



CONREFI

(Organization for the Investigation,
Protection and Conservation of
Phylogenetic Resources)

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Why CONREFI?

- CONREFI was established in 2003 out of the shared interest and concern by a group of scientists, professionals and commercial Tillandsia growers, who recognized that all plant and animal species, in particular those in danger of extinction that are in international trade, require functional regulations PLUS additional research and controls in order to work towards their long-term survival and sustainable use and development.



Why Phylogenetic Resources?

- Phylogenetic Resources (PGR's) cover the entire generative and vegetative reproduction materials of plants. CONREFI focuses on them due to the fact that these resources have a critical current and potential future value for the global environmental balance, and also for the development and survival of humanity in terms of nutrition, health, agriculture and forestry.



Organization

- Legal Form of Organization: CONREFI is a private non-governmental organization, and is non-political and non-profit. By its constitution, in order to carry out its mission, it has been established as an NGO with an unlimited time-frame of existence.



CONREFI: Mission

- Mission: CONREFI strives to maintain the environmental balance provided by phylogenetic resources and to develop and implement research, projects and recommendations for the long-term survival and sustainable use of these species, especially those under threat of extinction.
 - A principle underlying this mission is the recognition that humanity and its social structures require plant species and an environmental balance to maintain and improve the quality of life of the population of the world.
 - CONREFI recognizes and ascribes to CITES; CONREFI's objectives, research and projects will incorporate and adhere to CITES regulations and resolutions.



CONREFI: Objectives

- Objectives: CONREFI's objectives are founded on the recognized need to research and protect plant biodiversity and its contributions to humanity.
 - Promote participation throughout economic sectors to fund projects designed to study, protect and conserve phylogenetic resources, and to publish relevant information and implement strategies to contribute to the conservation and the productive sustainable use and development of these resources.
 - Promote agreements and cooperative ventures with national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop and share research, technological and scientific innovations and information on the international trade of endangered species, etc.



Founding Members

- **Dr. Carlos A. Orozco, M.Sc., Ph.D.**
Specialty: Biotechnology for plant genetic resources, agricultural production and plant improvement; Horticultural Production; Agronomy. Faculty member in Universidad de San Carlos (National State University), Guatemala.
 - **Hector A. Sagastume, M.Sc.**
Agricultural Sciences and Renewable Natural Resources; Studies in Plant Genetics and Tissue Culture; Applied Statistics. Scientist and Regional Director for ICTA (Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology).
 - **Mr. Uwe M. Feldhoff, Ing.**
Botanical Studies; research on reproduction and multiplication of Tillandsias. Commercial Tillandsia Grower and Exporter.
- Mayra I. Samayoa, B.S.
Certified public Accounting and Auditing. Human Resources.



Founding Members, continued

- **Juan R. Mendoza, B.S.**
Agronomy; Board member of AGEXPRONT (Guatemala's Association of Exporters of Non-Traditional Products), Plant Committee. Commercial Tillandsia Grower and Exporter.
- **Cesar L. García, B.S.**
Forrestry; Natural Resources. Assistant faculty member, School of Agriculture, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala.
- **Rudolf W. Jacobs, B.S., M.Sc.**
Agricultural Economics; Finance and International Business; Board member of AGEXPRONT (Guatemala's Association of Exporters of Non-Traditional Products), Plant Committee. Commercial Tillandsia Grower and Exporter.



Initiated Projects

- **Cooperative Agreement between CONREFI & ICTA (Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology):**
 - Cooperative Research/Information and Technology Sharing
 - Seminars/Conferences/Information Publishing
 - Project Development & Infrastructure Sharing:
 - Establishment of Epiphytic Greenhouse/ Gene Bank/ Ecological Park
 - CONREFI's access to ICTA's Biotechnology Lab and Equipment
- **Survey and geographical identification of Epiphytic Plant Species, in order to quantify their existence, locate their endemic habitats, and study the condition of these habitats. In the future this reference will help evaluate the trend in a specie's development and or detriment and that of it's endemic habitat.**



Initiated Projects, continued

- **Development of guidelines for proper Tillandsia multiplication and cultivation, and a systematic process of control for the non-detrimental commerce of these species, in accordance with CITES regulations and guidelines of resolution Conf. 11.11.**
 - CONREFI will develop these guidelines in collaboration and coordination with CONAP (Guatemala's Entity in charge of Protected Areas and CITES authority).
 - CONAP as national legal regulator and CITES authority will have to implement these guidelines and regulate their strict implementation.
 - In the future CONREFI could become a "certifying" body that emits an opinion as to each commercial nursery's processes and adherence to CITES and resolution 11-11 regulations.
 - CONREFI plans to actively promote the professional and ethical integration of CONAP's authorities, as well as CONAP's resources and general development.

