

Mexico

Montes Azules



Declaration date: 1978

Surface area: 331,200 ha

Administrative division: Municipalities of Ocosingo, Las Margaritas and Maravilla Tenejapa, State of Chiapas.

Human activities:

Agriculture, animal husbandry, artisanal fishing, provision of tourist services, management of wildlife units, tapping of both timber and non-timber forest resources

Ecological characteristics:

The Biosphere Reserve is the northernmost distribution boundary for a great number of biota proceeding from the Pleistocene refuges of Polochic in Guatemala and Chiriqui in Panama. It contains relevant species such as *Lacandonia schismatica* and is the last refuge for vulnerable species such as the Scarlet Macao (*Ara macao*). The area contains the greatest amount of biodiversity in Neotropical Mexico: it covers 16% of the national territory and includes 20% of the country's plant diversity, with approximately 4,300 species; 25% of the bird species, with 345 species and 27% of the mammals, with 114 species. In terms of invertebrates, for butterflies alone its 800 daytime species represent 44% of the total for Mexico. A new family of fish have been recorded in the area: the *Lacantunidae*. It is the habitat of a species endemic to Mesoamerica, Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), of rare species such as the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpija*) and of such emblematic species such as the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Geoffroy's Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), the Mexican Black Howler Monkey (*Alouata pigra*), Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*), Kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*).

Contact information:

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