs will be subject to the assessment of SDG-specific indicators.
- The Project activity complies with the aOCP rules and requirements for its registration and corresponding issuance of Verified Nature Positive Credits as a project of type *Forest management*.