



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve

(2008, Ref. 1290)

MEXICO

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



• **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve**
• inscribed on the World
• Heritage List in 2008

UPDATE OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY MONARCH BUTTERFLY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Prepared by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas - SEMARNAT



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE
MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



CONANP
COMISIÓN NACIONAL
DE ÁREAS NATURALES
PROTEGIDAS


mariposa
MONARCA
RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA

Name of World Heritage property (State) Party) (Identification number)

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (1290)

Date of inscription: 2008

Criterion: (vii)

**Missions: 2011 Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission 10-14th January
2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission 29th January-3rd February**

1. Executive Summary of Report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

This report presents the programs being implemented in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico N1290) for the period 2008 to 2018. It reflects the results obtained and resources invested in management, conservation, research and social development to address the drivers or aspects that affect or may affect the Property.

During this interval, 756 projects and productive activities were carried out with an investment of 88,471,300 pesos MXN provided by five Federal Government subsidy programs that promote the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, and seek to improve the livelihood of local communities.

Federal government involvement served to establish **two economic compensation programs** that seek to reinforce the Monarch Fund for Payment of Hydrological Environmental Services in the core zone of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, as also the Micro-basin Restoration Program in the buffer zone, which provides direct economic investment—in the amount of over 340 million MXN—to the Ejidos (social property or communally-held indigenous lands) and the local communities that reside in the Property for forest conservation activities.

Over the last eight years, the collaboration between the Federal Secretary of Tourism (SECTUR) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) has been strengthened to help improve tourist infrastructure in the six Sanctuaries open to the public (during the hibernation season), as well as the organization and training of Ejidatarios and community people to offer better services to visitors. With an investment of almost 103 million MXN, 131 projects have been financed, among them a wide range of tourist services and attractions.

The development of a joint Forest Management Strategy by the Federal and state governments, NGOs, ejidos and communities, helped restore 722 hectares of temperate forest in the core zone and reforest 9,129 hectares in the buffer zone. Attention was also provided to pest control and diseases, fire management, and good forest management practices to help maintain healthy ecosystems and well-managed forest.

Inspection and monitoring activities, constantly performed in the Property since 2008, have proven effective. In 2012, “zero” logging was recorded in the core zone. Between 2014-2016, 30.92 hectares of logged forest were again recorded in the core zone. The Federal government intervened and in August 2016 the first Environmental Gendarmerie Mission in the country was permanently installed in the core zone. Integrated by 80 elements, the group receives instruction and is prepared to respond to environmental matters related to the detection, attention to and control of illicit activities. In coordination with the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the

group has dismantled illegal sawmills at strategic sites and performed core zone visits to prevent illegal logging. Their activities have decreased the presence of illicit activities by 90%. During the period 2017 to march 2018, 6.7 ha of forest were degraded, but only 1.4 ha of these were affected by illegal logging.

At present, five biological monitoring programs are being carried out; most importantly in the Monarch butterfly overwintering colonies. Joint trilateral action performed since 2014 by the governments of the US, Canada and Mexico, assisted in the recovery of Monarch colonies after a critical period during the hibernation season 2013-2014 with a forest occupation of only 0.67 hectares of forest. During 2015-2016, 4.01 hectares were occupied, an increase of over 255% compared to the previous season. During 2016-2017 the occupation registered was 2.91 and 2017-2018 the area occupied by overwintering colonies was 2.48 ha.

The Advisory Council of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, restructured in 2012, is a socially participatory mechanism, it seeks to support the protection, management and conservation of the Property. Its inclusive structure –with 21 members– represents every social, economic, research and governmental sector with influence in the protected area, while also guaranteeing representation of ejidos and communities. Six micro-regional Councils facilitate decision-making and task implementation in support of the Property’s long-term conservation.

This report includes the information provided to the World Heritage Centre when they requested it.

In summary, the inscription of the Monarch Biosphere Reserve in the World Heritage List in 2008, has reinforced the protection and its visibility, for what the Monarch Butterfly represents for our culture, being our common natural legacy and becoming a shared responsibility to conserve it.

The annual migration of millions of butterflies in North America is one of the most recognized natural spectacles. This species became emblematic for the cooperation in the North American region.

We want to reaffirm that for the government of Mexico, the protection of the monarch's overwintering habitat in the World Heritage property has a high priority. In its protection and surveillance, inter-institutional efforts are coordinated with local communities and society as a whole, and expanded to its migratory route.

It is very important for CONANP the follow-up and advice provided by the World Heritage Center and its advisory body IUCN to help the government of Mexico guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of this Property.