

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Indigo-winged Parrot *Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*



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Background

The Indigo-winged Parrot is known only from the west slope of the Central Andes of Colombia, where it has an extremely small range and population which has until recently been declining. These factors result in its classification as Critically Endangered. Prior to its rediscovery in 2002 it was known with certainty only from the type-series, taken in 1911. More than 95% of the known population of this species (c. 230 individuals) is restricted to an area of approx. 8,000 hectares located around El Mirador, Fuertes's Parrot Reserve and Loros Andinos Reserve (municipalities of Genova and Roncesvalles).

The species is restricted to mature montane cloud forest, mainly at 3,300-3,500 m, with a high occurrence of mistletoe (berries are a key food source of the species). Studies since 2003 have gathered extensive information on the breeding and feeding ecology of the species, with nesting found to take place from January to May. The average clutch size is three eggs. Incubation is conducted by the female, though post-hatching care is biparental.

Actions being implemented

1. Population **surveys and monitoring** of its ecological requirements to enable effective management of remaining habitat and identifying the main threats.
2. Ensure the **effective management** of El Mirador Municipality Nature Reserve implemented artificial nests and maintained the research
3. An artificial nest program to **evaluate the reproductive requirements** of this parrot species, implementing an appropriate artificial nest models commensurate with the requirements of the Indigo - winged Parrot. The population has increased to 160 individuals thanks to conservation efforts which have resulted in 87% hatching success and 95% fledging success amongst breeding birds in the Central Cordillera.
4. -Significant **efforts to control cattle intrusions** and poachers around the reserves have been made.
5. -**Work with local community** in raising awareness and avoid possible trade of the species.

6. **Workshops and talks in education centers** as well as urban and rural schools in Geneva have given rewarding results. Strengthening of the "Amigo de las Aves" student groups has also been a priority.
7. A series of community workshops have emphasized the need to provide **economic alternatives** that decrease pressure on natural resources and biodiversity.



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