



International Network Protecting the Beauty of the Americas: Interaction of Research Groups from Different Regions of Brazil and the Americas

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The conservation of native orchids is essential for biodiversity protection, as these plants serve as ecological indicators and play crucial roles in the ecosystems they inhabit. The project "Protecting the Beauty of the Americas: Conservation of Native Orchids" aimed to promote the interaction of research groups from different regions of Brazil and the Americas, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and conservation practices. To achieve this objective, a short-term mission was carried out in Chile, including lectures on nanotechnology in agriculture, academic exchange between Chile and Brazil, visits to universities, and engagement activities at the National Botanical Garden of Chile, featuring talks on artificial wetlands and orchid preservation techniques. These activities were conducted in collaboration with researchers from the Universidade Federal de Lavras, Universidade de Alfenas, Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Universidad Viña del Mar, Universidad de Chile, and the National Botanical Garden of Chile. The bidirectional activities at the National Botanical Garden were evaluated using an assessment tool that measured relevance, effectiveness of the educational process, and the updating of the evaluative program. A total of 18 Agronomy students from Universidad Viña del Mar and 13 staff members from the National Botanical Garden participated in these activities. Among the students, 92.9% positively evaluated the initiative's contribution, 96.8% approved its quality, 96.1% highlighted its relevance, and the overall satisfaction rate was 97%, with an average score of 6.8 out of 7. For the staff members, 76.4% positively assessed the impact of the initiative, 83.4% approved its quality, 93.8% recognized its relevance, and the overall satisfaction reached 92%. The training sessions and community engagement activities demonstrated the importance of integrating students, researchers, and local professionals, thereby strengthening the ties between universities and communities. Collaboration among the participating institutions enhanced the exchange of knowledge and practices in plant conservation. The project significantly contributed to strengthening the international network of research and environmental education, promoting the conservation of native orchids and the development of sustainable technologies. It is expected that the established partnerships will continue to foster collaborative actions for biodiversity preservation across the Americas.

Keywords: biodiversity; orchid conservation; academic collaboration and exchange; international research and outreach networks.

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