

Mexico

Mariposa Monarca



Declaration date: 2006

Surface area: 56,259 ha

Administrative division:

Municipalities of Aporo, Angangueo, Ocampo, Zitácuaro, Senguio and Contepec, in the State of Michoacán and Municipalities of Villa de Allende, San José del Rincón, Temascalcingo and Donato Guerra in the State of Mexico

Human activities:

Silviculture, agriculture, animal husbandry, trout-farming and tourism.



Contact information:

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Ecological characteristics:

The Biosphere Reserve is located in a region where conservation of the natural heritage is a challenge because of its unique physical, geomorphological, climatic, hydrological and biogeographic features, but more especially because it is here that every year millions of Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) complete their migratory cycle, migrating from Canada and the United States. The mountains in the region are mainly covered by Oak forests up to 2900 m, Pine and Oak and Pine forests between 1500 and 3000 m, and Sacred Fir *Abies religiosa*, at an altitude of between 2400 and 3600 m above sea level. Other less represented associations are the Cedar and Juniper forests and the grasslands. It is an important catchment area for rainfall, feeding numerous water bodies in the States of Michoacán and Mexico. It is also the habitat of various endemic species from the centre of the country and particular mention may be made of *Pinus martinezii*, *Ambystoma ordi-narium* and *Regulus calendula*. As it is a transition zone between the Nearctic and Neotropical regions, attached to the Southern Sierras Province of the Mesoamerican Mountain Region, it hosts an enormous biodiversity due to the convergence of flora and fauna from both biogeographical regions. Partial studies have reported 198 species of vertebrates, 493 species of vascular plants and some 100 species of fungi.

