



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Candelilla Institute is a non-profit civil association that promotes the knowledge of Chihuahuan Desert species to ensure their conservation and achieve sustainable use, thereby creating a source of economic resources for the inhabitants of communities in the region.

In April 2024, the Candelilla Institute received authorization from the Mexican Tax Administration Service (SAT) to accept tax-deductible donations from within Mexico and abroad.

Thanks to donations from individuals and organizations in Mexico and abroad, the following total was reached:

MXN \$429,121.00 in Cash
MXN \$41,709.90 in Kind

These donations made it possible to carry out 5 different projects that benefited:



317
Candelilleros



158
Children



36
Communities in
Coahuila and Nuevo León

Roofs for Pailas Project

The Candelilla plant grows almost exclusively in a semi-desert region within the Chihuahuan Desert, encompassing parts of the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí, and Zacatecas. Collecting this plant for natural wax production has been one of the region's most important economic activities.

To collect the plant within the communities called “ejidos”, rural producers known as “Candelilleros” must obtain a Harvesting Permit from SEMARNAT (Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources). This document specifies the amount of Candelilla wax that may be extracted in each community per year. The Candelilleros collect the plant and transport it to the extraction sites, which are typically located near their homes.

Roofs for Pailas Project

Candelilla wax is extracted using iron cauldrons called “pailas”—sunk into the ground—along with water acidified with sulfuric or citric acid. This mixture is heated over an open fire until it boils. Through this process, the wax separates from the plant and floats on the water's surface as a foam. The Candelilleros collect this foam and place it in another container to cool; once cooled, the wax is cut into pieces and sold. The pailas are located outdoors, and the producers sometimes set up makeshift roofs over them for protection from the sun.

In 2025, the Candelilla Institute began the Roofs for Pailas project, with the aim of installing metal roofs at the extraction sites so that the candelilleros can have better environmental working conditions. First, 49 ejidos from the states of Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo León and Zacatecas were identified. In some of these ejidos, more than one paila is installed, so the total number of roofs needed was 73 roofs.

Thanks to donations, 12 roofs were installed over the pailas in 9 ejidos in Coahuila, benefiting 111 candelilleros. The investment for this project was MXN \$221,328.

Number	Community / Ejido	Municipality	Candelilleros	Cost (MXN)
1	Hipólito	Ramos Arizpe	4	\$23,316
2	Providencia	Sierra Mojada	7	\$23,316
3	Cruz Verde	Parras	14	\$23,316
4	Noria de las Ánimas	Ramos Arizpe	11	\$16,820
5	San Miguel	Ocampo	22	\$16,820
6				\$16,820
7	La Vega	Cuatrociénegas	7	\$16,820
8	La Unión y el Olán	Ocampo	19	\$16,820
9				\$16,820
10	Jaboncillos Grande	Ocampo	9	\$16,820
11				\$16,820
12	Estanque de Norias	Cuatrociénegas	18	\$16,820

Roofs for Pailas Project

Photographs of the roofs over pailas:

1. Hipólito



2. Providencia



3. Cruz Verde



4. Noria de las Ánimas



5. San Miguel



6. San Miguel



7. La Vega



8. La Unión y el Olán



9. La Unión y el Olán



10. Jaboncillos Grande



11. Jaboncillos Grande



12. Estanque de Norias



Blanket Donation Project

To help alleviate the cold during the winter months, 200 blankets were delivered to candelilleros and their families in the following communities of the state of Coahuila at a total cost of MXN \$29,800.

Municipality	Community / Ejido	Blankets	Municipality	Community / Ejido	Blankets
Cuatro Ciénegas	Cuates de Australia	16	Castaños	Acámbaro	18
	Delicias	13		Presa Rodríguez	1
	El Águila	3		Rancho Los Rodríguez	2
	El Rayo	3	Ramos Arizpe	Cosme	3
	El Venado	2		Hipólito	6
	Estanque de León	9		San Juan	4
	Lucio Blanco	6	San Pedro	Santa Elena	9
	La Escondida	10		Rincón de García	22
	La Vega	7		Mala Noche	22
	Los Morenos	25	General Cepeda	Noria La Sabina	1
	Madero	15	Ocampo	San Josecito	3

Candy Bags Project

As happens every year during the holiday season, 130 bags of candy were distributed to children in the communities of Cuates de Australia and Madero, in the municipality of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila.



Municipality	Community / Ejido	Candy bags
Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila	Cuates de Australia	115
	Madero	15

Paintings Project

In response to a request for an in-kind donation, The Home Depot donated 132 paint products to the Candelilla Institute to improve community spaces—such as schools, community centers, or health clinics—within the ejidos of the Candelilla region.

A portion of the donated paintings were used for the Volunteer Program that benefited the community of San Antonio de Arista, municipality of Mina, Nuevo León. Additionally, in 2025 paintings were distributed to the community of Reata, municipality of Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila.

Photograph of the donation:



Municipality	Community / Ejido	Paintings	Cost (MXN)	Total Cost (MXN)
Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila	Reata	66	\$24,354.07	\$41,709.86
Mina, Nuevo León	San Antonio de Arista	66	\$17,355.78	



Volunteering

In August 2025, the Candelilla Institute, in collaboration with the companies Multiceras and Aztec Plumbing, carried out the 2025 Volunteering Program. Employees from the companies and their families participated in the cleaning, conservation, and renovation of the CONAFE school in the community San Antonio de Arista—located in the municipality of Mina, Nuevo León—which is part of the region where rural producers collect and extract Candelilla wax.

Thirty-six people participated in the volunteering event: 29 from the Monterrey Metropolitan Area and 7 from Saltillo, Coahuila. The work carried out by the volunteers and their families benefited the 28 students from the community and surrounding areas who attend the school, which serves kindergarten, primary, and secondary levels.

