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ESTADOS AMERICANOS O.E.A.

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**Enhancing Wildlife Sustainability: Feature Presentation of *Flight of the Butterflies***  
**Embassy of Canada Auditorium - 501 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001**  
**April 22, 2014 - 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Background and Overview:**

In observance of Earth Day, the Permanent Missions of Canada, Mexico and the United States, in collaboration with the OAS, through its Department of Sustainable Development, will host the screening of *“Flight of the Butterflies”* and facilitate an interactive dialogue to enhance the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. A photographic exhibit called *“Monarch Traveler”* will also be on display to highlight the stunning and little-understood annual journey of millions of monarch butterflies traveling across North America. To date, the loss of habitat and other environmental challenges threaten the monarch butterfly population, which are considered “an endangered biological phenomenon.”<sup>1</sup>

Since the first Inter-American Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development in 2006 (AG/RES. 2312(XXXVII-O/07), the Department of Sustainable Development has supported member states in promoting strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife, including the effective implementation of laws, policies and regulations that address the protection of wild flora and fauna and the illegal trade in endangered species. The first international treaty signed to protect and use wildlife sustainably was signed in 1940 in the framework of the Pan-American Union, now known as the OAS.

These efforts, within the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07), support the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation (The Western Hemisphere Convention), the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Preliminary Program**

**Chair:** *Cletus I. Springer, Director Department of Sustainable Development, OAS*

5:00 pm **Welcome Remarks:**

- H.E. Carmen Lomellin, Ambassador of the United States to the OAS
- H.E. Dolores Jiménez, Minister, Alternate Representative of Mexico to the OAS
- Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary for Integral Development (SEDI), OAS
- H.E. Allan Culham, Ambassador of Canada to the OAS

5:15 pm **Feature film presentation: *“Flight of the Butterflies”***

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm **Open Dialogue:**

- Mariana Bellot, General Director for Institutional Development and Promotion, Mexican Commission of Protected Natural Areas
- John Cruden, President, Environmental Law Institute
- Richard Huber, Chief Biodiversity Section, OAS Department of Sustainable Development

6:45 pm **Gallery opening**

7:00 pm **Reception**



**About the Feature presentation:** The monarch butterfly is a true marvel of nature. Weighing less than a penny, it makes one of the longest migrations on Earth across a continent to a place it has never known. Follow the monarchs' perilous journey and experience millions of them in the remote mountain peaks of Mexico, with breathtaking cinematography from an award winning team including Oscar® winner Peter Parks. Be captivated by the true and compelling story of an intrepid scientist's 40-year search to find their secret hideaway. Unravel the mysteries and experience the *Flight of the Butterflies*.

Partners:



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/monarch-butterflies-skipping-trip-to-mexico/2014/01/31/478131c8-8929-11e3-916e-e01534b1e132\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/monarch-butterflies-skipping-trip-to-mexico/2014/01/31/478131c8-8929-11e3-916e-e01534b1e132_story.html)