

*The largest of Latin American butterflies, Morpho peleides.*



Nevertheless it needs to be emphasised that, by western standards, Costa Rica is a poor country, where the setting aside of land for nature conservation means deprivation in the short term for the majority of the people who depend on agriculture. Western societies who deplore the loss of tropical ecosystems should be prepared to reduce their own high demands on the earth's resources, as well as donating some of their wealth and expertise for conservation projects in "Southern" countries. 🐸

*Margaret Peace from Blenheim is a former member of Forest and Bird's executive.*

*Male and female golden toad. Photo: Michael & Patricia Fogden*