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WWFolio Bolivia

For a living planet

Course on tropical Andean butterflies in Bolivia

The Sajta Valley in Cochabamba was the site selected in December, 2006, to carry out a preliminary week long course focused on studying the biology, ecology, taxonomy and other related research aspects for tropical Andean butterflies, as well as field research study methods.

The course is part of the Tropical Andean Butterfly Diversity Project which is being carried out for three years in Andean countries such as Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador, including Bolivia, with support from international scientists, organizations working in diurnal butterfly research in the tropical Andean region.

WWF Bolivia supported the initiative, which was led by the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum of Natural History, considering that Bolivia is an important area for butterflies especially for those found in the tropical Andes due to their high biodiversity and endemism.

It is hoped that this course will support the Andean Butterfly Project by increasing interest in the study of tropical Andean butterflies, motivating, training and supporting local students in each country in the Andean region and establishing future links with butterfly conservation through a network of researches and others.



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▶ *Morpho godarti* in its larva stage (Andean butterfly)

Curious information

Insects dominate the percentages in terms of the planet's biodiversity. Thus it is not surprising that butterflies are considered one of the best groups of potential indicators for biodiversity conservation due to the degree of existing information, relative ease in their identification and value in raising awareness regarding conservation with the public at large.