

Canopsitta

The Loro Parque Fundación newsletter

2020
119

1.3 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 2021 TO SUPPORT 53 PROJECTS

REINTRODUCTION
IN CUBA

THE HUMPBCK DOLPHIN
ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

CETACEAN
RESCUE LPF



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Message from the President of Loro Parque Fundación	2
1.3 Million for 2021 despite the economic impact of COVID-19	3
Amazing birth of Australian Sea Dragons	4
Emblematic bird, Fuertes's Parrot	5
Major Reforestation in Australia	5
Thank you to our collaborators	6
Successful reintroduction in Cuba	6
New reintroduction in Brazil	7
Species safe in Ecuador	8
Cetacean rescue LPF	9
For the first time at Loro Parque Fundación!	10
Save the Orangutans in Indonesia	11
ON-LINE with Conservation	11
Cleaning of 16 beaches and ravines in the Canary Islands	12
Loro Parque Live	12
The Humpback Dolphin on the brink of extinction. 13	
Awards for ULL students	14
Ex-Situ breeding success	14
Cutting-edge Climate Change Research in the two universities of the Canary Islands	15
Back cover	16

COVER PAGE:

Grey-breasted parakeet chicks (Photo: Aquasis)

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Dear friends,

It has been 48 years since we started working with animals at Loro Parque, where our family has spared no effort, working constantly on their behalf. That's why this issue of Cyanopsitta magazine is so special. It marks an anniversary that includes an extraordinarily difficult year, 2020, in which the support of all our partners, sponsors and collaborators has been of special importance. Companies such as Versele Laga, BBVA, CaixaBank, Banca March, Banco Santander, Exan Partner and the Zoo Verein Wuppertal stand out for their contributions. Thanks to them and to all the voluntary donations that we have received in recent months, we have had the support we needed to fight even harder, if that is possible, in favour of the species that need it most. Without a doubt, this is the time to get involved and participate with us.

At Loro Parque Fundación, we'd like to end the year by thanking Loro Parque for their vital, unstinting support, over the last 26 years. They are the absolute cornerstone of our foundation at all levels. In the same way, we'd like to congratulate all our biologists, veterinarians and experts who work with the animals on a daily basis, and also all the scientists, park rangers, and ornithologists, who are active every day in our field projects, struggling with great dedication and commitment and using the knowledge that has been generated here over time, for the Canary Islands and the rest of the world.

This year has been indescribable in so many ways. 2020 will be remembered for the global impact that has shaken all societies even in the most remote corners of the world. Many reflections on nature have come to our minds during this difficult time. And we have had the opportunity to observe many animals in the terrestrial and marine environment which have revealed themselves to us as never before. The reduction in pollution was notable for many months, managing to arouse the curiosity of even those who have never paid attention to the beauty of the forests, the sea or the animals that surround us. The flip side of these benefits is found in the increase in plastic production and the delay in bans on single-use plastic. Also in those who take advantage of the situation to carry out massive uncontrolled deforestation, accelerating the destruction of habitats, along with the unstoppable increase in our population, which already exceeds 7,833,000,000.

In the last 20 years the planet's population has increased by 31%. Quite inconceivable! The resources required to maintain this human population, in terms of food and infrastructure, will come at the cost of nature and biodiversity.

At Loro Parque Fundación, we believe that based on what we've seen of the terrible effects of this virus, we can draw many conclusions relating to the protection of our environment, and we cannot lose sight of the real threats.

During these past few months, the projects, even with restrictions, have benefited from our technical and financial support, so as to not interrupt any of the work that is so badly needed by endangered species. In the same way, we have committed to an additional 1.3 million US dollars for 2021, which will be allocated to 53 projects that will be carried out in 5 continents in collaboration with 32 NGOs and universities around the world.

Despite the lack of income due to having been closed since the middle of March, with no visitors able to access the island due to COVID-19, Loro Parque will fulfil its commitment to Loro Parque Fundación to manage all the projects that have been approved by our scientific committee for the coming year.

In relation to marine projects, we have also made exceptional progress this year. Thanks to the Government of the Canary Islands, within the CanBIO project, we will see the completion of the scientific buoy network to assess the effects of climate change, ocean acidification and underwater noise in the Canary Islands and by extension, throughout Macaronesia. We have continued the work with two critically endangered species (the angel shark and the butterfly ray) and also with the monitoring of turtle nesting in the Canary Islands through the use of drones. Marine actions have also continued this year with the works in the Strait of Gibraltar, to verify the effectiveness of a protected area created for one of the most endangered orca populations.

We truly believe that the effort to get to know animals better and share this knowledge with all true nature lovers is the right way to protect them and ourselves as a species.

My deepest thanks for sharing this task with us.

I wish you all the best for 2021.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling.
President of Loro Parque Fundación



1.3 Million for 2021

despite the economic impact of COVID-19

At the annual meeting of Loro Parque Fundación advisory committee that was held in Puerto de la Cruz, it was decided to allocate almost **1.3 million dollars to 53 nature conservation projects** that will be carried out over the next year in five continents. With this commitment, the total amount that Loro Parque Fundación has allocated to the conservation of nature will amount to 22.8 million dollars.

Of particular note this year, are the projects to be developed in Europe, especially in the Canary Islands and in the rest of Macaronesia (Cape Verde, Madeira and Azores) that will receive almost half of the funds (more than 585,000 dollars), followed by projects focusing on endangered species and ecosystems of the American continent that will receive 34% of the funds (more than 440,000 dollars) this year. Another of this year's highlights are the funds allocated to the conservation of African nature, which will amount to almost \$170,000.

Meanwhile, Asia with almost 60,000 dollars and Australia-

Oceania with 33,000 **round off the financing that will cover five continents, and be distributed among 53 conservation and research projects to be implemented by 32 NGOs and universities around the world.**

By country, Spain stands out with \$527,000, followed by Brazil with more than 130,000 and Ecuador with 93,000. But the list of countries is much longer, and this year the Foundation will also carry out projects in Germany, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Borneo, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Philippines, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, French Polynesia, Senegal, Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Some of these projects are transnational, so their benefits will reach the ecosystems and endangered species of many other bordering countries.

From an ecological viewpoint, terrestrial species and ecosystems are the ones to receive the majority of the funds from Loro Parque

Fundación (more than 827,000 dollars), with special emphasis, among them, on the protection of one of the best preserved lion populations in all of Africa in the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, which will receive \$53,000. Another highly prominent species is the Philippine cockatoo (critically endangered in the IUCN red list) and this project will receive almost \$39,000 to continue securing the populations on the island of Rasa and try to extend the breeding success achieved in that area to other places in the region. Other relevant projects for terrestrial species and ecosystems are aimed at protecting the blue-throated macaw in Bolivia, the yellow-eared parrot in Colombia and Ecuador, or the hyacinth macaw in Brazil and Bolivia.

But we must not forget the work dedicated to the conservation of marine species and ecosystems, to which Loro Parque Fundación will allocate almost 460,000 dollars next year. Of these, more than two thirds will be allocated to the CanBIO project, co-financed by the Government of the Canary Islands, which started in 2019 and which, in a

few weeks, will complete its climate change control network at sea, with the installation of a scientific buoy in El Hierro. As of 2021, autonomous marine vehicles will be deployed to implement measures throughout the archipelago and this project will be extended to all of Macaronesia in 2022.

Loro Parque Fundación wants to thank all partners and sponsors for their unconditional support.

Thanks to them, protecting Nature becomes a reality.

The rest of the marine project financing will be allocated to the conservation of various cetacean species, including, most notably, the Atlantic humpback dolphin in the Saloum Delta (Senegal). IUCN experts consider this species to be critically endangered, and believe that it could disappear in a few years if urgent measures are not taken to protect it. ■



2021 Projects



2021 Conservation Projects 100% for Nature



Amazing birth of Australian Sea Dragons



Australian sea dragons are unique animals in terms of their body shape and life strategies.

Photo: Fernando Robledano

The *Poema del Mar* aquarium in Gran Canaria has been the focus of scientific interest as it is the **first centre in Europe to breed sea dragons**, a peculiar Australian species similar to seahorses, which were born in two different clutches in April and July this year.

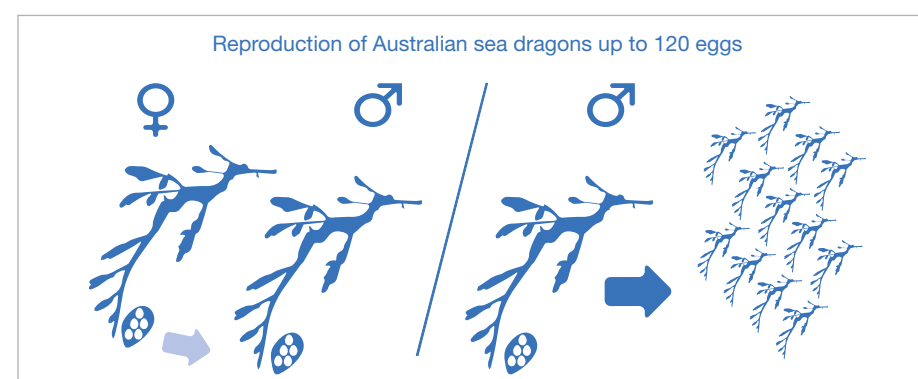
Twenty-four sea dragons were born in the Aquarium's facilities, thanks to the care of its experts and the excellent facilities available.

Sea dragons are especially sensitive to marine pollution, the

presence of micro-plastics in the waters and the increase in temperature as a result of global warming, given that they live in an environment with very specific characteristics and in a reduced habitat whose destruction would have fatal consequences for the ecosystems.

Native to South Australia, they require very specific temperature, habitat, feeding and sensory conditions.

Sea dragons are extremely perceptive to changes, light, noise and vibrations, which can significantly affect them ■



If you want to take a look at these amazing creatures, you can see images using this QR code:



Emblematic bird, Fuertes's Parrot



Clear image of a parrot practically unknown to science.

Fuertes's Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*)

Photo: J. Noreña (Wildlife Foundation) / LPF

Scientific work around the mysterious and critically endangered Fuertes's Parrot is also yielding very favourable results regarding the data collected on this species in regions of the country where it was practically unknown until now. Our collaborating scientists from the Wildlife Foundation have, through the mist, recorded pairs feeding their chicks, and life data is being collected on one of the world's most endangered parrot species, which we know very little about compared to other parrots.

A major fact, **thanks to the technical and financial support of Loro Parque Fundación, is that this parrot has**

been recognised as an emblematic bird of the municipality of Santa Rosa de Cabal, in Risaralda. A source of pride for its inhabitants and also significant progress in the protection of the species as it becomes part of the cultural heritage of the citizens themselves. ■



+ info

Major Reforestation in Australia

In South Western Australia, **reforestation promoted by Loro Parque Fundación and Bush Heritage Australia is helping the endangered Carnaby Black Cockatoo** to rebuild its populations; it is estimated that in the last 45 years they have been reduced by half and they have also been affected by the incessant fires throughout the country. Now they have found refuge in 450 hectares reforested with plants that produce the seeds they require during the breeding season.

The key site is the Monjebup Reserve where ecological restoration has taken place over time to improve forage habitat. An area whose characteristic substrate is of a sandy

white colour and where, for a long time, the habitat has been severely punished by drought.

This, in addition to the great stress caused by kangaroos grazing. An environmental component that goes hand in hand with drought in Australia.

Thanks to Loro Parque Fundación, 10,000 seeds of shrubs and trees in the area have been planted this year.

These black cockatoos that are known to the local population as rain birds, will now be able to return to this corner of the Australian southwest to breed, with the first autumn rains. Thanks to this reforestation, they will continue to find resources to raise their young, increasing their chances of survival. ■



The preparation of the land has quickly transformed the habitat to return it to its original state, in which the cockatoos, once again, can now find nutritional resources.

Photos: Bush Heritage Australia.



Funeral cockatoos come to this area to consume seeds of shrubs typical of the habitat.

Photo: M. Pérez/LPF



+ info

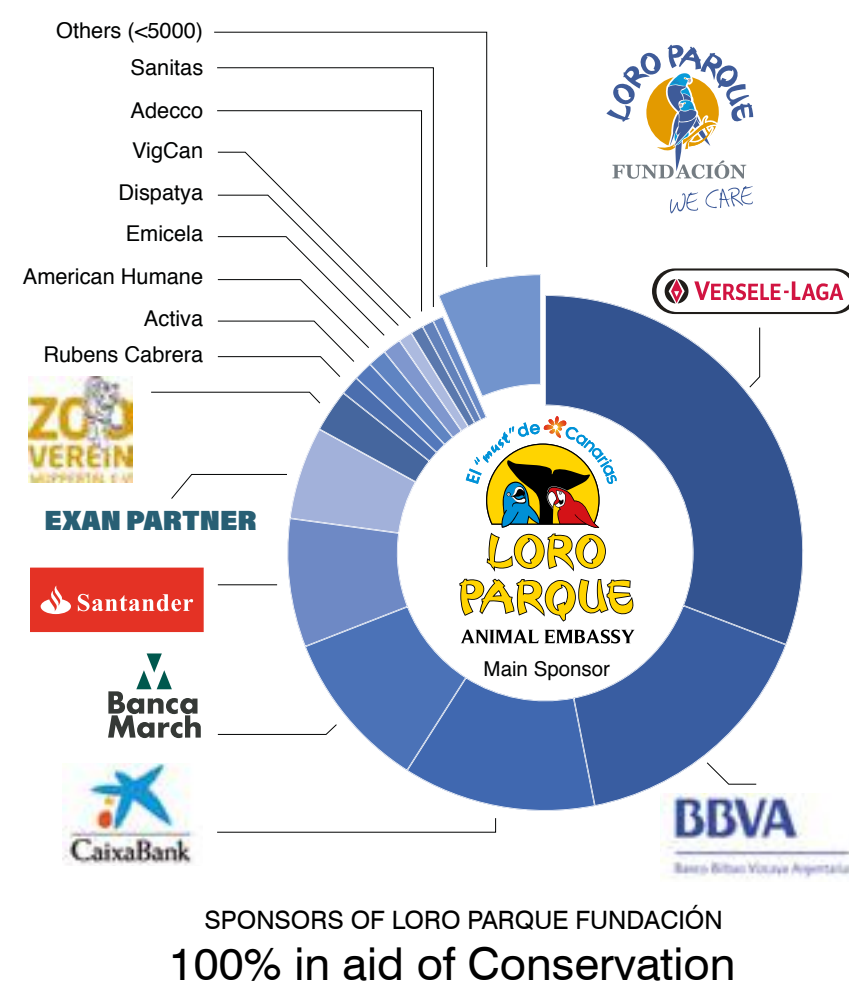
Thank you to our collaborators

In these difficult times, endangered animals will suffer due to the lack of aid from many entities that will not be able to allocate the same funds to projects, reserves and national parks around the world. A real tragedy, as the efforts of many years, from donors and NGOs, may be severely affected in the space of a few months. The lack of visitors and resources in the reserves, which have been created with a lot of effort, have now seen their economic income eroded, income which greatly helped the fauna and flora they protect. This is the reason why in these days of pandemic and hardship, all the sponsors and donors of Loro Parque Fundación are particularly relevant. **Loro Parque is the foundation's main support point, covering all essential costs and our collaborators are mostly companies based in the Canary Islands that have elected to get involved in conservation.**

Also our partners and those who have made small contributions through our social networks. All of them, in the spirit of protecting species and joining our cause, have fulfilled their donation commitments with the foundation and through them, and for them, our work will carry on.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for this continued support with which **we have managed to save 10 species of parrots from extinction**, something that should fill you with great pride and satisfaction, for your contribution, whether at personal or institutional level, has been very important. But there are still many great feats in support of animals that we are going to perform. Our WE CARE movement goes much further. Our animals need us and together we are going to make it. If you haven't already, please get involved in the conservation of species.

We're waiting for you! ■



Successful reintroduction in Cuba



Chicks learning to eat natural foods before being released.

Photo: M. Cañizares/LPF

The conservation programme for Cuban parakeets and Cuban amazons, carried out by Loro Parque Fundación via the tenacious biologist Maikel Cañizares, in Cuba, has taken a **leap in quality with the monitoring of nests through camera traps**, which, in addition to recording valuable data on parrot activity, **also serve as a deterrent for chick and egg poachers**, as they facilitate their identification by the local population.

In this way, the scientific method also becomes an important deterrent system.

So much so, that in one of the last expeditions of the field team, they fortuitously came across two poachers who had looted a nest of Cuban parakeets (*Psittacara euops*). The two poachers voluntarily handed over the chicks after receiving an explanation on the importance they have for them and also for their families in the future.

The two small chicks, which were rescued to complete their growth

under the care of the field team, were raised by hand and prepared for their release.

The story doesn't end here.

These two specimens were released in the presence of the people who had captured the chicks. They also participated in the entire process,



The biologist, Maikel Cañizares, explaining to the family the importance of caring for and maintaining their environment.

Photo: M. Cañizares / LPF



including the assembly of the cage for adaptation to the environment prior to their release. An instructive method that will serve as an example for future generations and has reconverted this local family into protectors of their own nature. ■



Placement of a camera by a technician.

Photo: M. Cañizares

You can see the images of this beautiful story using this QR code:



New reintroduction in Brazil



Lear's macaws specimens born in Tenerife adapted to the natural environment.

Photo: C. Albano



Every day, researchers prepare fruits common in nature to get the newcomers used to them.

Photo: T. Filadelfo

Loro Parque Fundación sent two additional Lear's macaws, born on the island, to the successful reintroduction project in Brazil. This time, two females. Previously selected for their attitude and genetics, they passed all the health requirements and examinations prior to joining the group that was released more than a year ago in their country of origin. The delicate transfer of these macaws will serve to reinforce the population in the wild within a project that successfully combines ex-situ actions, in controlled environments under human care, and in-situ actions in nature. In both cases, the project has been a complete success, given that specimens of this species are also kept and reproduced in participating zoos, among them the Sao Paulo Zoo or the Fazenda Cachoeira zoo park. These centres follow identical protocols that are optimised each year and in them, **Loro Parque Fundación plays a leading role, having so far reproduced**

36 specimens of this endangered species, of which 17 have already been sent to their country of origin for the sustainability of the programme. Once again, the young macaws have undergone a selection and training process at Loro Parque Fundación facilities, which will be completed with their training period in a large enclosure built in a remote area of the territory in which they live. There, they will learn to eat and drink, as their kind do in the wild, and they will also receive training on how to recognise and flee from predators. Following the quarantine period, there has already been contact with those released in that same area. The group visited the reintroduction aviary to greet the new companions of the flock. At Loro Parque Fundación, four more specimens have already been born in the second half of the year, birds which are growing strong and healthy, ready to join this exciting project very soon. ■



Previously reintroduced macaws are already in the vicinity of the adaptation aviary.

Photo: J.M.Rosa

Species safe in Ecuador

Loro Parque Fundación has been key to keep this successful conservation project active, in which the technical and financial support to preserve the golden parakeets has also enabled the protection of other species such as those also found in the Tapichalaca Reserve, to help the conservation of the White-breasted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura albipectus*) and Golden-plumed Parakeet (*Leptosittaca branickii*), both classified as endangered species in the IUCN red list. The Jocotoco Foundation has recorded an excellent breeding year with Oro Parakeets in Ecuador. Thanks to the ongoing support and collaboration between both institutions, this species, classified as endangered and with its populations considered in decline, is improving progressively through the implementation of nest boxes that have been installed and monitored in recent years. The Buenaventura Reserve is the only protected area in the region that protects the population of this

species, the largest in the world, which has been monitored annually since 2002.

The stable programme of artificial nests has enabled an increase of Oro Parakeets by 30% in the last eleven years,

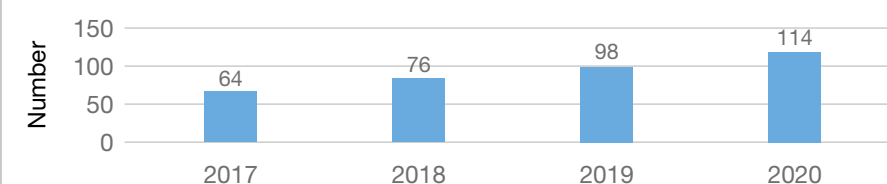
both inside and in surrounding areas of the Buenaventura Reserve. The 2020 breeding season has turned out to be the most successful in the nest box programme since its inception, with a total of 114 parakeets flying the nest safely.

From the start, to date, a total of **559 Oro Parakeets have flown successfully from the artificial nests.** One major conservation success! ■

Golden-plumed Parakeet (*L. branickii*)

Photo: F. Jocotoco

Oro Parakeets that flew from the nest boxes in the Buenaventura Reserve



The nest box programme started in 2009 with 50 nest boxes. There are now 69 installed and the breeding success of this species has increased dramatically, most notably between 2017-2020. M. Möens / F. Jocotoco

White-breasted Parakeet (*P. albipectus*)
Photo: Juan Carlos Figueroa / F. Jocotoco

The Conure D'Orcès or Oro Parakeet (*Pyrrhura orcesi*), discovered in 1980 by members of the Jocotoco Foundation and described in 1988, is an endemic bird of Ecuador, which is in danger of extinction. It is only found in the Southwest of Ecuador in the provinces of Cañar, Azuay and El Oro.

Photo: L. Cabrera/F. Jocotoco



Cetacean rescue LPF



Drills are conducted with floats that mimic the shapes of the animals that might be involved in rescues.

Photo: LPF

Cofete beach (Fuerteventura), with the collaboration of the AVANFUER association, was witness to the first rescue drill for stranded cetaceans with the pontoon prototype donated by WOOSUNG I.B. EUROPE. This prototype is a basic design prepared by Loro Parque Fundación, which *will be used in various tests and drills organised together with the University Institute for Animal Health of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.* The purpose of these tests is to develop the design of the pontoon and adapt it to the specific needs of strandings

will be used in various tests and drills organised together with the University Institute for Animal Health of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The purpose of these tests is to develop the design of the pontoon and adapt it to the specific needs of strandings

in Macaronesia, so that more efficient and operative versions can be manufactured in the future. Loro Parque Fundación already has plans to establish a network for assistance in strandings and entanglements that could be operational in the Canary Islands by the end of next year, with **9 pontoons distributed**

throughout the Archipelago and a transportable rescue pool. The ultimate goal is for this network to be replicated in other archipelagos of Macaronesia through the MARCET II project, helping to save injured cetaceans throughout the region. ■



Pre-testing/handling in the sea is essential for staff to be prepared for emergency situations.



Photos: LPF

For the first time at Loro Parque Fundación!

Blood-eared parakeets (*Pyrhura hoematotis*) **have been born for the first time** in the foundation's facilities.

This parrot species, endemic to the tropical forests of Venezuela is a true rarity in aviculture, with very few centres in the world having achieved stable breeding. There are no recent censuses of its population in the wild available to determine the approximate numbers that exist. But we do know that the species is in decline due to the unstoppable deterioration of its ecosystems. Hence the importance of these births that will serve to ensure a safety net for the species in case of need. The importation process from their country of origin was a challenge due to the amount of bureaucratic procedures and health requirements that had to be met. Following the quarantine

Adult blood-eared parakeet (*Pyrhura hoematotis*)

Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

period, and having passed all the analyses carried out, it was possible to integrate them into the breeding system of the foundation's centre, where they responded very well to adaptation. As the climate and change of seasons is not exactly the same in their country of origin, the breeding station has areas that enable optimal management for these species, so that pairs are able to show signs of interest in the nests within a matter of months. Close observation by biologists and the team of keepers together with the veterinarians have made it possible for a new species to

complete its biological cycle. The process enables the collection of key scientific data that will also safeguard the blood-eared parakeets.

Loro Parque Fundación is home to the most comprehensive representation of this type of parakeet in the world and with this breeding event, they manage to record a major ex-situ breeding success. ■



Photos: M. Pérez / LPF



This parakeet, which is about 25 centimetres tall, has blue hues on its head that are very rare in the parrot family.

Save the Orangutans in Indonesia



Orangutan Rescue Centre in Indonesia.

Photo: M. Reinschmidt

Loro Parque Fundación presented **a cheque for 20,000 Euros** to the conservation unit of Karlsruhe Zoo, in Germany, to help save orangutans in Indonesia. The German zoo will, in turn, distribute the funds between two non-profit associations dedicated to the protection of these animals, which are critically endangered in nature. Thus, **the donation will contribute to the rescue, rehabilitation**

and reintroduction of hundreds of orangutans that have been affected by deforestation, hunting and illegal trade, and will also be invested in educating local communities, in line with the pillars and fundamental principles of Loro Parque Fundación. With this gesture, the Foundation reinforces its commitment to the protection of endangered species in the wild, a goal which it has been working towards since its creation in 1994. ■



President of Loro Parque Fundación Christoph Kiessling (right) and the Scientific Director Rafael Zamora (left) with a cheque for €20,000 to help the orangutans.

Photo: A. Azcárate/LPF

ON-LINE with Conservation

During the lockdown months in most of the countries where we develop conservation programmes, communication has been fluid thanks to video call technologies and applications that enable meetings or conference sessions with multiple participants. Thus, our conservator, Marcia Weinzettl, participated in a **live session with Brazil to talk about the conservation of macaws in that country.**

With the participation of a well-known field researcher, Neiva Guedes, together with other experts in their homes and offices, they all shared with those attending the session their knowledge and opinions about the present, past and future of Brazilian macaws, based on the central theme of reintroduction and the role of zoos in conservation. Our illustrious ambassador, Juan Sebastián Villalba, **from Uruguay also participated in a session on the**



conservation of nature and the useful tool that is breeding in controlled environments.

Juan Villalba's extensive experience provided a very clear insight on the topic, and being a live event, was very well received by those attending



the session. Similarly, our Scientific Director, Rafael Zamora, carried out a **live presentation for the universities of Bolivia.**

The importance of zoos for conservation was the main topic. In this case, the presentation was dedicated in particular to end-year biology, veterinary and tourism students. Young people in the country who are finishing their university studies have come to realise the importance of conserving their fauna, since it generates a lot of interest among foreigners who visit the



country. The protection of nature has to be a source of sustainable wealth, in which zoos and professionals working in them also play a key role. They must be integrated into a system in which habitats are free from external disturbances and local populations have the knowledge to care for and maintain them. Education in zoos is a key part of this training. Three presentations, which are part of a long list of conferences that Loro Parque Fundación has shared in congresses and seminars around the world through their professionals. ■

Cleaning of 16 beaches and ravines in the Canary Islands



The cleaning of the coastline significantly prevents marine pollution. This waste is carried away by rain or wind, and ends up in the sea.

Photos: LPF

Despite the fact that 2020 has been a very atypical year, in which it has been difficult to organise the cleaning of beaches and create large groups of volunteers, our PROMEMAR

collaborators have carried out 16 beach, ravine and port cleanings in Tenerife and Gran Canaria. *Through the extraordinary effort of this association of*

volunteers, we have been able to remove almost 9,000 kg of waste from the beaches and coasts

of Tenerife. 9 fewer tonnes of waste that were seriously harming coastal environmental areas and that have a huge impact on the marine environment. ■

Loro Parque Live

We've embarked on a new journey. *The live broadcast of the activities in Loro Parque through social networks.* Loro Parque's Facebook page, which this year reached 300,000 followers,

shows live broadcasts of the most interesting aspects of life in the park. Presented by our Scientific Director, Rafael Zamora, followers are able to observe how animals behave, what they eat, and the everyday work of their caretakers. Viewers can also ask

questions about any curiosities they may have. Don't miss it! *Stay tuned to our broadcasts through our social networks to enjoy Loro Parque Live.* ■

If you want to see the latest Loro Parque Live broadcasts, use the following QR code



Biologist, Rafael Zamora provides a live explanation of everyday life at Loro Parque.



Photos: A. Azcárate

The Humpback Dolphin on the brink of extinction



Bycatch is one of the biggest problems for cetaceans. Something that could lead this species to extinction.

Photo: Tim Collins, Wildlife Conservation Society

The Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) is a critically endangered species according to the IUCN red list and could be following the tragic fate of the vaquita in the next decade unless urgent conservation actions are taken. This rare dolphin species is found in the subtropical waters of the African Atlantic coast. Although the species has been identified in

13 range states between Western Sahara in the north and Angola in the south, information on the distribution, ecology, population size and status of the species is extremely limited. Few specific field studies have been carried out and much of what is known originates from opportunistic sightings, strandings and bycatch reports. The conservation status of Atlantic

humpback dolphins has become a matter of increasing concern over the past two decades. *Atlantic humpback dolphins inhabit shallow coastal habitats* (<20 m deep), usually a few kilometres from the coast. This limited distribution makes the species particularly vulnerable to human pressures

that include gillnetting, habitat degradation, coastal construction, and deliberate hunting. While threats and mortality rates have not been systematically analysed in most countries, unsustainable bycatch has been documented in traditional gillnet fisheries in certain range areas (such as the Republic of Congo) and bycatch is likely to be the most prevalent threat throughout the range.

These growing threats, combined with the small population size documented, have resulted in the Atlantic humpback dolphin being designated as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List and Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Despite growing concern among scientists and extensive recognition of the species' probable declining conservation status, little concerted progress has been made to implement conservation management measures for the species; Loro Parque Fundación is joining the CCAHD and will support the conservation work of the African Aquatic Conservation Fund in Senegal, which focuses mainly on the detailed characterisation of the population in the Saloum Delta.

Initial conservation actions will be focused on the characterisation and identification of the sounds produced by these dolphins, and provide tools for the future detection of the species throughout its range through passive acoustic monitoring. ■



Humpback dolphins are usually spotted near the coast.



Photos: Tim Collins, Wildlife Conservation Society

Awards for ULL students



Dr. Javier Almunia during the in-person awards ceremony of 2019. This year, the ceremony has been postponed due to the pandemic. Photo: M. Pérez/LPF

Last November, *the awards of the Faculty of Sciences/ Loro Parque Fundación were awarded to the End Course Projects for science degrees at the University of La Laguna.*

In the 2020 edition, the projects - 34 candidacies (22 for Degrees in Biology and 12 for Degrees in Environmental Sciences, Physics and Chemistry) - were assessed by a multidisciplinary panel based on

their quality, merit and impact, as well the alignment of the topics with the objectives of the bid, which are based on: educational excellence, the raising of awareness for the conservation of biodiversity, the protection of the environment and environmental sustainability.

Two first prizes of €1,200, two second prizes of €800 and two third and two fourth prizes of €400, have been awarded to the most brilliant projects.

TFG (End of Course Project) -LPF AWARDS (2020 Edition) STUDENT AWARD - TFG DEGREE TITLE

1º (€1.200):

LÓPEZ LLARÍA, MARTA
Search for Genetic Variants in Potentially Non-Coding Genomic Regions to Detect *L. berthelotii* x *L. maculatus* Hybrids
Biology

1º (€1.200):

ESTÉVEZ FERRER, ÓSCAR
Guide to good sustainability practices within the Faculty of Sciences. University of La Laguna
Environmental Sciences

2º (€800):

DUQUE HERNÁNDEZ, AMANHUY
Genetic variation and population structure of species of the genus *Gallotia*
Biology

2º (€800):

PISO AMIGO, GLORIA
Use of hyperspectral imaging for the classification of basal vegetation in the southeast of Tenerife
Physics

At Loro Parque Fundación, we'd like to offer our congratulations to the graduates of the different disciplines and we are confident

3º (€600):

RUIZ MEDINA MARCOS ADRIAN
Anatomical characteristics of *Fucus guiryi* (*Phaeophyceae*) and its response to desiccation
Biology

3º (€600):

ROJANO PADRÓN, ALEJANDRO
Solar irradiance prediction using numerical models
Physics

4º (€400):

CUÉTARA SÁNCHEZ, MARTA
Prediction of changes in the Phytobenthos of the Canary Islands as a result of global warming
Biology

4º (€400):

PÉREZ REVERÓN, RAQUEL
Accumulation, study methods and effects of microplastics on soils
Environmental Sciences

that our drive will help them develop their professional careers, with the encouragement and passion that our natural environment needs. ■

Ex-Situ breeding success

At the same time, during these past few months *at Loro Parque Fundación's breeding centre, the largest living genetic parrot reserve in the world*, the breeding season has been intense.

The increase in the breeding of pairs has been highly significant.

Of particular note, is the number of pairs who have been able to raise their offspring by themselves. More than 70% of the breeding pairs at Loro Parque Fundación's breeding centre have achieved this with excellent results.

A sustainability indicator for the population that is very important for the future of all the species they represent.

The numbers show an increase in the number of births, in excess of 1,100 chicks and the number of pairs that have been

successful this season has also increased.

The team of biologists, Marcia Weinzettl and Lubos Tomiska, has optimised biosecurity measures in the

breeding centre due to the pandemic, but the situation has not interrupted the process of bringing new and valuable life of the different species, into the world. ■



Juvenile Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*).
4 Funeral cockatoo chicks (*Zanda funerea*)



Photos: M. Weinzettl/LPF



Pair of White-bellied Caiques with their chick just out of the nest.
Photo : M. Pérez/LPF

Cutting-edge Climate Change research in the two universities of the Canary Islands



Presentation of the second buoy at the gates of Poema del Mar. With the presence of representatives from the two universities of the Canary Islands, the main project researchers, and the President and the Director of Loro Parque Fundación. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



Scientific buoy in the waters of Gando in Gran Canaria. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

The Poema del Mar Aquarium was the location selected for the presentation of the first results of **CanBio**, a pioneering public-private 2-million Euro research initiative financed by Loro Parque and the Government of the Canary Islands and developed by research teams from the University of La Laguna and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The purpose of this network is to establish a network for monitoring data and parameters linked to climate change, ocean acidification, underwater noise pollution and their relation to marine biodiversity around the Canary Islands.

Among the initial results that address the study of common

environmental problems in Macaronesia, the coordinator of CanBio and Director of Loro Parque Fundación, Javier Almunia, explained that they had found an increase in temperature recorded on the coasts of Tenerife and the subsequent transformation of the coastal habitat with the proliferation of tropical species that invade the ocean floor.

They are also studying any changes in the underwater acoustic environment. Through the installation of a buoy in Gando, in Gran Canaria, and another in El Hierro, they will measure ocean noise and analyse its effects on fauna, as well as the loss of marine biodiversity, the alteration of ecosystems and disappearance of species.

With CanBio, the Canary Islands become the only Spanish marine observatory

integrated into the European network for monitoring ocean acidification.

Public-private collaboration and research of this type carried out by the University of La Laguna and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria will be of critical importance, both to combat the consequences and effects of climate change in the Canary Islands, as well as for the development of a global concept of conservation of biodiversity. ■




+ info

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