

tract where the 18-square mile sanctuary established to protect the Black Howler Monkey or "baboon", is owned by the landowners. The endangered Black Howler Monkey has a limited range which includes southern Mexico, Belize and isolated areas of Guatemala. Since 1985, the farmers have signed voluntary conservation pledges, committing their farming practices to the needs of the monkeys and other wildlife in the sanctuary. These commitments include protecting forests along the river banks, leaving food trees and forest when clearing land.

The sanctuary is open to visitors and is a favourite spot for those who enjoy the sound of wildlife, particularly the rasping sound of the "baboon." The monkeys have found a safe home in Belize. They feel so confident that they let

*osos hormigueros, armadillos, venados y otros animales mamarios, anfibios o reptiles. El santuario comprende a ocho aldeas y docenas de agricultores.*

*Talves el más conocido de todos es el Santuario de la vida silvestre, Cuenca Cockscomb. Las 100,000 acres son la única reserva para el jaguar en el mundo. La preserva y los jaguares han sido destacados en los periódicos y revistas internacionales. En 1985, el Duque de Edingburgh llegó a Belice solo para ver este santuario y sus jaguares en su capacidad como Presidente del Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza. La preserva fue desarrollada por la Sociedad Audubon de Belice con fondos del Fondo Mundial para la Vida Silvestre.*

*Aquí los enpeligrados ocelot, el puma, otros de la raza felina y el más casado de todos - el jaguar,*

## BELIZEAN BUTTERFLIES IN EUROPE

Belizean butterflies have found a place in Europe's prestigious butterfly houses, where thousands of visitors get a chance to view them in their habitat and normal behaviour.

Since 1989 Jan and Tineke Meerman from Holland, have been breeding over 25 butterfly species per year, which they ship to Swiss butterfly houses. The couple undertakes the tedious job of collecting butterflies and breeding them in specially made cages at the Shipstern Nature Reserve in the Corozal District.

There are about 200 butterfly species at the reserve alone and about 500 species country-wide. Those at the reserve are mostly canopy species which disappear when the forest is cut.

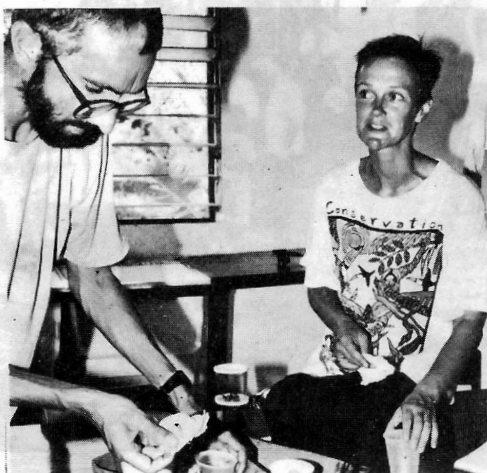
The butterflies are transported to Europe three times weekly as mature pupas or newly-born butterflies.

Jan says the sale of butterflies is mainly to assist the work of the International Tropical Conservation Foundation in the 22,000 acres reserve. The breeding centre with a live butterfly display is open to Belizeans and it is hoped that this will bring about an appreciation of our wildlife and these colourful insects.

"In Switzerland," says Jan, "these butterflies are placed in their show place labelled 'Belize' and in a way help promote Belize and the idea of protecting our tropical forests."

Jan says that "the breeding of butterflies is not a lucrative business for us, but it helps maintain the reserve and thus protect other animal species."

So while butterflies enlighten us with their beauty they are now helping with conservation efforts so that other animals can continue to roam wild and free. □



(L-R) Jan and Tineke care for the pupas.  
*Jan y Tineke cuidando de las pupas.*