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Member

Canadian Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan Committee

North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan Committee

Re: 2008 Draft Project Description - Project 17 - Conserving the Monarch butterfly and promoting sustainable livelihoods

I have thoroughly read this excellent document and want you to know that I give this initiative my complete support.

I am particularly pleased that this project will address the underlying trade related pressures on the Monarch and its habitat. In discussion with the Mexican government, the proliferation of illegal logging, wood processing and related activities not only in the buffer zones but also the core protected zones must be addressed. While it is understandable that there are demands and pressures for wood resulting from the close proximity of the Biosphere Zone to the world's largest city, these unabated illegal activities are having a detrimental and negative impact on the Eastern North American Monarch Butterfly population and the migration phenomenon.

There must be a commitment to and concrete strategies for monitoring unlawful activities in the Biosphere Zone and enforce existing laws.

Programs designed to provide local citizens with opportunities for alternative incomes or to reforest the Biosphere Zone - including trees on which the monarchs overwinter, as well as trees planted as a cash crop for local citizens - should be encouraged as part of this important plan.

This being said, both Canada and the U.S.A. have important roles to play in their own countries with regard to the loss of habitat, excessive use of pesticides and herbicides, excessive mowing of roadways and so on.

Hopefully constructive dialogue will result in achievable goals and plans.