



# Monarch Butterfly Flyway:

## Communication, Participatory Conservation, and Education Programs throughout the Migratory Route

### Communication and Partnership Workshop on the Monarch Butterfly Mexico City, 22–26 February 2016

Bringing together monarch butterfly experts from governmental and nongovernmental agencies to share knowledge and experience, and coordinate efforts to promote the conservation of the monarch butterfly along its migratory route. The workshop will include concurrent meetings of the CEC Project Steering Committee, the Trinational Monarch Science Partnership and a Leadership Delegation.



*North American monarch migration is considered an endangered phenomenon*

**Weighing less than a gram and capable of flying over 4500 kilometers to reach their winter destination, the monarch (*Danaus plexippus* L.) may be the most well-known butterfly in the world.** This project aims to develop a trilateral communication strategy and foster citizen- and local community-based initiatives and educational programs in Canada, Mexico and the United States. By identifying key partners from different sectors and engaging them, this project will:

- Develop a trilateral communication strategy to identify priority outreach and communication actions.
- Set up a collaborative program between educational programs in Canada, Mexico and the United States.
- Coordinate inventory and monitoring protocols to better understand the migratory phenomenon.



### One species, three countries

- 1983, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) designated protected areas for winter roosting sites in Mexico and California.
- 2006, the Trilateral Committee of 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](http://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 Trinational High-Level Working Group for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly Migratory Phenomenon was established.



*The migrations of monarch butterflies in North America to overwintering sites in Mexico and California are among the most spectacular and unusual of the world's natural events.*

### 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).

- 2007, the CEC hosted a trinational workshop in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, during which the NAMCP was developed based on input from about 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).

### 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](http://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](http://www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/2378-monarch-butterfly-monitoring-in-north-america)).

### Partners

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

### For more information about this project, contact:

Lucie Robidoux, Program Manager, Ecosystems and Sustainable Communities, at [lrobidoux@cec.org](mailto:lrobidoux@cec.org), 514-350-4311.

To view or download our Monarch Publications, visit our Virtual Library at [www.cec.org/library](http://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/ceconnect](http://www.facebook.com/ceconnect).

### 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](http://www.cec.org).

CEC initiatives are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, through 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*.

