



"Rescuing the Floating Chinampa: A Millennial Legacy for Xochimilco"

"Introduction:

Xochimilco, a wetland of unparalleled cultural and ecological richness, faces critical challenges that threaten its sustainability. Among these, the loss of ancestral agricultural techniques such as the construction of floating chinampas, exacerbated by soil subsidence, pollution, and the abandonment of traditional practices.

Problem: The degradation of Xochimilco's hydrological system has led to the loss of chinampas, the decrease in biodiversity, and the deterioration of the quality of life of its inhabitants. It is crucial to address this problem to preserve cultural heritage and ensure a sustainable future for the community.

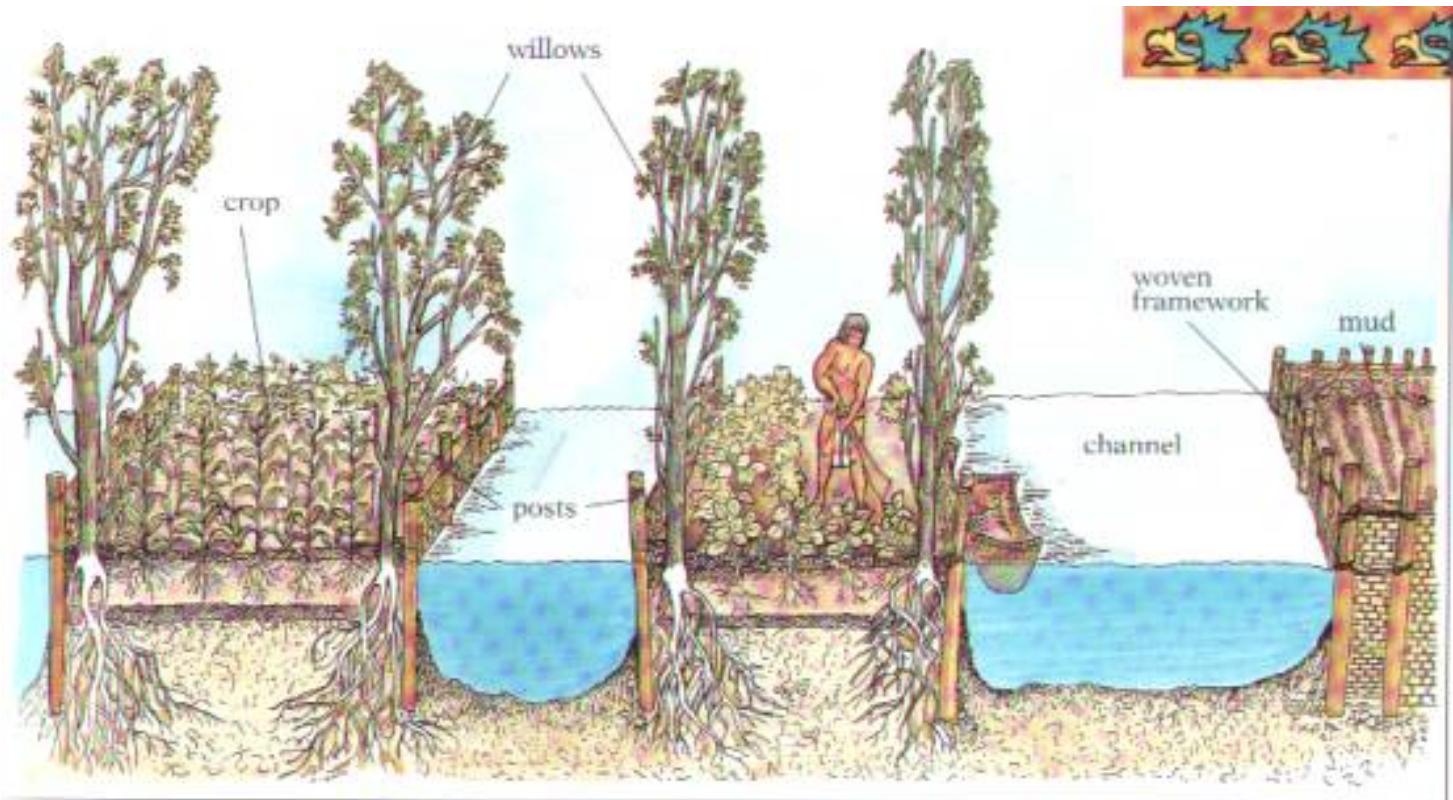
Solution: The project "Rescuing the Floating Chinampa: A Millennial Legacy for Xochimilco" seeks to restore the ancestral technique of floating chinampa construction, documenting it in a video manual to preserve historical memory and promote its replication.

Objectives:

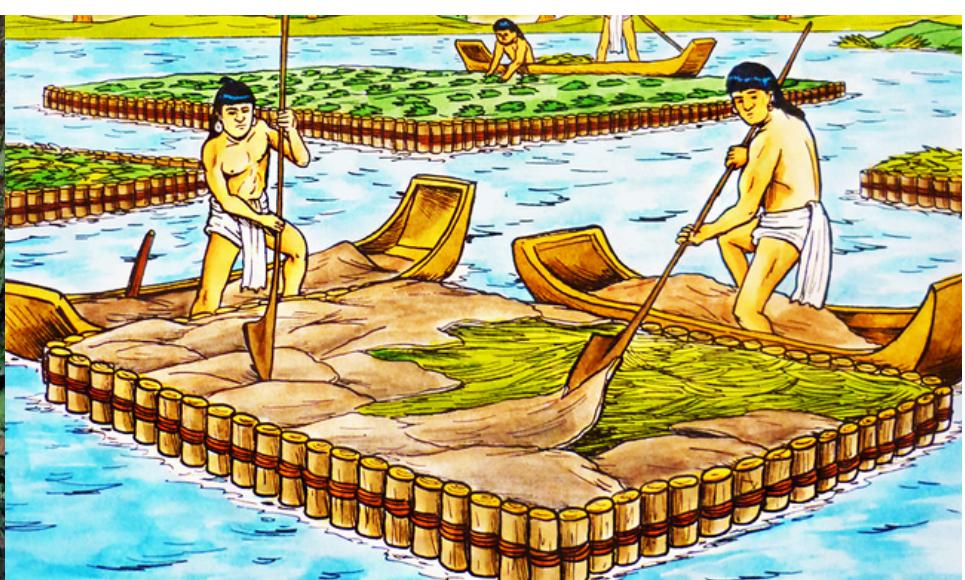
- **To build an 8x4 meter artisanal floating chinampa.**
- **To document the process in a video manual.**
- **To conduct an archaeological approach to the original chinampas.**
- **To vindicate the work of the chinampero master Agustín Galicia and his family.**
- **To highlight the positive impact on the community and the conservation of the axolotl.**



Contexto Histórico



"Chinampas in Mexico have an important historical context, especially in the Xochimilco area. Since the 1980s, this area has faced flooding and hydrological problems due to soil subsidence and excessive water extraction, which has affected the chinampas and the quality of life of the inhabitants. The project seeks to restore this area by reconnecting the water flow and reconstructing canals and biofilters, with the aim of improving water quality, promoting biodiversity, and encouraging sustainable agriculture."





"Chinampa Restoration and Hydraulic System Recovery"

Phase 1: Planning and Preparation (January - March 2026)

- **January:**
 - Creation of detailed construction plans.
 - Arrangement of the land and dredging of the area where the chinampa will be built.
 - Collection of organic materials for layered filling (carrizo reeds, mud, lily, tule).
- **February:**
 - Staking of the chinampa with Ahuejote posts.
 - Continuation of the collection of organic materials.
- **March:**
 - Organic filling of the chinampa in layers.
 - Settling of the organic materials
 - Final conditioning of the surface for planting.
 - Planting of various crops and application of agricultural techniques.
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List of Materials for the First Phase:

- **Organic Materials:**
 - 5000 carrizo reeds
 - 5 tons of mud
 - 3 tons of lily or tule
 - 240 Ahuejote tree



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Estimated Budget for the First Stage:

- **Organic Materials: (Cost of transport and collection)**
 - Carrizo (reeds): 5,000 pesos ≈ \$294.12 USD
 - Lodo (mud): 3,000 pesos ≈ \$176.47 USD
 - Lirio/Tule (lily/tule): 2,000 pesos ≈ \$117.65 USD
 - Ahuejote Trees: 10,000 pesos ≈ \$588.24 USD
- **Labor (Brigade of 4 people):**
 - Daily wage per person: 500 pesos ≈ \$29.41 USD
 - Duration: 3 months (January to March 2026), 3 days per week
 - Total per person: 500 pesos/day x 3 days/week
 - x 12 weeks = 18,000 pesos
 - Total for the brigade: 18,000 pesos x 4 people = 72,000 pesos

Estimated Total Budget for the First Stage:

- **Organic Materials: 10,000 pesos ≈ \$588.24 USD**
- **Ahuejote Trees: 10,000 pesos ≈ \$588.24 USD**
- **Labor: 72,000 pesos ≈ \$4,235.29 USD**
- **Total: 92,000 pesos ≈ \$5,411.76 USD**



"THE LOCATION THAT IS FLOODED IS IDEAL FOR BUILDING THE FLOATING CHINAMPA."



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Place for the chinampa



"PHOTO 2025 SHOWING THE CONDITIONS OF THE WETLAND AND THE CHINAMPAS TO BE RESTORED."



Construcción de chinampas en el río San Pedro.

Autor: doctor Arturo Gómez-Pompa.



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