

Cyanopsitta

The Loro Parque Fundación magazine

**LORO PARQUE
NUMBER 1 OF
THE WORLD
TURNS 46**

**IX PARROT
CONVENTION,
A GREAT SUCCESS**

**A MILLION
DOLLARS FOR
CONSERVATION
IN 2019**

**GUAYAQUIL
GREAT GREEN
MACAWS
CONTINUE FLYING IN
ECUADOR**

2018
113



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COVER:

Great green macaw (*Ara ambiguus*)
Photo: Michael Möens (Fundación Jocotoco)

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PAYEE ACCOUNTS:

Banca March, Puerto de la Cruz
CUENTA: 0061 0168 81 0050340118
IBAN: ES40 0061 0168 8100 5034 0118
BIC: BMARES2M

Banco Santander, Puerto de la Cruz
CUENTA: 0049 0290 37 2113529526
IBAN: ES46 0049 0290 37 2113529526
BIC: BSCHE333

BBVA, Puerto de la Cruz
CUENTA: 0182 5310 6100 1635 6158
IBAN: ES85 0182 5310 6100 1635 6158
BIC: BBVAES33

Legal deposit: TF-1643/2003

Cyanopsitta is printed on recycled environmentally-friendly paper.



LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN

WE CARE

Dear friends,

These issues, which were covered at the IX International Parrot Convention, are *ones parrots have a key role in thanks to their position in ecosystems as what is known as “umbrella” species*, a concept scientists use to describe living creatures on which many others depend, and we now know that many species have benefitted from the Foundation's work in recent years. We are also excited to discover that through the new projects we will be working on in 2019, even more habitats will be protected and become refuges for wildlife.

The Convention had an unprecedented programme with *850 people from 47 different countries* sharing their knowledge-based passion for parrots, making it a globally unique event of its type. Its programme included the presentation of the Gorilla Prize, on this occasion won by our collaborator, the great ornithologist and globally renowned figure in the world of parrots, Rosemary Low for her long career and commitment to divulgation and conservation of parrots over so many years. A whole life of dedication recognised with this much-deserved award.

We also did not neglect actions to conserve aquatic animals. Consequently, the Foundation has started research and data collection activities as part of an international project investigating dolphin welfare. This project, led by the Chicago Zoological Society, combines the efforts of *45 zoological institutions* and is, undoubtedly, *the largest international project covering the welfare of cetaceans*. Its results will help us understand in detail elements of the welfare of dolphins in human care and optimise the situation of a species which enjoys one of the highest levels of welfare in all of the zoological community.

The Max Planck Institute centre in the Animal Embassy continues to obtain results about parrots' knowledge and skills. Being able to work with species as tenacious as the great green macaw, hatched under the care of our experts, is a great benefit and will make it possible to obtain more knowledge about a species which always displays surprising abilities, making its presence felt among the large macaws.

One of the most noteworthy events in this most recent period has been the transfer of six Lear's macaws, which were born in our breeding centre and have left Loro Parque Fundación for Brazil, their native country, to be released in their natural environment.

After 12 years working with this species, with excellent results at all levels, we are now entering a very interesting conservation phase which we will describe for you, step by step.

I hope you will carry on enjoying the details of our activities over the last few months and that you will carry on supporting our Foundation.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling,
President of Loro Parque Fundación



The world's best zoo celebrates its 46th birthday



On 17 December 2018 Loro Parque celebrated its 46th birthday, and at Loro Parque Fundación we celebrated this anniversary by expressing our great pride in the most recent pair of awards Loro Parque and Siam Park have received.

Loro Parque received the 'Travelers' Choice 2018' award, recognising it as the world's best zoo, for a second time, just after Siam Park—the company's water park—was recognised as the best in the world in its category for the fifth year running.

Loro Parque's leadership in its commitment to conservation, scientific research and education has undoubtedly played a major role in this recognition, as have its efforts to achieve excellence in animal welfare. This same spirit of leadership is what makes Loro Parque our principal donor, and the driving force behind all of Loro Parque Fundación's activities.

Almost 50 million people have visited its grounds during its 46 years of history,

and they have all recognised the exceedingly high welfare levels of all of the animals in the Park. Every year since 1994, *Loro Parque Fundación has prepared and implemented a comprehensive environmental science, conservation and education programme, and it has directly spent over 19 million dollars on implementing “in situ” and “ex situ” conservation programmes thanks to Loro Parque's generous commitment, which covers 100% of our operating costs.*

This recognition coincides with the recent openings of the exhibitions of pygmy hippos, ring-tailed lemurs and an innovative environment for cockatoos from Australia and Asia. As well as a large number of achievements in wildlife protection through Loro Parque Fundación—many relating to the marine environment—Loro Parque is reaping the benefits of applying a business model in which it reinvests all of its earnings into the constant development of the company and ongoing animal welfare improvements. At present, it continues to be strongly committed to expanding its facilities and infrastructure, contributing to ongoing job creation in the Canary Islands.

All of the Loro Parque Fundación team is proud to celebrate this 46th anniversary, in which TripAdvisor's users have again recognised the excellence and quality of the modern zoo model advocated by Loro Parque. A zoo combining excellence in presenting its animal species and care for detail in the product each visitor receives with a deep spirit of sustainability and nature conservation. There is no doubt that this is the model for the zoo of the future, for the animal embassy that should be a vital element in the conservation of our planet in the next century. And Loro Parque is clearly at the forefront of this model for success, as recognised by the most demanding judges, its visitors. ■

Pygmy hippos are the most recent addition to family of animals at what has recently been named the world's number one zoo. From left to right: Brigitte Kiessling; Wolfgang Kiessling, President of the Loro Parque company; María Méndez, Managing Director of Promotur; Delia Herrera, Minister for Foreign Action of the Island Council of Tenerife; Lope Afonso, Mayor of Puerto de la Cruz; Alberto Bernabé, Minister for Tourism of the Island Council of Tenerife, and Dimple Melwani, Minister for Tourism of Puerto de la Cruz.

Photo: M. Pérez



Great success for the IX Parrot Convention



The delegates in the gardens of the Taoro Conference Centre in Puerto de la Cruz.

Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

This convention brought together **850 delegates from 47 different nationalities**, for an event featuring the participation of the most internationally renowned experts in the field.

The IX Parrot Convention, organised by Loro Parque Fundación and held in Tenerife, can be described as a great success.

The record number of nationalities present made it possible for delegates to

interact with professionals from the field and experts in the different scientific areas from all of the continents where Loro Parque Fundación is implementing a range of conservation projects, among which stand out ones that have saved 9 species of parrot from extinction. Loro Parque Fundación has already spent 19 million dollars supporting projects to conserve endangered species all over the world. A total of 22 international speakers, whose presentations were



The Mayor, Lope Afonso, and the Minister for Tourism, Dimple M. Melwani of Puerto de la Cruz with the President of Loro Parque, Wolfgang Kiessling, at the start of the evening.
Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



A traditional Canary Islands dinner in a unique space greeted all of the delegates in an unforgettable environment. Plaza de la Villa, la Orotava.

Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

simultaneously interpreted into four languages, shared their experiences and knowledge during this week. Many other activities were provided as well as talks.

This year, in response to an unprecedented demand, intensive workshops were offered on the days after the Convention, where different experts offered direct training in various fields linked to the world of conservation.

This convention, the only one of its type in the world thanks to its nature and its extraordinary ability to attract delegates, brought around 1,000 people, delegates and companions, to the island, who enjoyed the delights of the climate of Puerto de la Cruz and the biodiversity of the Canaries.

A variety of events were put on during the convention, to enliven it and encourage contact between delegates.

Many of the delegates were meeting for the first time after years of speaking on the phone or through

social networks. Thanks to the event's social programme, people could make different connections, exchanging ideas, new challenges and knowledge about their shared field of parrots. The convention's social programme included an excellent dinner with traditional Canary Islands cuisine in the Plaza del Palacio Municipal of la Orotava, another no less notable dinner in the Auditorium of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, a visit to the island of Gran Canaria to enjoy the Poema del Mar aquarium and, finally, a memorable gala dinner in the gardens of the Hotel Botánico.

A photographic summary of the convention can be viewed at the following link: (<http://www.loroparquefundacion.org/congreso/index.php/es/>). ■

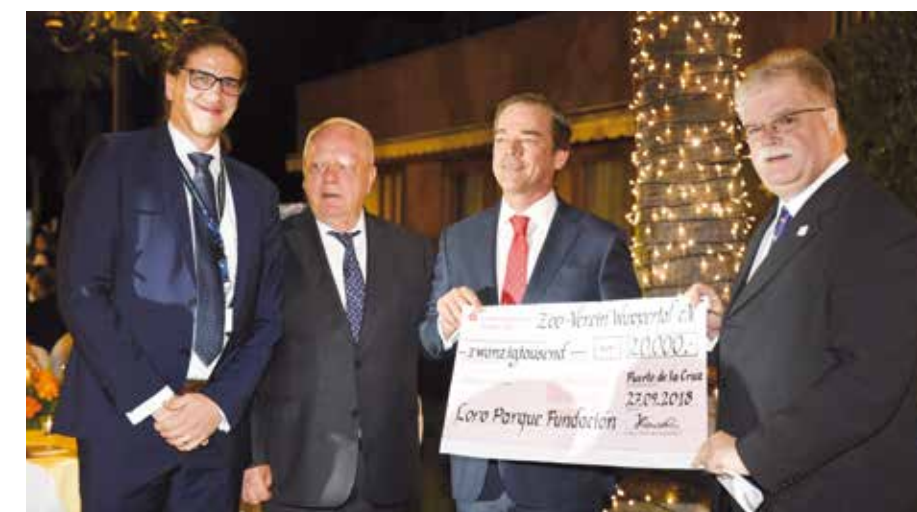


The seminars held the attention of all of those present.

Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



A special dinner was given to recognise people who had attended the convention before. M. Reinschmidt presented gifts to the delegates who have attended most often over the years.
Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



The Zoo-Verein Wuppertal made a €20,000 donation to Loro Parque Fundación for its progress in implementing projects within the agreement between the two institutions, which collaborate on the Aralandia project.
Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



The renowned Tony Silva presented a cheque for €8,500 to Loro Parque Fundación for the royalties from his latest book. Silva asked delegates to give the Foundation their unconditional support over time, saying that LPF has been a tool for the genuine recovery of parrot populations all over the world.
Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



At the gala dinner, Tony Silva from Florida received the prize for the best speaker, Rafael Zamora of LPF came second and Volker Seidl from Germany was third (chosen by those present).
Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

Rosemary Low wins the Gorilla Prize

As part of the convention, the prestigious 2017 Gorilla Prize was awarded to Rosemary Low in the Tenerife Auditorium. Low is a passionate advocate for parrots and has dedicated her life to these birds through aviculture and conservation. This year saw the fifteenth edition of the prize, which



From left to right: Lope Afonso, Christoph Kiessling, Brigitte Kiessling, Fernando Clavijo, Carlos Alonso, Rosemary Low, Wolfgang Kiessling and Carolina Darias. Photo: M. Pérez



Rosemary Low, winner of the 2017 Gorilla Prize. Photo: M. Pérez

achievements in conservation in a heartfelt speech, in which she recalled her first visit in 1984 and her relationship of over 30 years with a park she has a special appreciation for: "it has been a privilege to be involved with Loro Parque and the Foundation for so long."

During the Gorilla Prize event and as part of the conference, four Loro Parque Fundación Ambassadors were named. Honoured for their careers and their work in support of nature, they will now represent the foundation wherever they go. ■



The ceremony was held in the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Auditorium, and was an unforgettable event. Photo: M. Pérez

recognises environmental responsibility, taking into consideration strategies and actions to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable resource use. Wolfgang Kiessling, the President of the Loro Parque Company, highlighted the work of Rosemary Low, who for years was a bird keeper in the Park and who has dedicated her whole life to the rearing and conservation of parrot species. *Her principles and values, Kiessling noted, are the same ones that motivate Loro Parque, prioritising the protection of nature in a time in which the human population is rapidly growing,* leaving the resources and habitats of wild animals more restricted and in worrying conditions.

For her part, Rosemary Low underlined Loro Parque Fundación's



The new LPF Ambassadors: Alena Winner, Bärbel Köhler, Matthias Reinschmidt and Anil Garg.

Photo: M. Pérez

A million dollars for conservation in 2019



Members of the Loro Parque Fundación Advisory Board.

Photo: LPF

At the annual meeting of the Loro Parque Fundación Advisory Board, recently held in Puerto de la Cruz, *the distribution of the million dollars the Foundation dedicates to nature conservation projects all over the world was decided for another year.*

Endangered species and ecosystems in the Americas will receive almost 60% of the funds

(\$577,000), followed by projects focusing on nature in Europe, which will receive just over \$203,000, and projects in Africa, which will receive \$126,000. Asia, with \$73,000 and Australia-Oceania, with \$21,000, complete the funding which will be distributed among 40 conservation and research projects to be implemented by 34 NGOs and Universities from all over the world.

From an ecological point of view, land species and ecosystems will

receive most of the support from Loro Parque Fundación (800,000 dollars), with the red-vented cockatoo standing out among them (critically endangered on the IUCN red list). This bird's project will receive \$68,000 to continue safeguarding populations on the island of Rasa and trying to ensure that the successful breeding already achieved in this area spreads to other parts of the region.

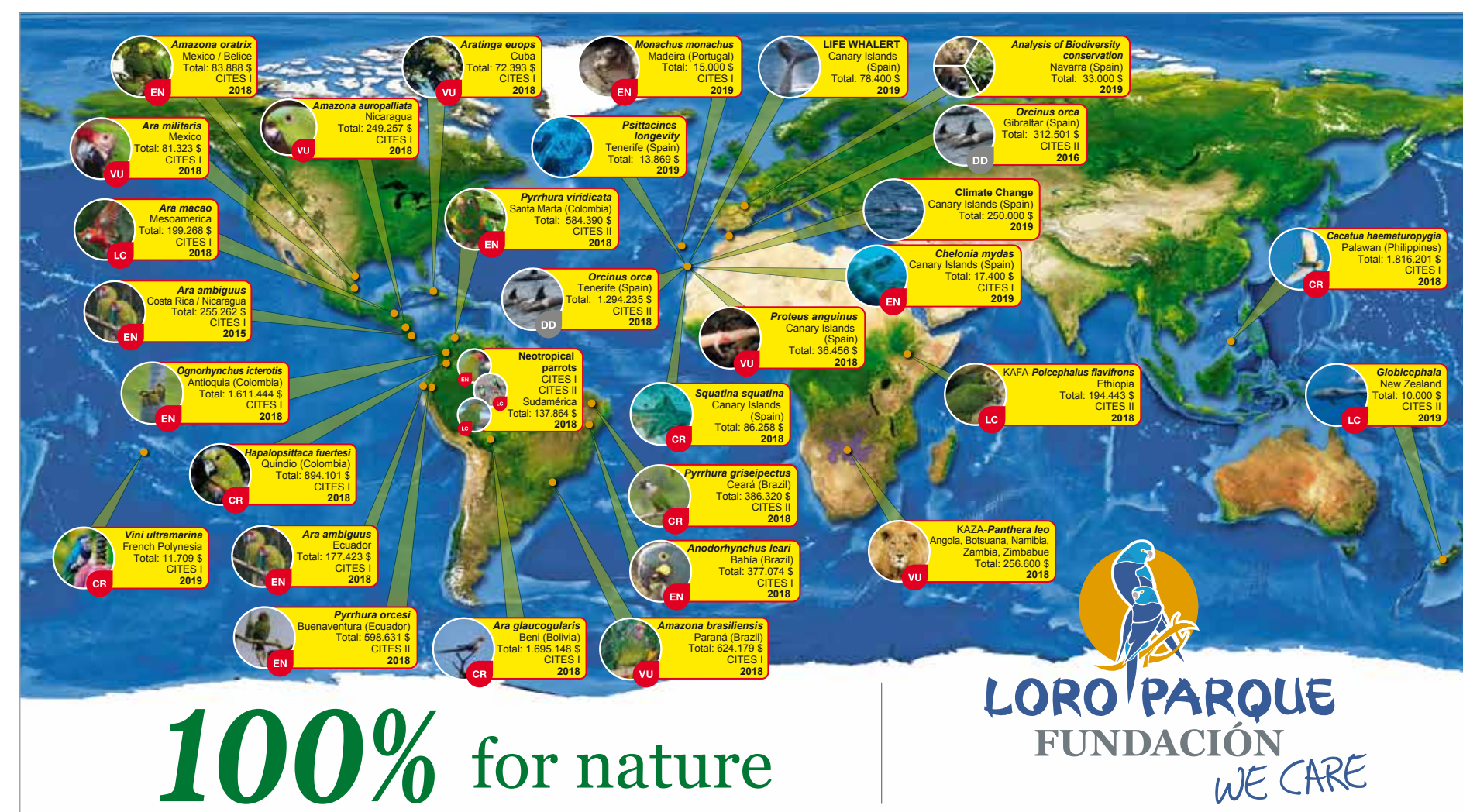
Other notable projects relating to land-based species and ecosystems

are directed at protecting lions in the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, the great green macaw and the lilac-crowned parrot in Ecuador, and the blue-throated macaw in Bolivia. These projects will receive over 60,000 dollars in funding in 2019.

We should not forget efforts to conserve marine species and ecosystems, to which Loro Parque Fundación will dedicate 200,000 dollars next year, almost three quarters of which will be dedicated to cetaceans (killer whales, dolphins, humpback whales and pilot whales) in a variety of projects relating to welfare as well as to monitoring and conserving the population of killer whales in the strait of Gibraltar and developing systems to avoid accidental beaching by pilot whales. It is also important to note the participation in a project on the island of Madeira to conserve the Mediterranean monk seal, a species listed as critically endangered on the IUCN red list, making it Europe's most endangered marine mammal. As well as projects dedicated to marine mammals, in 2019 the foundation will also continue conservation work with other species, such as sea turtles and sharks.

We would like to thank LPF's sponsors for their dedication and support for nature conservation.

With their support, we are making important advances in the conservation of species and their habitats. Their dedication enables conservation actions based on research, education and awareness-raising relating to the natural habitats where the species under protection live. ■



Guayaquil great green macaws continue flying

From Ecuador, in the area known as Las Tunas in the Ayampe Reserve, the Fundación Jocotoco has informed us that our brave protagonists, which were released into the wild, are still being spotted in the area and are having no problems. The great flying skill they display means the monitoring teams can be tranquil. In addition, the local population is strongly involved.

One of the particular features of this project is that all of these individuals were born in controlled environments, resulting from breeding from specimens seized following illegal trapping. They were carefully looked after for years in the Fundación Jambelí's centre to be ready for this planned release, in which the individuals were prepared in large flying cages in the jungle, far from the urban world and human interaction.

Ongoing, direct communication



The researcher Michael Möens visiting communities to give them information about the project. Photo: F. Jocotoco



The manager of the Ayampe reserve, Byron Delgado, tracking the released individuals using radio and GPS. Photo: F. Jocotoco



One of the individuals with a radio collar. Photo: M. Möens, F. Jocotoco

between scientists from the Fundación Jocotoco and from Loro Parque Fundación has led to two



The local population has received information so that they can be involved in the project. Photo: F. Jocotoco



Their strong flight has enabled them to adapt to the wild environment. Photo: F. Jocotoco

individuals successfully flying free since last year and six more doing so for several months.

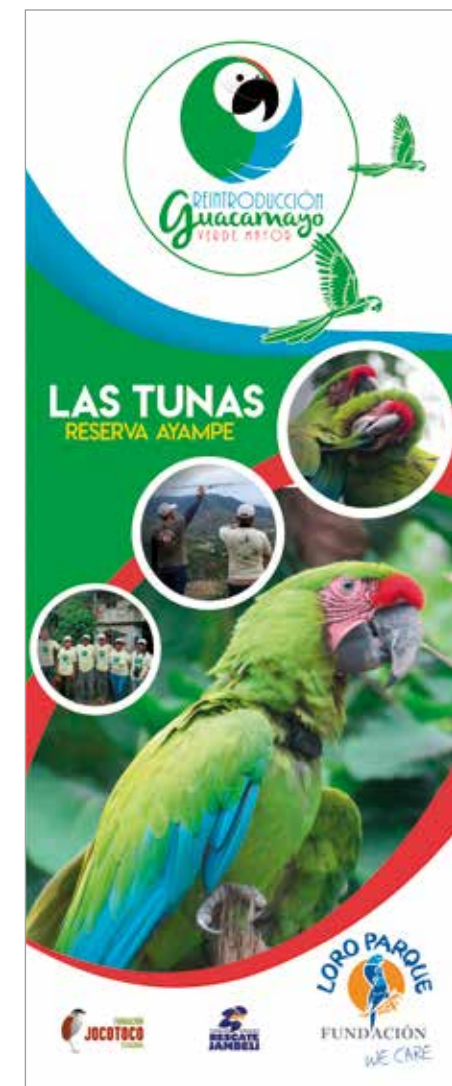
These juveniles are guided by the calls of more experienced macaws to find the food and water they need for each day.

Their location is being tracked as they have been fitted with radio and GPS transmitting collars.

Michael Möens, Jocotoco's field scientist, told us how these individuals have developed. They were used to controlled enclosures since being chicks. Soon after moving into the aviary built for gradual release in the forest, they started to modify their behaviour, being timid when encountering the noises and movements of nature, which were not known to them until that moment, and

in turn developing aggressive and self-defence behaviours, before leaving the adaptation aviary.

We continue to follow this great project closely, which is still obtaining field data and information about the adaptation of these giants among macaws, which can exceed a kilogram in weight and fly skilfully over the jungle of Ayampe in Ecuador. ■



S.O.S Amazonas in Dominica

After the catastrophic passage of hurricane Maria in Dominica, its emblematic national bird, the imperial amazon (Amazona imperialis) and

the Amazona arausiaca were in a very vulnerable position at every level. The local population, lashed by the elements and socially and

politically weakened, has seen great environmental controversies with little justification or explanation.

Scientists and their teams have continued the difficult but serious and steady progress of the research with the support of Loro Parque Fundación, which more than 17 years ago started to support the protection of these species through the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF) and Dominica's Forestry & Wildlife Division. Knowing how many individuals from these species remain alive and where they have successfully found refuge will expand our knowledge of these parrots, which have evolved on

an island system where they regularly face severe climatic difficulties.

Only scientific rigour and proven experience will achieve positive results for species which are unique at a global level and are also the birds that represent their country. ■



Field team in Dominica

Photo: RSCF



Imperial Amazon (Amazona imperialis) Photo: RSCF

Science and Loro Parque as a centre for protecting wildlife



The zoological community is making major efforts in conservation and in performing applied studies, including research into veterinary and nutritional welfare. However, more recently, some have stood out for their contribution to cognitive research, such as the Max-Planck Comparative Cognition Research Station at the Loro Parque Animal Embassy.

One recent example of how to use cognitive research in zoos comes from the city of Kyoto, Japan, which is collaborating with Kyoto University's Wildlife Research Centre.

Scientists introduced feeders for chimpanzees based on tools located in different centres as a mental challenge to facilitate natural use of tools by the animals. The study showed that the enrichment devices had positive effects on the animals' behaviour, as they increased behaviour relating to tool use and reduced stress-related behaviour.

Cognitive research demonstrations in zoos provide an opportunity to improve the visitor experience and encourage interactions between the animals and their carers.

One very recent study provides an example of how providing research demonstrations to visitors to zoos and aquariums can improve their opportunities to learn and increase the time they spend in each space dedicated to the animals. It also

provides evidence that participation in these demonstrations by the professionals from each institution can be linked to an improvement in relationships between the animals and their keepers, which can lead to better handling and greater animal welfare.

Parrots with a healthy mind in a healthy body.

It's dinner time! - Every afternoon at the Max-Planck Comparative Cognition Research Station at the Loro Parque Animal Embassy, each grey parrot is given the appropriate amount of food on its own plate.

This individual diet is part of the daily



Delphine Soulet, a French researcher at the Max-Planck Comparative Cognition Research Station: "Sensei, a grey parrot, and I sometimes play together; when she whistles, I try to imitate her, then she changes the whistle and makes it longer, so it is harder to copy. Her aim is obviously to make it hard enough for me that I can't reproduce it completely, so that she wins!"

handling and is important for keeping them healthy and happy.

The particular amount of food is calculated every day depending on each bird and the weather conditions as

on colder days birds need more energy and so more food.

Accordingly, the balance of the parrots' diets and how they obtain them directly affects their behaviour. ■



The group from the Max-Planck Comparative Cognition Research Station at the Animal Embassy/LPF.

Photo: L. O'Neill / Max-Planck Animal Embassy LP

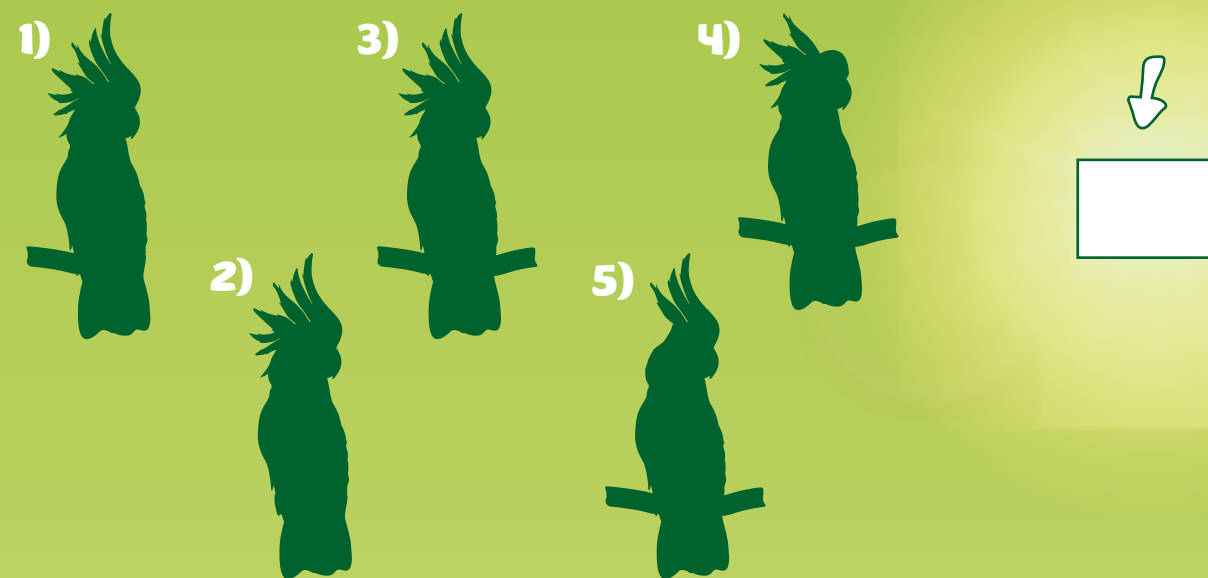
COCKATOO

YELLOW-CRESTED



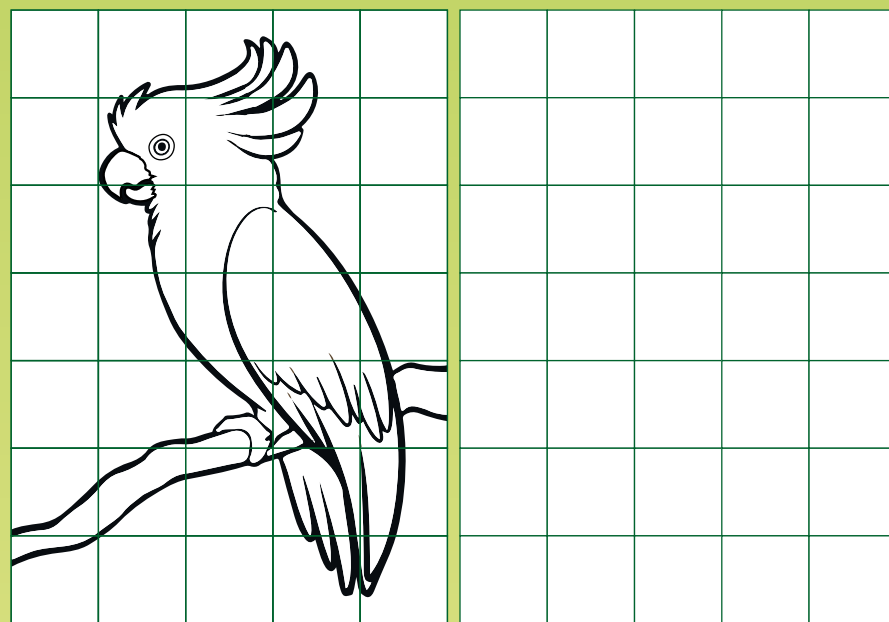
As its name suggests, this bird has an enormous crest on its head. Did you know this can be up to 14 cm long?

FIND THE RIGHT SILHOUETTE



COPY THE DRAWING

Draw the cockatoo, following the example. The squares will help you!



DID YOU KNOW...?

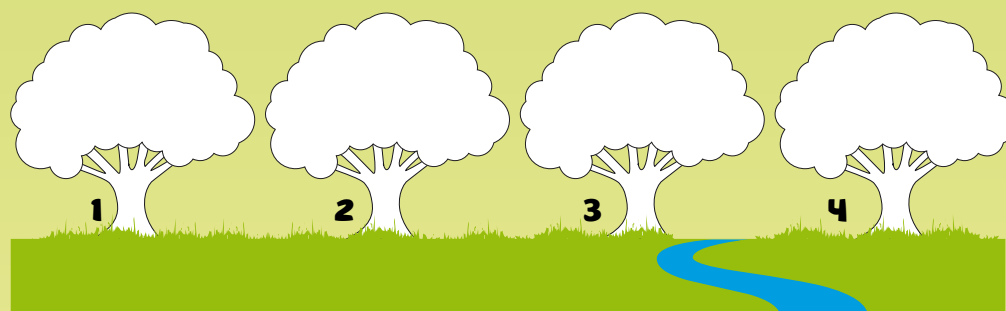
It is native to some areas of **Indonesia** where it lives in forests. It is critically endangered.



It measures about 50 cm and weighs 350 g. Its body is white, with a black beak and feet and a yellow crest on its head.

COLOURING IN

It nests in holes in trees near the water. Find out which tree the cockatoo has laid its eggs in and colour it in.



CLUES:

- Tree 1 says:** tree 2 tells the truth.
- Tree 2 says:** the cockatoo is not here.
- Tree 3 says:** the cockatoo is not in not in tree 1.
- Tree 4 says:** tree 3 is empty.

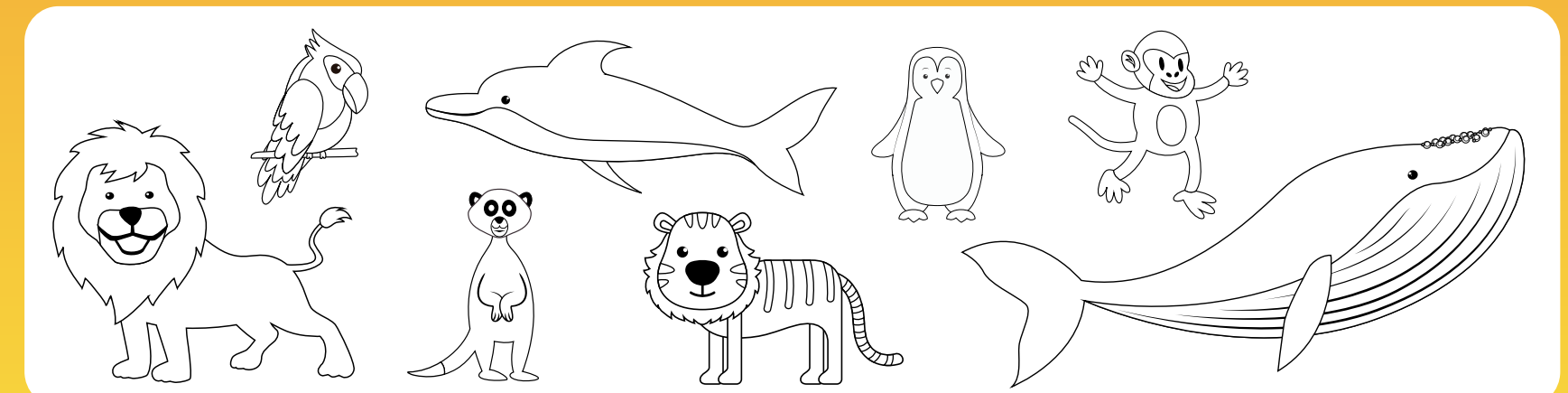
DEFORESTATION

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO FORESTS?

Every year over 10 million hectares of woods and forests disappear, which is a very serious problem for all of the animals that live in them.

COLOURING IN

Do you know which of these animals live in the forest or jungle? Colour them in!



Did you know that 10 million hectares is more than the size of **Portugal**?
(Area of Portugal: 9,239,100 ha)

SYLLABLE WORDSEARCH

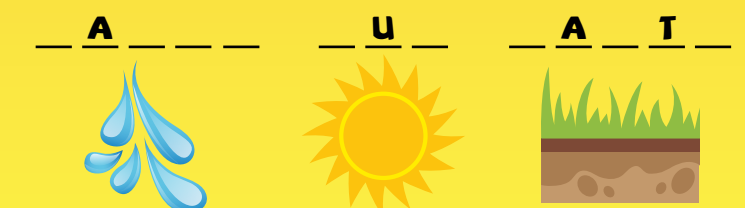
Deforestation is the destruction of forests by human activity. Find this word by moving around the syllable wordsearch below in an L shape (or) starting with the orange square.

TON	FI	PLA	DA
DE	TRI	TION	FO
JAR	FO	MUR	TA
CA	AN	RES	EN

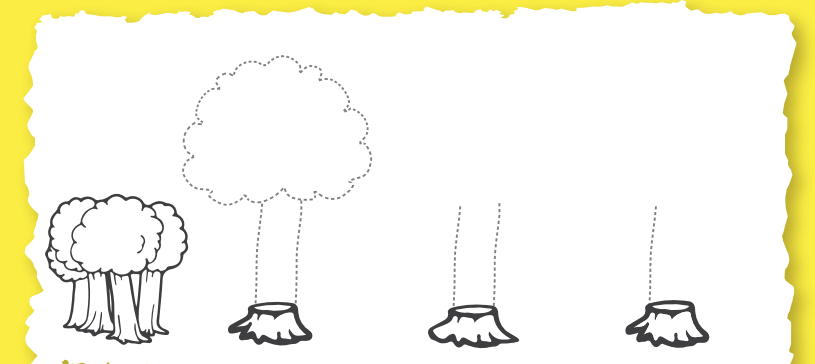
DE _ _ _ _ _

COMPLETE AND DRAW

One of the answers to deforestation is **reforestation**. This involves planting new trees in the places where they have vanished. Do you know what they need to grow? Fill in the spaces to find out.



And reforest the woodland by drawing the trees that have been cut down.



HAVE YOU EVER PLANTED A TREE?

Post a photo of you planting or caring for a tree and tag
 @loroparque_fundacion f @loroparquefundacion t @fundacionlpf
 with the hashtag #wecared4forests

YOU MIGHT APPEAR IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Loro Parque Fundación knows that deforestation is a problem that threatens many species, and so we work on lots of projects planting trees and helping protect forests.

Six Lear's macaws which hatched at Loro Parque Fundación will soon be flying free in the wild

Three males and three females of the endangered Lear's macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*) have travelled to Brazil for release into the wild in a controlled "soft release" or gradual release process. From the two pairs the Brazilian government entrusted to Loro Parque Fundación in 2006, over 30 individuals have hatched in the last few years. Nine individuals were previously sent to their country of origin to participate in the ex-situ project with this species. And now the 6 chosen by a committee of experts participating in this project will be the future inhabitants of an area in the Caatinga in the north of Brazil where there are only two remaining members of their species. The start of this phase took place in Tenerife where we welcomed Valeria Ladeira, the environmental coordinator of Enel Green Energy, which also sponsors the project. Ladeira was present in the embarkation of the birds and carried out the long administrative process at the Brazilian end.

Fifteen specimens have now travelled from Loro Parque Fundación to Brazil, contributing fully to the commitment to the recovery of this species, the examples of which have always remained the property of their country of origin.

In this project, the general coordinator of the Lear's Macaw



In the region where they will be released, there are only two specimens living in the wild. These will be teachers for the ones born in Tenerife.

Research Group, Erica Pacifico, will oversee the technical details of the process alongside the team that will monitor the released birds. These will have GPS trackers to enable recording and analysis of the basic data in the study of the species. The Brazilian government's involvement

at every level has been fundamental in every step forward, strongly benefitting every stage in this project, which will be crucial for the advance of the recovery of this species which is endemic and endangered in the country. ■



Arrival in Brazil in the customs control and inspection.



Valeria Ladeira, of Enel Green Power, travelled to Tenerife to participate in the transport of the Lear's macaws and hold technical meetings with the experts from LPF. Photo: LPF



Rafael Zamora and Marcia Weinzettl showed Valeria Ladeira the projects LPF has carried out in Brazil in recent years, which represent an investment of over 2 million dollars in the recovery of endangered species in the country. Photo: LPF

An exciting encounter!



Ana von Levetzov visited the Animal Embassy's facilities 21 years after appearing on the cover of Cyanopsitta. Photo: LPF

We have recently welcomed a visit from someone very special: **Ana Von Levetzov**, the star of the 1997 cover of our journal Cyanopsitta, who visited Loro Parque and Animal Embassy to say hello and see first-hand the development of all of Loro Parque Fundación's projects over all of the intervening years.

She said she was impressed with the development of the foundation and the implementation of so many projects all around the world.

Her visit to Loro Parque was full of very happy memories and unexpected surprises. Encountering new species and different habitats meant a lot to someone who has known the park since her childhood.

Since she first visited us, Loro Parque Fundación has managed to save 9 species of parrot from extinction and has been at the forefront in animal research, welfare and clinical management. She saw first-hand the modern laboratory which can be viewed by the public, the hand-rearing facilities with the season's chicks and the Max Planck Institute's centre for animal knowledge, which together with the veterinary facilities gave her a direct perspective on the day-to-day work to support animals in this wildlife conservation centre.

She also had an exciting encounter with a salmon-crested cockatoo, which was the species that amazed her 21 years ago.

Excitement with nature is a feeling that lasts all through life. ■

Year:
1997



TARJETA DE SOCIO
MEMBER CARD
MITGLIEDSAUSWEIS

LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN
Tenerife - Spain
WE CARE

VÁLIDO HASTA / VALID UNTIL / GÜLTIG BIS:

Give the gift of
Protecting nature

As a member of Loro Parque Fundación, you can enjoy free entry to Loro Parque as often as you like.

You can also visit the breeding station, which has the world's largest collection of parrots.

Also, keep up to date with real protection of nature through Loro Parque Fundación.

¡Become a member!

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UNFORGETTABLE EMOTIONS

Poema del Mar
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54€*

Tarjeta anual

TRIPARK Tarjeta anual

140€*

* Adult Resident Price. Consult other prices at: poema-del-mar.com

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Spa

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