yanopsitta The newsletter Loro Parque Fundación

SPANISH SCIENTIFICS DISCOVER HOW ORCAS RECONCILE 25 YEARS OF LOVE FOR NATURE AMAZON PARROTS SAVED IN ECUADOR







Poema del Mar

enerife - España WE CARE

Cyanopsitta # 116 - 2019

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A message from the President of Loro Parque

COVER:

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environmentally-friendly paper.



Dear friends.

This edition, number 116, of our journal Cyanopsitta is really special for all of us, as it coincides with the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Loro Parque Fundación. The Foundation has always been a unique and ground-breaking project, which initially emerged with the aim of building bridges between society and nature, at the same time preserving the valuable biodiversity of the psittacines which, at that time, belonged to Loro Parque. In 1994, my father decided to do his bit to help nature conservation and, today, not only has his dream been consolidated, but the organisation has become a global leader in the conservation of psittacines and one of the greatest exponents of zoological conservation. There is no question that these first 25 years will set the trend for future anniversaries, as our Foundation continues to increase its positive impact on the conservation of animals around the globe.

This anniversary edition comes packed with news on our work to conserve endangered parrot species, the effects of drought on recovering Philippine cockatoo populations, reforestation efforts in Ethiopia to protect the yellow-fronted parrot, the use of monitoring technologies to help care for Cuban parakeets or the return to school including education within projects such as the military macaw in Mexico. These are just some fruits of the field work carried out in the first half of 2019, which for some species has yielded very encouraging results.

This issue includes an overview of our past journey to Ecuador, where we visited the lands that Loro Parque Fundación maintains for 20 years, since the yellow-eared parrot was seen there, and with the hope it will reappear again. A flock of lilac-crowned parrot was also spotted there., This is an important discovery within the framework of our conservation projects. These conservation actions play a vital role, as the fire continues to ravage thousands of kilometres and annihilate millions of species in the heart of South America as a result of human activities. The same happens in Africa, where the fires are also frequent and devastates unimaginable extensions with terrible consequences that affect both local and global levels.

It has also been a highly productive few months for our scientific research into orcas at Loro Parque, with two papers having been published in scientific journals. One of them describes the reconciliation processes that maintain the cohesion of social groups of orcas, and the other fine-tunes a technique to measure the hearing capacity of large whales. In addition, this research showed that the orca Morgan is in fact deaf. This is sad news, although we are encouraged to see her daughter Ula growing healthy and strong alongside her mother.

With our attention now focused on the final months of 2019, I would like to thank you for your trust and support over the course of the first 25 years of our young Foundation, and I urge you to continue working with us for and on behalf of the animals.

WE CARE

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Christoph Kiessling. President of Loro Parque Fundación





Spanish Scientifics discover how orcas reconcile

Conflict is inherent to social groups of any species of animal, and in nature hierarchy tends to be established through combat aimed at establishing the most suitable member to lead the group. At the same time, though, there is an ecological advantage for animals who cooperate in organised groups, so there must be social mechanisms to resolve disputes and keep the group together. This theory of conflict and reconciliation is not new, and it has been proven in groups of social animals like chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos

and even dolphins. However, science had never before described this mechanism in

the case of orcas. Now, a team of experts in animal behaviour from La Laguna University has done just that, publishing in Journal of Zoo Biology a scientific paper based on 200 hours observing orcas at Loro Parque. The work analyses the

different *behaviours* of each specimen of Orcinus orca at Loro

Parque, by observing them On an individual and random basis at times when their carers were no longer at the

facility (between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. of the following day). To prevent the presence of humans from influencing the behaviour of the orcas, video recordings were made with cameras hanging from the central beam that supports the huge marquee housing Orca Ocean, enabling extremely accurate monitoring via remote control and zoom. One of the most interesting findings of this research

is that aggressive behaviour accounted for less than 1% of the orcas' total daily

activity, which was characterised mainly by individual activities, bonding and sexual activities. Among this small percentage of aggressive activities the most common were shoving and barging (50%) and chasing (30%), while more violent acts, like biting, were very rare (5%). This shows that at the time of the research there was a well established hierarchy, as, when the group leader (orca society is matriarchal) has a clearly dominant position, conflicts among group members decrease and calm prevails. However, this small number of conflicts and scant aggressive behaviour for analysis represented a difficulty when it came to studying reconciliation processes. Fortunately, the long periods of observation did yield sufficient events to be able to obtain statistically significant evidence. In this case, *the researchers*



Affiliative behaviour where the killer whales gently pinch the tongue.

observed the appearance

animals in the three minutes

bonding behaviours in random three-

The result was that the appearance of

minute blocks were also analysed.

of bonding between two

immediately following a

conflict. As a control element,

bonding behaviours after a conflict was much more frequent (31%) than would have been randomly typical, indicating a clear tendency towards reconciliation. In other words, orcas tend to make peace after a conflict in order to restore social ties.

The research also provided the first scientific description of a curious bonding behaviour whereby an

Photo: Pablo Tektek

orca (generally lower down in the pecking order) delicately nipped at another orca's tongue. This curious behaviour strengthens social ties among individuals within the group, combining elements of trust, submission and affection. This opportunity for the scientific study of this group of orcas in such a controlled and accessible way has yielded numerous surprises.



Synchronized swimming is one of the most common affiliative behaviours among killer whales.





In Ecuador, where the Loro Parque Fundación works in partnership with Fundación Jocotoco to protect a variety of types of parrot, we obtained these beautiful pictures of a species whose numbers have been depleted at an alarming rate in recent years.

Classified as an "endangered" species and with an estimated population of less than 1,700 adults, the lilacine amazon.

also known as the Ecuadorian redlored amazon (Amazona lilacina), is quite a small bird, with a wing span of 35 cm and weighing

little more than 300 grammes. *It* lives hidden in the Ayampe Reserve and Las Balsas area. the same area in which the 14 great green Guayaquil macaws were released (Ara ambigua

guayaquilensis).

To broaden the scope of conservation action in the area and taking advantage of the mandatory surveys required to monitor the macaws released back into the wild, which often cover considerable distances in a single day, the project is successfully keeping tabs on another species, and in the first half of this year various natural nests and some flocks have been located.

In the Santa Elena area, the very first nest on record was found in this part of the

Amazon parrots saved in Ecuador

COUNTRY, which is highly significant.

The information acquired using the tracking collars placed on the macaws will help track the lilacine amazon, and this is one of the project's next goals. As was the case with the macaws, tracking will help reveal the usual movements of the amazons and locate their breeding or feeding sites in the Chogón-Colonche mountains. This will be the first



Active nest at the Ayampe Reserve.

Photo: F. Jocotoco

ENDANGERED >

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best conservation strategies for this endangered bird. In recent days, experts from Fundación Jocotoco have discovered a huge flock of this species.



time a remote tracking device is affixed to this species, marcaje por telemetría en esta

especie, so any information gathered will be vital to establish the

They were able to record a "cloud" of lilacine amazons flying over a roosting site. This is a key discovery for



Thanks to the workshops and presentations of the Fishing Association in Tunas, the students and the local population have formed a great alliance for the protection of nature in Ecuador. Photo: F. Jocotoco

ones sighting the species being protected. Their initial sightings enable the field biologists to confirm them on a scientific basis—yet more proof that conservation is a task to be carried out and implemented by all.

Latest news: The field researchers have made the momentous discovery of a large flock of several hundred lilacene amazons in the municipality of Las Balsas, near the Santa

Elena area. This is very important news, since this is one of the largest roosting areas for this species to have been located. Experts say its numbers have been decreasing sharply in recent years.

this species, which may be observed from various ecological angles in order to improve its levels of protection.

Education initiatives are used to provide up-to-date conservation nformation to local communities. This grants direct access to the knowledge for people living among these significant birds. Their involvement is crucial, since they are the



A flock of hundreds of Amazon specimens.

Photo: F. Jocotoco



The project director Michael Möens and his team register the flock.

Photo: F. Jocotoco

Training macaws to survive

The team of biologists in charge of integrating Lear's macaws born in Tenerife and released into the wild in Brazilian caatinga presented a scientific poster at the XXVI Brazilian Ornithology Congress, based on the training received by these macaws in relation to potential predators in the region. The use of the calls of birds of prey, and of moving silhouettes of animals that might cause them problems, were crucial to teach the 6 birds released into the wild to identify the potential dangers always present in

nature. This training was based

on a methodology which included recording the birds' response to the various stimuli. Simply put, one might say they received schooling prior to facing the realities of their new habitat.

Of the findings so far, the field biologists have been struck by these birds' skills for developing the natural instinctive behaviour to obtain food and water in the same way as wild macaws do, keep a guard to warn the flock of potential danger and even make reconnaissance flights around the territory.



The poster presented by the Lear project field team describing the training process of the specimens before they were released aroused great interest among conference attendees Photo: LPF

Surviving the drought in the Philippines

Despite the long and extreme drought that has hit this region throughout the year, the team from the Katala Foundation continues in its tireless efforts to protect the red-vented cockatoo (Cacatua haematuropygia)

From early in the year the lack of rainfall began affecting the breeding pairs living in Rasa Island. Normally, by May groups of juveniles would

have been flying, but this year in April only 45 eggs and 8 hatchings had been logged.

Very little and very late, but better than nothing. Evidently, cockatoos are affected by environmental factors, especially if they live on small islands where resources are limited and the weather has a direct impact on the availability of food.

It has been so hot that rangers have not seen parents stay in the nesting holes for long periods.

Kalangays ((as they are also known in the Philippines) Search for drops of water from dew on the leaves of banana plants. This is a scant and

insufficient resource. So the local team has placed water basins for the birds to use when they need to.

On Dumaran Island, things were not much better around the same date this year: 5 hatchlings, 5 eggs, and one unfertilised egg. It is a place the locals describe as being dry as a bone, but with patches of forest that have remained green in the midst of dessicated areas, so these numbers have not been altogether bad, all things considered.

In Iwahig, 15 eggs were found, 2 of which will not hatch due to being

Nest control of the Red-vented Cockatoo chicks.

badly developed, and there have been 6 hatchlings. These are also decent figures for Iwahig. Every little bit counts and every animal born in such difficult circumstances is a treasure that will have to face the rigours of this climate at some time in their lives.

The Katala Foundation team appealed to the empathy of all those involved in conserving this species to hope and call for rain at least once a day, helping to lift the researchers' despair. 🔳



The cockatoos use all available resources to survive the drought. Photo: Katala Foundation



Photo: Katala Foundation





Direct Conservation Actions in Ecuador



Cotopaxi Mountains in Ecuador where the Loro Parque Fundación reserve is located.

Photo: LPI

The Loro Parque Fundación team, led by its president Christoph Kiessling, checked first-hand the consequences of the *dramatic* deforestation for the endangered Yellow-eared

Parrot in Ecuador. This is an active conservation hotspot in which the foundation has been involved for many years.

The team visited the large jungle land that Loro Parque Fundación acquired more than 20 years ago to protect the return of the Yellow-

eared Parrot (Ognorhynchus *icterotis*). This bird became extinct in the country and reappeared briefly in this very same area in 1995. Only 19 specimens were seen at that time, which soon disappeared again. After a long jeep trip from Quito, the team finally reached the remote mountains in the province of

Cotopaxi where this reserve, called Latacunga, is located. The team was accompanied on this tour by the biologists of the Fundación Jocotoco, who are responsible for implementing two other projects supported by Loro Parque Fundación in the country.

Once there, they could see how this environment is essentially well conserved, in spite of the impressive deforestation that has been suffered Ecuador caused by livestock and other human activities.

The high mountains hide in one of its valleys a huge palm grove where the Yellow-eared parrots have

been last seen. This palm tree forest is an ideal habitat that has been remained intact thanks to the years of intensive conservation efforts and reforestation that provides benefits to this and many other parrot species.

The reserve will be a centre of conservation and research with



Ebrima Jarju, Christoph Kiessling, Félix Catota, Rafael Zamora, José León and Vicente Pazmiño, crowning the summit of the Loro Parque Fundación reserve Photo: M. Möens/ Fundación Jocotoco

the aim of tracing this emblematic species. Local inhabitants told us in several interviews that they know this parrot since long ago, which they called "caraeperro". They also told us that it eats the fruits of the wax palm, where it also breeds. This palm is similar to the native one of the habitats in the Andes in Colombia.

From a high viewing point, a drone revealed us a landscape of enormous beauty. The mountain beneath us was covered with thick vegetation from where we could hear different parrot species although they were difficult to observe because of the distance. Among them, several specimens of the Red-billed parrot (Pionus

corallines) that we could see as they appeared from the fog.

It is very difficult to see the wide range of parrot species that live in these cloud forests since they remain mostly hidden in the fog. For this reason, the expertise of the ornithologists is essential if you want to get them watch.

Thanks to our stay in Ecuador, we are now able to make a direct comparison with the habitats of the Yellow-eared parrot in Colombia. This exploration also allows us to define new strategies to preserve the natural refuge of this species, which thus can be protected and researched in the upcoming years.

Yellow-eared parrots were last seen in Ecuador in 1998 after their rediscovery in 1995. Photo: E Vida Silvestre



yanopsitta | JUNIOR

Growing, caring, creating | #8

LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN

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YOU CAN USE THESE FEATHER TEMPLATES

THE BLUE-THROATED MACAW IS NATIVE TO BOLIVIA, WHERE, 20 YEARS AGO, ONLY FEW INDIVIDUALS WERE LEFT BECAUSE LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAPTURED THEM TO MAKE TRADITIONAL HEADDRESS WITH THEIR FEATHERS. THANKS TO THE AWARENESS OF **USING ARTIFICIAL FEATHERS INSTEAD OF NATURAL** ONES, AS WELL AS OTHER MEASURES, FEWER **MACAWS ARE KILLED AND THEREFORE SAVED FROM** EXTINCTION



o you VANT TO NOW MORE?

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE AND HELP TO SAVE THE MACAWS

BY MAKING YOUR OWN FEATHER HEADDRESS, **FOLLOW THESE STEPS**

YOU WILL NEED ~

- PENCIL
- SCISSORS
- GLUE
- COLOUR CARDBOARD
- A STRIP OF CARDBOARD TO
- MAKE A HEADBAND

FUNDACIÓN

VÁLIDO HASTA / VALID UNTIL / GÜLTIG BIS:

WECARE



DRAW YOUR

STEPS



CUT THEM CAREFULLY OUT

STICK THEM ON THE HEADBAND

GLUE THE ENDS OF THE HEADBAND TOGETHER

IF YOU LIKE TO WIN A LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN CHILDREN'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

UPLOAD A PHOTO OF YOUR SELF-MADE FEATHER HEADDRESS WITH THE HASHTAG #WECARETOO TO:

O @LOROPARQUE_FUNDACION

@LOROPARQUEFUNDACION

@LP_FUNDACION



Although the official registration date of the Loro Parque Fundación is 13 September 1994, it all began long before that, when Loro Parque began to finance the first project to protect psittacines in 1987, aimed at saving two endemic amazons to the Caribbean island of Dominica.

In the 1980s, nature conservation was not as widespread as it is now -quite the contrary. Protecting animals *Was only in the* spirit of a few pioneers,

like Wolfgang Kiessling, who quickly understood the need to help species that were already starting to lose their habitats as the

global population rose. It was thanks to this spirit of environmental protection and to the suggestion by Obdulio Menghi (then Scientific Director of CITES) that the ground-breaking work by Loro Parque was consolidated to create the Loro Parque Fundación in 1992. But this foundation, of national scope, quickly proved too small to meet the environmental needs of all countries in the world, so in 1994 Loro Parque Fundación was created, with the capacity to act internationally. By setting up the Foundation, the aim was, on the one hand, to channel the management of parrot conservation projects and, on the other hand, to preserve the huge biodiversity of the collection of parrots carefully nurtured at Loro Parque since 1972. Hence, Loro Parque donated its collection of parrots to the Foundation, as well as generously undertaking to cover the cost of their care, so that all





First meeting of the LPF advisory board in 1994. From left to right: Wolfgang Kiessling, John Stoodley, Susan Clubb, Inge Feier and David Waugh. Photo: LPF

the profits of surplus sales might be used for conservation projects. The first Advisory Committee at LPF comprised John Stoddley (who sadly passed away in 1999), Susan Clubb, Inge Feier and David Waugh. Later, other prestigious

international experts have served on the Committee, such as Dr. Joachim Steinbacher, Prof. Ian Swingland, Dr. Tomás Azcárate, Dr. Wolfgang Grummt and Dr. Jorgen Thomsen. The Advisory Committee currently comprises Nigel Collar,

Povl Jorgensen, Rosemary Low, Juan Villalba-Macías, Roland Wirth and René Wüst, together with new members Matthias Reincshmidt and Prof. Vincent Janik. It is unquestionably thanks to all of them that the 19.5 million dollars



2001



2004



2008



2010



10



Loro Parque Fundación

would not have been

possible without the

generous contribution

of Loro Parque, which

has consolidated the LPF financially, as well as the contributions from multiple sponsors and donors, and the glaucogularis Cacatua aematuropygia several thousand Blue-throated Macaw parrot-lovers who Red-tailed cockatoo Bolivien have registered as Philippines 1999 - 50 Exemplars members over the 1999 - 22 Exemplars **2018 - 250-300** last few years. To 2018 - 1.200 Exemplars Anodorhynchus **Exemplars** all of you, thank azone you for sharing ensis our passion and Lear's macaw our commitment Red-tailed amazon Brazil to animals. Brazil 1999 - 22 Exemplars SAVED When Loro Parque 2018 - 10.000 Exemplars 2018 - 1.200 Exemplars began to finance nature conservation projects the global FROM population had just exceeded 5 billion; today, there are more than 7.7 EXTINCTION Psittacula eques nıgrigenis billion people in the world, an Echo parakeet Black- cheeked lovebird increase of more Mauritius Sambia than 50%. In the LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN 2000 - 116 Exemplars 2018 - 10.000 last quarter of 2018 - 550 Exemplars a century the Exemplars efforts and the WECARE importance of our Foundation have continually Primolius increased. If in anorhynchus Protis coulon 1995 there were six conservation Blue-headed Macaw Eunymphicus Yellow-eared parrot projects, *in 2019* Peru Kolumbien 2018 - 27.600 Exemplars we have 1999 - 82 Exemplars implemented Horned parakeet 2018 - 3.790 Exemplars no less New Caledonia 1999 2.000 Exemplars than 48, an 2018 8.500 Exemplars eightfold rise in our positive impact on the

invested by the Loro Parque Fundación in the last quarter of a century have been used to help some of the most endangered species and ecosystems in the

However, the Loro Parque Fundación's biggest achievement in its 25-year history has been to prove that conservation efforts yield results and that it is indeed possible to save species from

extinction. Thanks either to the exclusive financing of the Loro Parque Fundación or in partnership with other donors, it has been possible to reduce the threat level on nine species of endangered parrots featured on the IUCN Red List: Yellow-eared parrot (Ognorhynchus icterotis), Lear's macaw (Anodorhynchus leari), echo parakeet (Psittacula eques), blue-headed macaw

(Primolius couloni), red-tailed amazon (Amazona brasiliensis), horned parakeet (Eunymphicus cornutus), black-cheeked lovebird (Agapornis nigrigenis), Cuban amazon (Amazona leucocephala) and Tanimbar corella (Cacatua goffiniana). And we have no doubt that this number will continue to rise. But it is only fair to acknowledge that the success of the

planet.. In the next 25 years, there is every indication that the Earth will be home to more than 10 billion human beings, and this means animals will have less space in which to survive, but it will also imply an increase in the pollution of our air and oceans, and less prey on which to feed. In other words, all the creatures on Earth will need us *more than ever*, so we will

need your help and commitment to step up our efforts going forward.

Reforestation to protect parrots in Ethiopia







The endemic plants of habitat of the yellow-fronted parrot are being bred in nurseries.

7,300 native plants are growing in the nurseries of the KAFA project in Ethiopia. They

have recently been transplanted to enter a second phase in which they will be protected from cattle and from native species that might threaten them when the saplings are still very tender.

The habitat to be replanted includes a broad deteriorated area covering more than 172.85 hectares.

Proper planting of native species will guarantee, in two different areas, the protection of the environment of this very special parrot.

This year, yellow-fronted parrots (Poicephalus flavifrons) have begun visiting this area where the nurseries are located. They perch on nearby trees as though they know what is taking place on the site, and that it will benefit them greatly in the near future.

A vellow-fronted parrot at the KAFA Reserve.

Photo: NABU The Rangerteam of the KAFA project.



Photo: A. Sahile / NABU

LORO PARQUE

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Monitoring technology that saves parrots in Cuba

Camera traps are among the tools that yield the best results in research into endangered fauna. Their placement is unquestionably key to obtaining more data on the biology of the species. However, in the case of research into Cuban parakeets, placing camera traps is by no

means easy and researchers trained in

climbing techniques were called in to place

them along the steep cliff edges where this particular species nests. It is along these cliffs that the earthenware nests that have yielded such excellent results have also been hung. These nests were designed specifically for this

Although in this hard-to-access area there are few poachers,

camera traps can also be used to protect nesting areas since any movement by humans

or predators within the monitored zone is recorded.

The project deploys volunteers from the local communities to monitor the area. Experts also make regular inspections during breeding season, when the species is at its most vulnerable

Photos from camera traps are highly effective to help avoid the presence of natural enemies as well as to shame poachers who are thus identified and frowned upon by Cuban society that cares for and protects its fauna. 🔳



Installation of a camera by a technician.

Photo: M.Cañizares



The Cuban parakeets (Psittacara euops) that live in the cliffs accept the presence of hidden Photo: M.Cañizares cameras.

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Back to school! Educating children for a better future preservation of its ecosystem.

Our project educators teach the children how to protect the species in order to achieve a worth living future. This is happening in Mexico, where the researchers travel long and arduous distances to reach the remote observation point of the great military macaw in the middle of the country. In this dangerous and inhospitable area is the Biosphere Reserve of Sierra Gorda located, where the local *police* of Arroyo Seco, in collaboration with this project supported by Loro Parque Fundación, is protecting the activities of the researchers.

These places are difficult to reach, and that 's why it is so important to show the local schoolchildren how they can contribute to protecting the surrounding environment. For this purpose, United Corridors has developed an environmental education programme within the framework of a conservation project, which its main researcher, Jennifer Lowry, has taken to heart. She teaches the local children how to protect the great military macaw in their habitat. The children are informed at an early age that the conservation of a species depends directly on the They also learn which fruits they feed on and which natural landscapes

offer safe nesting sites. Thanks to this

species conservation programme, the new generations will learn to keep the population of the majestic great militarv macaw healthy.



The children learn in schools to identify the species to be protected and to protect their habitat Photo: Corredores Biológicos

Science, innovation and sustainability in Poema del Mar aquarium

The Poema del Mar aquarium received an important visit from the expert advisors of the CIDE network, in charge of identifying successful sustainability projects, efficacy of resources and digitalisation of services at companies.

The CIDE network is one of the Canary Islands Government's most efficient instruments to revitalise innovation, accompanying companies

in the process of implementing projects and technologies.

This network is considered to be one of the most efficient tools for revitalising innovation, an initiative of the Canary Islands' Government Department of Economy, Industry, Trade and Knowledge, fostered through the Canaries Agency for Research, Innovation and Information Society (ACIISI).

At Poema del Mar the visit was coordinating by the scientific director of Loro Parque Fundación, Rafael Zamora, who explained the details of this project that is committed to innovation, conservation of biodiversity and excellence in sustainable tourism.

The talk outlined the success stories that, year-in year out, make the Foundation a ground-breaking entity in the maintenance, reproduction and conservation in the controlled environment of the world's largest genetic reserve for psittacines, *SUCh*



The experts of the network CIDE participated in a conference of Rafael Zamora in the facilities of Poema del Mar.

Photo: Red CIDE

as how new technologies are applied to each of the projects in remote areas, adapting to the environment to subsequently be able to contribute to the repopulation and conservation of the species.

The use of advanced IT records, new smartphone apps tailored to local realities, drones, camera traps or new satellite technologies to monitor the movements of marine species, psittacines or lions. All of this is closely linked to the work of Loro Parque in improving veterinary medicine through next-generation endoscopic systems or laser technology to improve cellular activity and scarring, helping in

the rescue of cetaceans or the tracking of turtles in the marine environment. This was a hugely enriching overview for the experts from CIDE.

The CIDE networks agents of business innovation saw in detail the initiatives implemented at the Poema del Mar aquarium, seen as examples of best practices in the adoption of innovative solutions, compatible with the environment and notable for being tailored to users' needs.



The participants were able to admire first-hand the technical advances applied here. Photo: Poema del Mar





The ambassadors of Loro **Parque Fundación**

There are some very special people who dedicate their lives to the animal world with love and affection. With their untiring commitment they help animals where they need help. The Animal Embassy of the Loro Parque Fundación has brilliant ambassadors all over the world, where they are actively involved in the protection of *nature.* Here are a few of them:

Matthias Reinschmidt and Frank Elstner carry the message of the Loro Parque Fundación around the world. They are exemplary Conservation Ambassadors by bringing real wildlife world through their documentary films into our homes.

Bärbel Köhler is 100% dedicated to the welfare of

animals. She is cooperating with the Loro Parque Fundación for many years, where she passes on her expertise in blood analysis on behalf of the animal health company Abaxis-Zoetis. The blood analysers of this company allow a quick identification of the animal's health state through a special organ chemistry. Following her advice, our technique has been optimized, so that we can now better



Matthias Reinschmidt and Frank Elstner cooperate with a shark project in the Bahamas and at the same time they spread the message of the Loro Parque Fundación. Photo: LPF

evaluate the results of the analysis on our large parrot collection, even on very special species such as

penguins. As our ambassador, she keeps us informed from far away countries about the current wildlife situation

worldwide. She is particularly committed to orangutan and elephant rescue centres, mountain gorillas and chimpanzees of Gombe in Africa. She also gives lectures on the conservation projects of the Loro Parque Fundación. Also worth

mentioning was her participation in a large-scale study of 73 elephants in various reserves in Thailand, organized by the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) and guided on-site by Mahidol Veterinary University.

Alena Winner is active in the Czech Republic far beyond her *publishing house.* Both her parrot magazine and her digital portals always feature the latest news of the Loro Parque Fundación. Thanks to her constant commitment, the interest of Czech parrot fans has increased significantly.

From the sport world, the top basketball player Sergio Rodríguez, "el Chacho",

supports us. Born in Tenerife, he is very successful in basketball on an international level. He urges his fans to raise awareness of threatened species. A commendable commitment!

The other ambassadors of the Loro Parque Fundación also contribute to spread the conservation message of the foundation. Their commitment is just as important as the contribution of our members, who support us with their membership in order to say together loudly and clearly. We Care! ■

Sergio Rodríguez, el "Chacho"



Alena Winner, Ambassador from the Czech Republic



Ms Köhler in Thailand.

Photo: Bärbel Köhler

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