

0379 4

1. Title: Las Orquideas National Park, Colombia - Enforcement of guard system
2. Originator: Instituto de Desarrollo de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (INDERENA)
Carrera 14, No. 25A-66
Apt. Aéreo 13458
Bogotá - Colombia
3. Amount of grant requested: 1975 - US \$ 20'000, 1976 - US \$ 15'000
1977 - US \$ 11'000, 1978 - US \$ 10'000
4. Project Description:

Scope : Provision of equipment for game guards, construction of guard huts x

Objectives: To improve the conservation status of the Orquideas National Park

Justification: Las Orquideas National Park (Orchids National Park) was proclaimed by the Colombian Government in 1973. It is situated in the West Andean sub-centre of the Colombian mountain forest centre (Müller, 1973) and constitutes one of the most important components of the Colombian system of Andean National Parks and Reserves. The combination of geographical, climatic and edaphic factors results in a great variety of ecological formations ranging from the Paramo and the Andean Cloud forest to lowland rain forest and the swamps of the Atrato Valley. The Park includes perhaps the only place in the Colombian West Andes where large parts of different kinds of rain forest are still in a natural state. These habitats need urgent protection from uncontrolled settlement and other forms of irrational land use, in order to develop their scientific, educational and touristic potential as well as to protect an important water catchment area. The natural conditions encountered in the Park will also serve for case studies and for monitoring the changes which have taken place in adjacent altered lands. These studies will be of tremendous importance to determine the best management and conservation practices for similar areas outside the Park.

Background: Las Orquideas National Park is situated in the Western cordillera in the Department of Antioquia near the town of the same name. It covers an area of 32'000 ha (it is planned to extend the Park to 62'000 ha.). The Park reaches elevations of 3'850 m and includes different kinds of lowland and mountain rain forest:

- Bosque humedo tropical (bh-T)
- Bosque pluvial sub-tropical (bp-ST)
- Bosque pluvial montano bajo (bp-MB)
- Bosque pluvial montano (bp-M)

Above the forest limit extensive "Frailejonales" occur; these are one of the most peculiar plant formations of the paramo, formed by members of the genus Espeletia (Compositae). These plants form large rosettes which grow either on the ground or on erect unbranched trunks which may reach heights

of up to 10 metres in mature undisturbed areas. Plants of Espeletia occidentalis are the dominant feature of the paramo landscape in the Park. The mountain forest is characterized by numerous and most spectacular orchids such as Odontoglossum spathaceum which gave the Park its name. The swamps in the valleys are rich in aquatic fauna and flora.

In 1971, INDERENA started to carry out some inventories of the fauna of the Park. The high region of the Park is inhabited by White-tailed deer and Spectacled bears, while squirrels, armadillos, ocelot, jaguar, pacaris, various monkey and crocodile species inhabit the lower forest region. There is a rich variety of bird life at all levels from the swamp forests up to the paramo.

Fish are well represented and include sabaletas, briolas, corronchos, barbudos etc..

Project details: To save this large variety of outstanding life zones, INDERENA will give top priority to the development of this National Park and to the establishment of a proper control system. INDERENA will employ and pay a number of guards, who will be based in the Park and protect its territory from illegal activities. Funds and local experts are available to assure the proper scientific management of the area. Outside support is required for the construction of guard huts (4) and the provision of the most basic equipment for the personnel such as radio-telephones for communications between the guard posts and their headquarters, jeeps, boats, and outboard motors for patrols and transport of supplies.

Execution: INDERENA

INTERNAL INFORMATION

5. Estimated costs:

<u>Item</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Cost per unit</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>Total</u>
Elaboration of Master plan, supervision)			3'000	500	500	500	4'500
<u>Motors, Radios, & Projector.</u>							
Outboard motor, Johnson 50 hp	2	1'000		1'000		1'000	2'000
Vehicle, Nissan Patrol	1	5'000			5'000		5'000
Generators	4	500	1'000	500		500	2'000
Radio, Motorola S.A. 104 B	5	1'000	1'000	1'000		3'000	5'000
Projector	2	150		300			300
Spare parts			200	300	500	500	1'500
Maintenance of equipment				1'000	1'000	1'000	3'000
<u>Construction of Guard posts</u>	4	4'000	8'000	8'000	1'000		17'000
<u>Equipment of guards</u>							
Tents	5	200	1'000				1'000
Fibreglass boats	1	1'200		1'200			1'200
Mules, saddles etc.	10	300	3'000				3'000
Miscellaneous			2'800	2'200	3'000	3'500	11'500
TOTAL		US \$	20'000	15'000	11'000	10'000	56'000

6. References and Responsibilities:

References - Sociedad Colombiana de Ecologia y Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideologia.
Senador Dr. Mariano Ospina Hernandez.

Technical responsibility - Instituto de Desarrollo de los Recursos Naturales Renovables - INDERENA
Division de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre

Administrative responsibility - Sub-Gerencia Administrativa-INDERENA,
Gerencia Regional Occidental.

7. Timing of financial requirements:

Period - January, 1975 - December, 1978

Timing of Financial disbursement

May 1975	US \$	12'000	Sw.fr.	31'200
November 1975		8'000		20'800
May 1976		9'000		23'400
November 1976		6'000		15'600
May 1977		7'000		18'200
November 1977		4'000		10'400
May 1978		6'000		15'600
November 1978		4'000		10'400

TOTAL	US \$	56'000	Sw.fr.	145'600
-------	-------	--------	--------	---------

8. Other funds: NONE

9. Remarks: INDERENA will employ additional staff and provide additional outfits and equipment.

10. Other organizations: The University of Antioquia and the Fundacion Jardin Botanico "Joaquin Antonio Uribe" will carry out research in the National Park and advise on its management.

11. Project Officer: Dr. Hartmut Jungius

Date of original application: August, 1974

Date of IUCN/WWF Full Project: November, 1974.