

COLOMBIAN OAK

(*Quercus humboldtii*)

IUCN Red List: **Least Concern**

Current Population Trend: **Decreasing**

Estimated Number of Mature Individuals:
Not Quantified

Protected status in Colombia: **Yes**

speciesconservation.org



Status of Colombian oak in Colombia

Almost exclusively located in Colombia, the *Quercus humboldtii* oak tree is distributed across mountainous regions of the country between 1,100–3,200 meters above sea level and is also present in the Darien region of Panama. Important for wildlife habitat and ecosystem services, the extent of Colombia's oak forests have been declining as a result of timber exploitation. This is particularly alarming as many rare endemic species, including the Indigo-winged parrot (CR), Colombian mountain grackle (EN), and Rusty-faced parrot (VU) depend on Andean oak forests for their survival.

This species is distributed across two regions of montane forest located on the western slope of Colombia's East Andes Mountain range. In one region to the south of the department in Guantiva-Russia exists an area of 191,598 hectares with seven relicts of oak groves, totalling 86,699 hectares where the species has lost 55% of its coverage. In the second region to the northeast of the department in the Malaga-Guaca area, this oak tree is dispersed across 100,215 hectares with six oak woodland fragments totalling 30,665 hectares, but 69% of its coverage has disappeared. Overall, 40% of the oak forests across these two areas have been lost in the department (Cárdenas & Salinas 2007).

Conservation Project Objectives

To increase Colombia's native oak forest coverage of *Quercus humboldtii*, Fundación ProAves seeks to implement an innovative project that will commence with comprehensive research to gather necessary biological data about the species, including the abundance of population densities at key sites. This information will be analysed and presented to stakeholders and experts, who will collaborate to develop a conservation action plan for the species, which will be implemented by ProAves. In addition to establishing new protected areas and restoring habitat, ProAves will launch an educational campaign to raise awareness about the Colombian Oak among the community within the species' range.

Through this multi-faceted project, we seek to expand the oak tree's protected area and ensure that its population is increasing, so that it can continue supporting wildlife communities that benefit from these trees.

Conservation Partner:

