

Engaging Farmers and Other Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation

No milkweed, no monarchs

Monarch larvae feed solely on milkweed (*Asclepias* spp). The extensive loss of these plants, due to changes in agricultural practices, urban and suburban development, land management activities, and severe weather events, has negatively affected monarch butterfly populations. This project will promote habitat restoration and enhancement in key breeding grounds and migration corridors in Canada, Mexico and the United States. By engaging farmers and other landowners to become active partners in conservation and by promoting information sharing, the project will provide practical information and foster collaboration along the monarch butterfly flyway by:

- Creating a compendium of information for farmers, other landowners, and land managers to promote monarch habitat restoration and management.
- Facilitating multi-agency collaboration at national and regional levels to ensure monarch-friendly practices over the long term.
- Engaging communities across different sectors to promote monarch butterfly conservation.



Monarch butterfly caterpillar



Workshop on Building Partnerships to Promote Monarch Conservation in Priority Habitats along the Migratory Route in Mexico and the United States

**San Pedro Garza García, Nuevo León, Mexico
11–13 May 2016**

This workshop will bring together key partners from the transportation and agriculture sectors, urban and citizen-based initiatives, and protected areas, national parks and refuges to build partnerships that will promote monarch conservation and coordinate communication and awareness efforts with landowners, farmers and local communities located within the monarch flyway in Mexico and the United States.

One species, three countries

Across North America, several collaborative efforts have focused on monarch butterfly throughout the years:

- 1983, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) designated protected areas for winter roosting sites in Mexico and California;
- 2006, the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management established the “Sister Protected Area” network, where monarch habitat conservation, research, monitoring, and environmental education would be a priority;
- 2008, the North American Monarch Conservation Plan <www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/2350-north-american-monarch-conservation-plan> was published by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to serve as a stimulus and guide for monarch habitat conservation;
- 2014, the Trilateral High-Level Working Group for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly Migratory Phenomenon was established.

Past Accomplishments

This project builds upon almost ten years of monarch butterfly work supported by the CEC. In 2007, the CEC Council instructed the Secretariat to support a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort to develop a North American Monarch Conservation Plan (NAMCP). Since then, the CEC has supported several monarch-related activities:

- 2007, the CEC hosted a trilateral workshop in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, during which the NAMCP was developed based on input from some 40 experts from diverse backgrounds;
- 2008, the NAMCP was launched at the *Trinational Monarch Monitoring Workshop*, held in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico;
- 2009, the CEC organized workshops in Boerne, Texas, United States, and Angangueo, Michoacán, Mexico, to further train experts in standardized monarch monitoring techniques;
- 2010, the CEC sponsored three community projects drawn from the 2009 analysis of past and existing projects in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR);
- 2016, the CEC organized the *Communication and Partnership Workshop on the Monarch Butterfly* in Mexico City to establish a trilateral communication plan and promote collaborations among monarch experts.

For more information about this project, contact:

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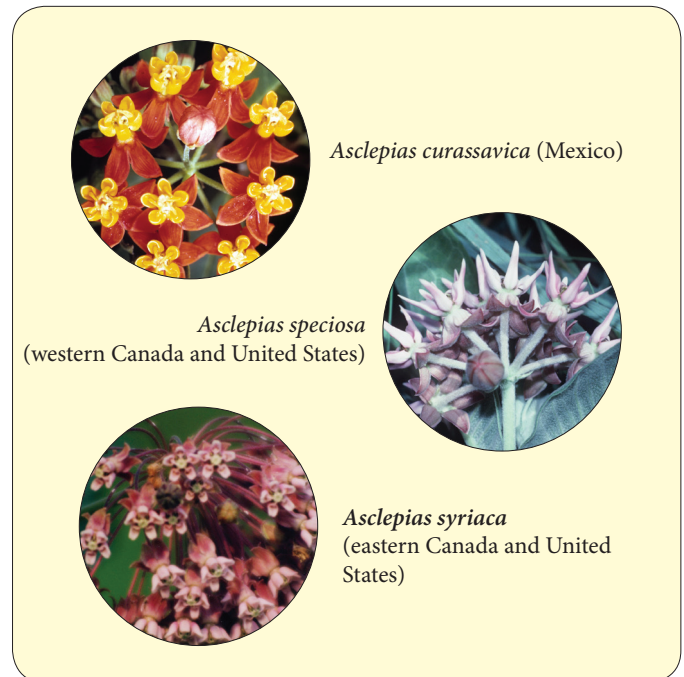
To view or download our Monarch Publications, visit our Virtual Library at www.cec.org/library.

Keep up-to-date with the CEC’s work by following @CECweb on Twitter or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cecconnect.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an intergovernmental organization that supports the cooperative environmental agenda of Canada, Mexico and the United States to green North America’s economy, address climate change by promoting a low-carbon economy, and protect its environment and the health of its citizens. The CEC is composed of three bodies: a Council, representing the governments of the three member countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) that advises the Council and serves as a liaison with the public, and a Secretariat that supports the Council and JPAC and prepares independent reports. The CEC brings together governments, civil society, and businesses to develop innovative North American solutions to global environmental challenges. Find out more at: www.cec.org.

CEC initiatives are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada; the Government of the United States of America, through the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Government of the United States of Mexico, through the *Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*.



There are more than 100 species of milkweed in North America and monarchs are reported to use more than 30 of these in the wild (Oberhauser et al., 2015).

CEC Monarch Publications

- Commission for Environmental Cooperation. 2008. North American Monarch Conservation Plan. Montreal (Quebec), Canada <www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/2350-north-american-monarch-conservation-plan>.
- Commission for Environmental Cooperation. 2009. Monarch Butterfly Monitoring in North America: Overview of Initiatives and Protocols. Montreal (Quebec), Canada <www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/2378-monarch-butterfly-monitoring-in-north-america>.

Partners

Partners in this project include Environment and Climate Change Canada, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mexico’s *Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* (Conanp).



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