

Cyanopsitta

The Loro Parque Fundación newsletter

2021
121

**SAVING
MACAWS
IN BOLIVIA**

**'MACHOTE'
THE GREAT
SURVIVOR**

**EMERGENCY
IN THE
PHILIPPINES**



Poema del Mar
AQUARIUM



LORO PARQUE
FUNDACIÓN

WE CARE

El "must" de Canarias
LORO PARQUE
ANIMAL EMBASSY



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Blue throated macaw chick. Photo: M. Herrera/LPF

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LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN

WE CARE

Dear friends,

I am writing to you today encouraged by the fact that we've been able to overcome a difficult year, in which the Fundación was able to continue to support its conservation commitments around the world, despite the pandemic. A period during which those engaged in clandestine activities against nature have made the most of the prevailing emergency health situation. Meaning that our work is so very important, now more than ever.

This past year, the Fundación's scientific council assessed a large number of proposals and we have been able to commit almost \$1.5 million directly to a wide range of conservation projects.

We are on the brink of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Loro Parque, a date that will be memorable, without a doubt. And as the President of Loro Parque Fundación, I am very proud to announce that, over that 50-year period, we have been able to save 10 parrot species from imminent extinction, from our corner in the Canary Islands. In fact, we trust that during our upcoming anniversary year, we'll be able to announce that we've saved yet another species. But we're not going to reveal that important event yet, which we're sure is going to be a key moment in the year.

A significant list of achievements to promote conservation which is now a reality, thanks to my father, Wolfgang Kiessling, the founder of Loro Parque. He continues to guide us with his vision, which he embarked on with great passion some 49 years ago, inspired by his unconditional love for animals. A powerful force, with the ability to raise awareness among people about the importance of protecting and understanding the life that surrounds them.

In this spirit, we want you to enjoy the work we engage in enthusiastically every day. We make every effort to combine the knowledge acquired from animals in certified conservation centres and from those living in the wild. We are sure that this is the key to achieving real and effective conservation of the natural world.

I wish you all a happy festive season and invite you to support us with your membership.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling.
President of Loro Parque Fundación



EMERGENCY IN THE PHILIPPINES



Supporting the local population in difficult times is critical to those who truly protect Red-vented cockatoos.



Photo: Katala Foundation

A strong tropical storm hit the island of Narra unexpectedly, in the northern Philippines. **Landslides and floods affected the island where Loro Parque Fundación supports the active conservation of**

the critically-endangered Red-vented cockatoo. A species to which the Fundación has allocated more than 1,900,000 dollars over the past 20 years to save it from extinction.

The Katala Foundation, led by the tireless scientists, Dr. Peter Widmann

and Indira Lacerna, has been providing support to the inhabitants of the region where several people drowned and many others remain unaccounted for. One of the boats used by local rangers for the census and control of cockatoos also sunk.

Vital supplies including water, food, candles and other basic resources were distributed among the population to provide some relief during the distressing emergency situation.

Area coordinators received the support subsidised by Loro Parque Fundación, which understands the crucial role of the local population in the conservation of this cockatoo, as they contribute to the actual conservation of the species. They are the ones participating in this project that, in addition to scientific data, is enabling the recovery of the species, which experienced an impressive

decline as a result of deforestation and poaching in the eighties. At present, their populations have experienced significant improvement thanks to ongoing efforts in the field and the assistance of modern zoos that have chosen to support the protection of threatened species, and where environmental education is indispensable. Entities such as ZGAP, FbP, Chester Zoo, Beuval Zoo, colleagues at the Landau Zoo and the Heidelberg Zoo, among others, have played a key role in this effort to save cockatoos from extinction, something which also directly relates to climate impact on highly-sensitive island ecosystems. We thank them for their endless support which is one of the motors that enables the conservation of a critically endangered species. ■



+ info



Red-vented cockatoo.

Photo: Peter Widmann

International Conservation



Advisory Board of LPF during the proposal assessment session for 2022. Cybell Kiessling, Isabell Kiessling, Matthias Reinschmidt, Jon Paul Rodríguez, Christoph Kiessling, Antonio Fernández, Javier Almunia, Vincent Janik via video conference and Rafael Zamora.

Photo: LPF

The Loro Parque Fundación advisory committee held their annual meeting, just like any other year, and decided to allocate a total of almost 1.45 million dollars to 61 nature conservation projects that will be carried out during 2022 in five continents.

With this commitment, the total amount that Loro Parque Fundación has allocated to the conservation of nature will amount to almost 25 million dollars.

Many of the conservation projects are transnational, so their benefits will reach the ecosystems and endangered species of many other bordering countries.

Special mention should go to the projects for the protection of parrots and terrestrial ecosystems, such as that of the Red-vented cockatoo, which with this new sponsorship, will reach an accumulated amount of around two million dollars.

Similarly, the Bolivian blue-throated macaw, the Colombian yellow-eared parrot or the Zimbabwean lions will receive support to maintain their populations.

The marine environment will be able to effectively protect various species of cetaceans, among which the Atlantic humpback dolphin stands out. 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.

Next year, for the first time, the Loro Parque Fundación will also finance an international conservation award for the most outstanding individuals in the protection of

the nature of our planet, and the production of a documentary film on the need to conserve biodiversity through the prestigious organisation, American Humane, that will also receive significant support.

This deployment has been made effective thanks to the help of our essential advisory council, which represents highly prestigious organisations in the world of science and species conservation. They are:



Dr. Vincent M. Janik

is the scientific representative of the Scottish Oceans Institute at the University of St. Andrews. His work on how marine mammals use sound in their communication and orientation and how human noise affects their lives could not be more relevant. Professor Janik has more than 30 years' research experience in his field and has published more than 100 articles on animal communication and marine mammal bioacoustics. He has been a fellow of the German Foundation for Academic Scholarships, the Royal Society and the Centres for Advanced Study in Berlin and Budapest. He is also editor of Animal Cognition magazine and the Animal Signals and Communication book series. He was one of the creators of the TAST acoustic method for the management of marine mammals.



Dr. Antonio Fernández Rodríguez

is a worldwide reference in cetacean pathology. He is a tenured professor of veterinary pathology at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Postdoctoral programme, Humboldt Research Fellowship, Germany. Associate Professor of Veterinary Pathology at Cornell University. He belongs to the expert advisory panel on strandings of the International Whaling Commission. IUCN cetacean expert. Former Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Former Deputy Chairman of Research at the University of Las Palmas. Director of the Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety. Canarias Award in Science and Innovation 2008. Col. centre OIE for the Health of Marine Mammals. Chairman of the Research Committee of the World Biosphere Reserve of the island of La Palma.



From Germany, the world expert on parrots **Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt**, biologist from

the University of Thuringia and a doctorate from the University of Giessen. He was editor of PAPAGEIEN magazine between 1993 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2010, he was curator at Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación before being appointed zoo director in 2010.

Since 2015, he has been the Director of the Karlsruhe Zoo, where he founded the Karlsruhe Zoo Species Conservation Foundation. He has appeared in hundreds of TV documentaries for Loro Parque and the Karlsruhe Zoo and, for the past ten years, has been filming a 90-minute documentary series on species conservation together with German TV legend, Frank Elstner for SWR. So far, he has written a total of nine books specialising on parrots, zoos and species conservation, and has passed on his knowledge in hundreds of specialised articles.



And the Chairman of the Commission for the Survival of Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez**, with a doctorate in ecology and biology from Princeton University. He is also a senior researcher at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research.

The wise guidance provided by these distinguished scientists will set the course for effective species conservation worldwide. ■

Premio Gorilla 2019-2020



The building of the Presidency of the Government of the Canary Islands was the setting for the prestigious Premio Gorilla Award 2019 and 2020 to Dr. Robin Ganzert, President and CEO of the American Humane Association, and to the emeritus advisers of the Loro Parque Fundación.

Photo: M. Pérez/ LPF

The 2019 edition was postponed to this year due to the lockdown caused by Covid-19.

In this edition, the award was presented to Dr. Robin Ganzert, CEO and Chairman of the American Humane Association. Known

for working for the protection of animals around the world.

The event was attended by the President of the Parliament of the Canary Islands, Gustavo Matos, the Minister of Tourism of the Government of the Canary Islands, Yaiza Castilla, who excused the absence of the President of the Government of the Canary Islands, Ángel Víctor Torres, who was on the Island of La Palma because of the volcano eruption; the mayors of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Puerto de la Cruz, José Manuel Bermúdez and Marco González, were also present at the presidential table.

American Humane is the oldest association in the world for animal protection.

The President of Loro Parque, Wolfgang Kiessling and the Vice-

president, Christoph Kiessling, hosted an event moderated by journalist Leopoldo Fernández Cabeza de Vaca. The headquarters of the Presidency of the Government of the Canary Islands was once again the incomparable setting for this event.

The 2020 award recognised the emeritus advisers of Loro Parque Fundación.

The recipients were Dr. Tomás Azcárate y Bang, Juan Sebastián

Villalba-Macías, Dr. David Waugh, René Wüst, Povl Jørgensen, Roland Wirth, Dr. Susan Clubb, Dr. Wolf Michael Iwand, Dr. Nigel Collar, Rosemary Low and, posthumously, John Stoodley, Dr. Wolfgang Grummt and Dr. Joachim Steinbacher. ■



The President of Loro Parque, Wolfgang Kiessling, in his presentation during the ceremony.

Photo: M. Pérez/LPF

Donation thanks to the Embassy in Thailand

Thanks to the distinguished Ambassador of Spain in Thailand, a cheque for \$20,000 was presented by Loro Parque Fundación as a donation to **Elephant Conservation in Action** @TEAA_thElephant, an organisation that cares for elephants formerly used for tourism, and that have been affected by the country closing its borders to international tourism.

In the past, these elephants were used for carrying loads, but with

the advent of modern machinery they stopped being used for these tasks. A solution for them was found in the tourism sector, where they are cared for while they carry out their daily activity.

The representatives of the Thai Elephant Alliance Association, including 3 founding members, Mr. Theerapat Trungprakan, Ms. Meena Kalamapijitr, Mr. Apichit Daungdee, had the chance to meet Mr. Emilio de

Miguel Calabia for the ceremony to receive the support of Loro Parque Fundación.

Certain standards will now have to be met for both wild and domesticated elephant camps in Thailand, where the elephant keeper will also have to be certified.

Loro Parque Fundación's support for these actions will guarantee the best living conditions and well-being of elephants, as well as the safety of

tourists visiting the area in the near future.

The Ambassador learned how tourism based on elephant well-being can play an important role in the local conservation of this magnificent species.

We are grateful for this major initiative by the Embassy to guarantee the receipt and use of these funds. The funds will further improve the highly-efficient Elephant Rescue Service and the lives of elephants, protecting their safety despite the circumstances. ■



His Excellency, the Ambassador of Spain to Thailand, Mr. Emilio de Miguel Calabia, presenting the cheque to the three members of the Thai Elephant Alliance Association. Photo: Embassy of Spain in Thailand.



The Ambassador learned first-hand the harsh reality of many elephants in Thailand. Photo: Embassy of Spain in Thailand.

Awards for the best science projects



Doctor Javier Almunia was in charge of presenting the awards at the University of La Laguna.

Photo: M. Pérez/LPF

Awards to the best TFGs (End-of-Degree Projects) have been presented for the degrees of Biology, Environmental Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. Loro Parque Fundación awarded €6000 in

prizes to the best End-of-Degree Projects in Science presented at the University of La Laguna during the 2020-2021 academic year. The honours were awarded with the aim of stimulating educational excellence and encouraging efforts

relating to the conservation of both terrestrial and marine biodiversity, as well as environmental protection and sustainability. **Five of the prizes were awarded to Biology students and the rest to students of the other degrees of the Faculty of Sciences.** Each one divided into four categories: two first prizes of €1,200, two second prizes of €800, two third prizes of €600 and two fourth prizes of €400.

Dr. Javier Almunia, Director of Loro Parque Fundación, emphasised the excellent quality of the works received, which made it difficult to select the winners. He also highlighted the enormous effort that was evident in many of the works, which involved sampling in different parts of the archipelago, and analytical and experimental

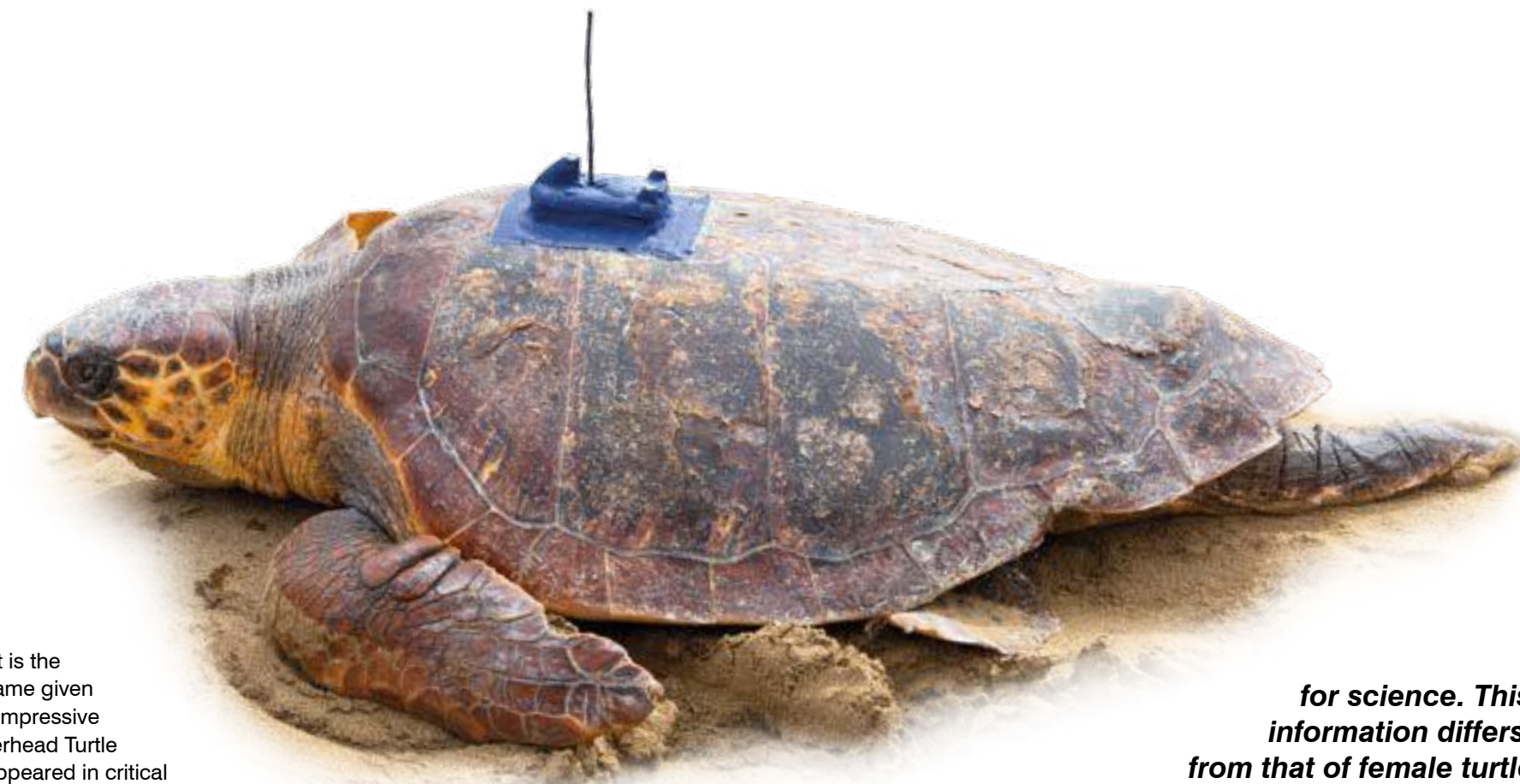
work carried out by students without any financial aid. "In a way, these awards try to compensate for that effort", he stated, "and the fact that we have received almost 40 End-of-Degree Projects indicates that we are on the right track".

The jury of the awards, organised by the ULL Faculty of Sciences with the collaboration of the Official College of Biologists (CobCAN), was made up of members of this organisation, the Loro Parque Fundación and professors from the science faculties, who agreed on the high quality of the projects of all applicants. ■



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'Machote', the great survivor



That is the nickname given to an impressive Loggerhead Turtle that appeared in critical condition in the south of Gran Canaria. The turtle, which was covered in more than 1000 leeches, recovered from severe anaemia thanks to the care of the veterinarians of the Wildlife Recovery Centre of the Cabildo de Gran Canaria. This large specimen, weighing more than 70 kilos, was on the verge of death in the natural environment, where its species faces the remains of nets, hooks and marine debris generated by man.

The biologist and veterinarian, Pascual Calabuig, has extensive experience in the rescue of this type of animal that now has hope for recovery and an increased survival rate.

One of the key factors in its recovery has been adequate rehabilitation, which has been made

possible thanks to the space of 5.5 million litres of sea water provided by the Poema del Mar aquarium in Gran Canaria.

A peaceful environment under controlled parameters both at a technical and veterinary level, for the turtle to regain its weight and energy before returning to the marine environment that is increasingly hostile.

The Technical Director of the aquarium, Patricia Campos, together with her team of advanced aquarists, was able to help 'Machote' recover in a safe environment along with other species typical of its habitat.

'Machote' was successfully

reintroduced into the marine environment, but we didn't want to leave him alone. It was equipped with a satellite tracking device funded by Poema del Mar. This transmitter is extremely important as it is attached to a large male capable of reproducing, which will yield very valuable information.

The movement patterns of the large males of this species remains a mystery

for science. This information differs from that of female turtles, who are more closely tied to coastlines to lay their eggs.

Thanks to this action we now know where 'Machote' is headed on his journey full of uncertainties. ■



The Poema del Mar facilities allowed for optimal recovery for his return to sea.

Photo: M. Pérez/LPF



Satellite tracking information is received in real time.

Saving Macaws in Bolivia

Every year, the city of Santísima Trinidad, in the department of Beni, in Bolivia, celebrates what is called "Chope Piesta", which in the Trinitaria Mojeña language means Big Party. This local and regional festival is a great example of the different indigenous dances of the region, but especially of the 'machetero' dance.

The typical 'machetero' dance is the most

traditional dance in the Department of Beni.

Religious in nature, the dance is performed at every festival and especially at Christmas, Easter, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi and other local festivities.

One of its main features is that dancers wear huge fan-shaped feather headdresses, made from the tail feathers of macaws, which are attached onto a hollow cane

framework (chuchio) shaped like a cap and covered with brightly coloured feathers.

Loro Parque Fundación has been working since 2004 on changing the attitude of the locals to seek an alternative proposal to the use of these feathers. Studies carried out by different institutions in recent years found that between 10 and 40 central feathers of the tail of a macaw are required to make one of those headdresses. The feathers are procured through hunting, mostly with firearms, although some indigenous peoples still use bows and arrows to capture the macaws. The full feather headdress has a current value of \$150-200.

One of the most effective conservation tools has been the annual call for the Feather Headdress Contest using Alternative Material, led by the Macheteros group "Chriperono Santísima Trinidad" and in coordination with the Committee for Cultural Revaluation of the Department of Beni, The Artistic Training Institute "Arnaldo Lijerón Casanovas", The Autonomous University of Beni "José Ballivián", The Indigenous Council of the Holy Trinity, The Departmental Council of Cultures, The National Superior School of Plastic and Visual Arts "Gil Coimbra Ojopi", The "San José" Alternative Education Centre, The Institute

of Mojeño Trinitario Language and Culture "José Santos Noco Guaji", the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum, BOLTEC and the support of Loro Parque Fundación and Aves Bolivianas.

Thousands of macaws of different species have been saved thanks to the support of LPF.

In an in-situ conservation project such as that of the blue-throated Macaw, our cooperation with local people is the real basis for success. Their oldest traditions are linked to nature and, now more than ever, with the growth of cities, it is necessary to maintain those traditions in a sustainable way in order to protect the environment that surrounds them. Loro Parque Fundación has taken great care in keeping this social commitment. As well-guided local traditions have undoubtedly been the method that has saved the most macaws each year. No scientific study or ancillary system is as successful as the work on conservation done by the community. In this way, Loro Parque Fundación has remained constant in its support of the festivities of the machetero headdresses and hat festivals.

The latest edition was a remarkable success with the attendance of local authorities, journalists, and thousands of

visitors from all over the country.

One of the stars of the event was the Bolivian beauty queen, Alondra Mercado, who represents Bolivia in the Miss World contest.

Alondra will raise awareness on the project with artificial feathers promoted by Loro Parque Fundación among the international community, thus proving that nature and culture are able to coexist. This contest includes a travelling exhibition of the feather headdresses. The Interpretation Centre of Ramsar Sites* (UNE Centre) of the Municipality of Trinidad and the University Institute of Arts of the Autonomous University of Beni, inaugurated with the entrance of folkloric dancers wearing the competing feather headdresses. They were the stars of the local folkloric spectacle, which ended in Trinidad's main square with the presence of local authorities, including the governor among others.

The Jury was made up of personalities who are experts on

the subject, who valued artistic creation and its relationship with the environment, the original characteristics and also the similarity to the shape and colour of the original bird feathers.

The Awards Ceremony was held at the Premises of the University Institute of Arts, in an official ceremony developed for the event. Rolando Ballón Mosúa won the first prize and José Altamirano Mita came second. We congratulate them all for their initiative and for continuing with this tradition in a way that is sustainable and respectful of nature.

At the same time, at Loro Parque Fundación, blue-throated macaws continue to be born, with more than 420 macaws born under our wing. With the subsequent collection of key data on the species at all levels. Behaviour, clinical, cognition, management and reproduction data together with a long list of information

that is obtained daily and that will be crucial for its actual recovery in its environment, where today, no more than 300 specimens have been officially registered. ■



Miss World Bolivia, Alondra Mercado, will take the LPF message across the country and to international competitions.

Photo: AB/LPF



First prize awarded by biologist, Mauricio Herrera.

Photo: AB/LPF



The long tail of blue-throated macaws was coveted in the past to adorn the macheteros headdresses.

Photo: LPF



Thanks to the workshops, children have learned in recent years to make their own headdresses.

Photo: LPF



Self-control in parrots



Blue-headed macaws are one of the main species in this research.

Photo: M. Pérez/LPF

For us humans, controlling an instinct is not always easy, but... what about parrots?

We now know that African grey parrots may have better self-control than macaws in delaying receiving a reward, and therefore rejecting an immediate reward in favour of a better option in the future.

The study has been published in the prestigious scientific journal, *Animal Cognition*.

Researchers at the Max-Planck Institute for Ornithology wanted to see how long 28 birds of four parrot species could resist eating a food that was not their favourite, while they waited for a food that they preferred, both foods being available at different times. The research took place at the Max Planck site at Loro Parque-Animal Embassy in Tenerife, where researchers found that African grey parrots could wait up to 29.4 seconds on average for their preferred food to be available, compared to 20 seconds for Blue-throated macaw, 11.7 seconds for blue-headed macaws and 8.3 seconds for large Buffons macaws.

The parrot with the best results was an African grey parrot named

Sensei, who was able to wait for his favourite fruit for up to 50 seconds.

20 seconds longer than the maximum wait time for the best performing macaw. The author of the study, Matthew Petelle said: "Our findings suggest that the self-control abilities of closely-related macaw species vary greatly between individuals and species. The hypothesis is that these differences could be related to differences in brain size or overall intelligence."

They could also be influenced by the foraging behaviours or social organisation of different species, as birds that spend more time locating and extracting food or those living in more complex social environments may be more strongly selected to inhibit their actions."

To compare self-control abilities between parrot species, the authors studied eight Buffons macaws, six blue-throated macaws, six blue-headed macaws, and eight African grey parrots provided by Loro Parque Fundación. The birds were presented with sunflower seeds, a food that they did not prefer as it is common in their diet, through a space on a transparent screen. They had to wait between five and 60 seconds for a rotating device to give them nuts, a food that they did indeed prefer.

The birds were able to see both the seeds and the nuts through the transparent screen throughout the experiment. If the bird ate the sunflower seeds before the nuts were presented, the experiment ended and the bird was not able to eat the nuts. While the birds waited for their preferred food to become available, some seemed to engage in behaviour such as walking and handling objects. The longer a bird

spent on these types of behaviour, the more successful it was at waiting, especially when they had to wait more than ten seconds.

The effectiveness of these distracting behaviours varied between species. **African grey parrots were more successful at waiting than blue-throated and blue-headed macaws.**

Researchers believe that birds adopt behaviour such as pacing to suppress the urge to eat the food they do not prefer and allow them to better cope with waiting for the food they prefer when it becomes available.

The truth is that very little is known to date about the natural ecology and social behaviour of endangered parrot species examined in the wild.

The short amount of time and few opportunities available in the wild to observe parrots make it difficult to carry out research of this type, which is now possible thanks to the extensive capacities available at the Tenerife conservation centre. ■



+ info



Dr. Anastasia Krashennikova during the work with grey parrots.

Photo: M. Planck/LPF

X INTERNATIONAL PARROT CONVENTION 2022 of Tenerife

The world's most important parrot event will take place next September 2022.

This convention takes place every four years, bringing together parrot lovers across all existing disciplines.

Conservation, breeding, veterinary medicine, nutrition and animal handling under human care, education and advanced science are the main themes developed in a unique event where some 800 people from more than 40 countries around the world come together to enjoy an indescribable common passion.

Conferences, workshops and unforgettable evenings in unique places in Tenerife never fail to make this congress a



memorable gathering that gets better and better with each new edition. **The multicultural event that brings together all kinds of aviculture enthusiasts has enabled significant**

progress over the years forming a large global safety net for the management, reproduction and protection of the world's parrot species.

In previous editions, many participants were unable to take part due to having left their

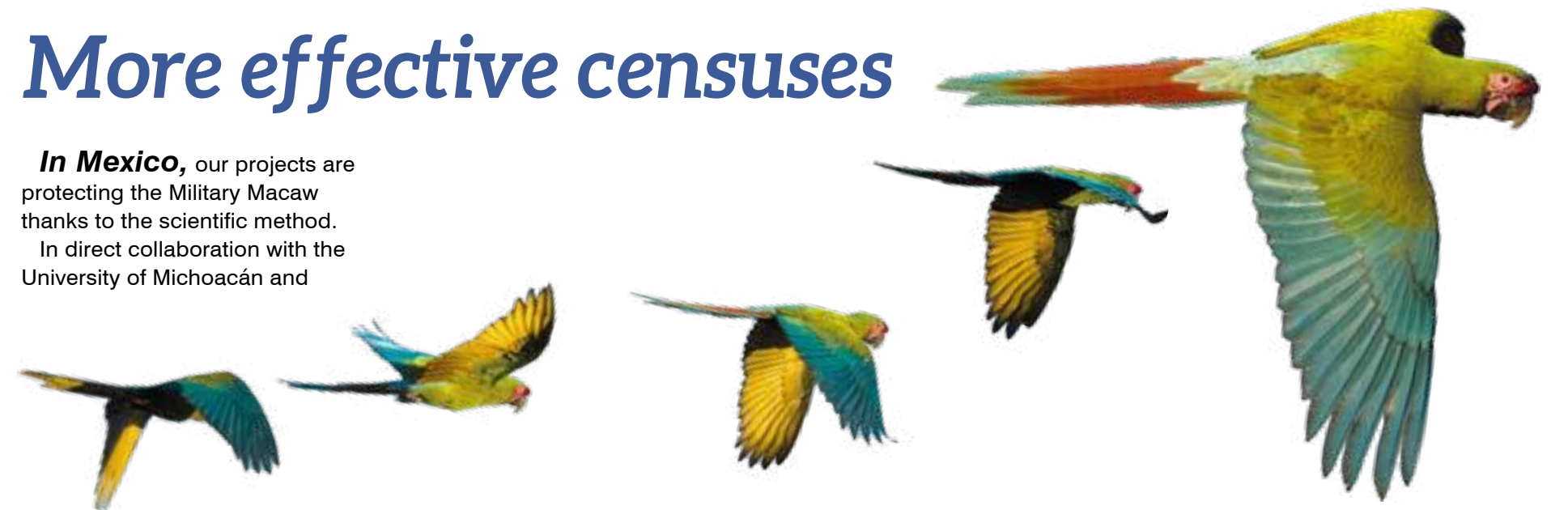
registration to the last minute. We recommend that you register as soon as possible to avoid last minute surprises.

We are really excited to see you all again, in person, and share knowledge about what we love the most: parrots! ■

More effective censuses

In Mexico, our projects are protecting the Military Macaw thanks to the scientific method.

In direct collaboration with the University of Michoacán and



Biological Corridors, and thanks to local field researchers, we have an image of the fruiting and flowering of plants on which they feed across wide areas of territory.

It is a desert-like habitat but with an important botanical wealth in which parrots are a key component.

Thanks to these projects, censuses of species can be made using advanced appearance predictions, which are more effective. We know when they can be spotted in a specific territory, depending on whether the local

trees are bearing fruit.

The study of phenology of local forest mass also enables selective reforestation, which allows for the strategic positioning of trees needed by the military macaws.

This is a huge step for science and yet another method that helps to improve the effectiveness of censuses in addition to optimising efforts to protect the species. ■



The biologist Jennifer Lowry selects walnut fruits that will be planted in strategic areas travelled by macaws.

Photo: Biological Corridors

Searching for the Sinú Parakeet

Colombia is home to a parrot species that has become a mystery. A small parrot that manages to disappear from the sight of ornithologists. We are referring to the Sinú parakeet (*Pyrrhura subandina*). The reality is that it is not easily spotted because its forests have been destroyed. The lack of habitat is the main problem behind their low numbers. For this reason, the Loro Parque Fundación supported a campaign to locate the species that was not successful in the past despite the efforts made. Today, the resources available to scientists are more advanced. For this reason, the Córdoba Ornithological Society in collaboration with the WWF and the support of Colombian universities, as well as our technical and financial support are conducting a methodical and exhaustive search based on scientific methods but also using awareness campaigns among participating local populations.

The research process includes a record of the plants on which the parrots feed and

also all the birds found on each field trip.

The methodical interviews carried out with people of all ages in different municipalities have provided keydata both from the past, when the Sinú parakeet was more abundant, and from the present in which two people are

currently able to recognise and provide details on the appearance of this parrot. Acoustic analysis, by placing different recording devices to record the sounds of each area throughout the day, is one of the project's most powerful tools.

There have been many recordings, including the detection of unexpected species.

And among the great finds, the first official nest of a crested eagle (*Morphnus guianensis*) has appeared in Colombia. This bird of prey is always present in very low numbers in American ecosystems. They say that for every 20 harpy eagles, only one is of this species and harpy eagles themselves are already pretty rare. Curiously, despite the fact that it is widespread, very little is known about its biology and true abundance. From now on, another national project on birds of prey will be in charge of monitoring this nest to study its biology. Additional evidence that, through protecting one type of parrot, many other species benefit and the ecosystems which they inhabit become better known. ■



The saffron-headed parrot (*Pyrilia pyrrhura*) and the red-winged parrotlet (*Touit delictissimus*) are two of the species discovered in this region of Colombia, thanks to the search for the Sinú Parakeet. PHOTOS: SOC



Joint work and research with the local population is an essential part of the project.

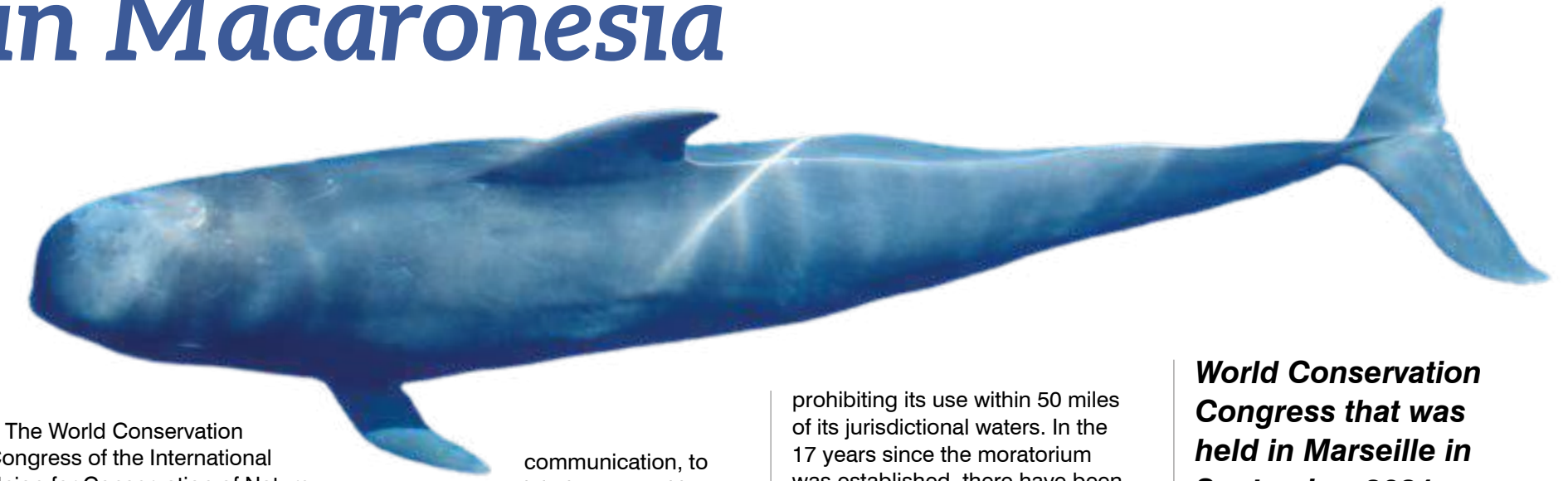
Photo: SOC



Juvenile Crested Eagle from the first registered nest for this species found in Colombia through this project.

Photo: SOC

IUCN supports a Marine Reserve in Macaronesia



The World Conservation Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has approved the motion presented by the Loro Parque Fundación to increase the area in which the use of medium frequency military SONAR is prohibited in Macaronesia. This approval involves enormous support at the international level that could make it possible to protect deep-diving cetaceans in all the archipelagos of Macaronesia, and which is now only in force in an area of 50 nautical miles around the Canary Islands.

There has been growing concern over the past 20 years that noise from human activities can affect wildlife. Recent works

have explored how anthropogenic noise can affect marine organisms, including not only marine mammals, but also fish or even zooplankton. Concerns range from the impact of ship noise that can mask whale

communication, to injuries caused by loud sounds.

Unusual air embolism injuries (blood vessel blockage caused by air bubbles) discovered by researchers at the University Institute of Animal Health of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in several beaked whales during naval manoeuvres off the Canary Islands are similar to those found in decompression accidents. Consequently, it was put forward that these beaked whales could have unusual levels of dissolved nitrogen in their blood, and that a rapid rise caused by behavioural changes triggered by sonar exposure could have caused the air embolism injuries. Injuries caused by bubbles could then appear if the animals are forced to surface or remain in very shallow areas for extended periods of time.

The Spanish Government established a moratorium on the use of naval sonars in the Canary Islands in November 2004,

prohibiting its use within 50 miles of its jurisdictional waters. In the 17 years since the moratorium was established, there have been no atypical mass strandings in the Canary Islands, which proves its effectiveness as a mitigation measure.

Wolfgang Kiessling was the first to suggest the creation of a Marine Reserve in Macaronesia 30 years ago.

Increasing the protection of medium frequency sonar to the rest of deep-diving cetaceans of Macaronesia is of extraordinary importance. The region is a hotspot of cetacean biodiversity, as it is home to 85% of the species of whales and dolphins present throughout the North Atlantic Ocean.

For this reason, the Loro Parque Fundación presented a motion for the extension of this moratorium to the IUCN

World Conservation Congress that was held in Marseille in September 2021.

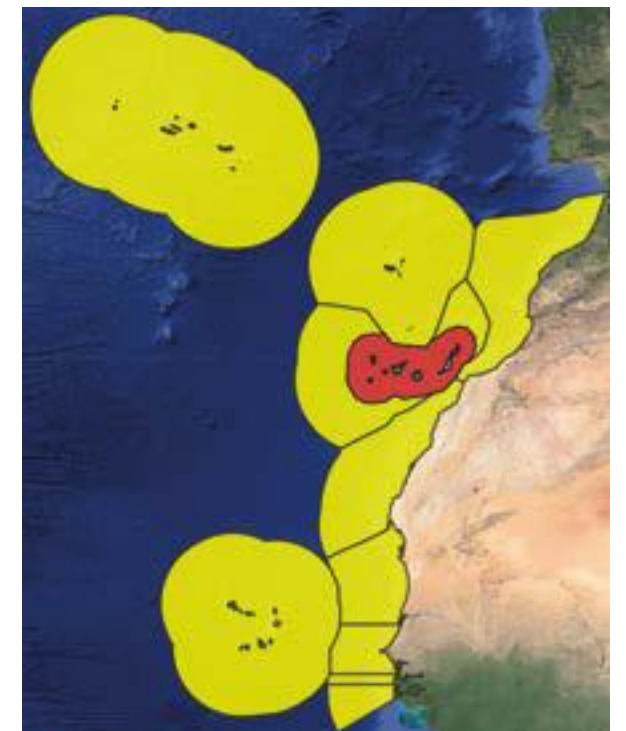
The motion was approved by a large majority of IUCN members, which is an enormous success and a powerful tool to promote the extension of this moratorium, as recognised by IUCN in the final text of the motion:

1. SUPPORTS the establishment of an MFA sonar moratorium during maritime military exercises conducted within the Exclusive Economic Zones of the different states present in Macaronesia;
2. CALLS ON all states with Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in the Macaronesian region to ban the use of this type of high-energy sonar in maritime military exercises within the limits of their EEZs; and
3. REQUESTS the Director General of the IUCN to convey this Resolution to all states with EEZs in the region, as well as to the European Parliament. ■



Stranded beaked whales in Fuerteventura.

Photo: IUSA



In yellow, exclusive economic zones of Macaronesia countries and archipelagos; in red, current area of application of the SONAR moratorium.

Successes of Loro Parque Fundación 2021

We have sent two more specimens of Lear's Macaw born in Tenerife **to Brazil** to continue with the management and reintroduction project of the species. One of them will join the ex-situ breeding programme and the other will join the group that has already been reintroduced into nature.

Eight specimens born in Tenerife are currently flying in the Caatinga and appear extremely vigorous. We know that at least one pair is showing signs of reproduction. This is thrilling news as it marks a major step in the repopulation of this region where they were practically extinct.

In Senegal, thanks to the Loro Parque Fundación, it was possible to start the conservation project for the Atlantic humpback dolphin, one of the most threatened cetacean species in the world according to the IUCN red list.



Monitoring the rare and little-known Atlantic humpback dolphin. Photo: AACF

The support of LPF has made it possible to organise a research group in the Saloum delta and initiate the collection of essential data for the survival of this unknown species. Surprisingly, this group of cetaceans had not received support until now.

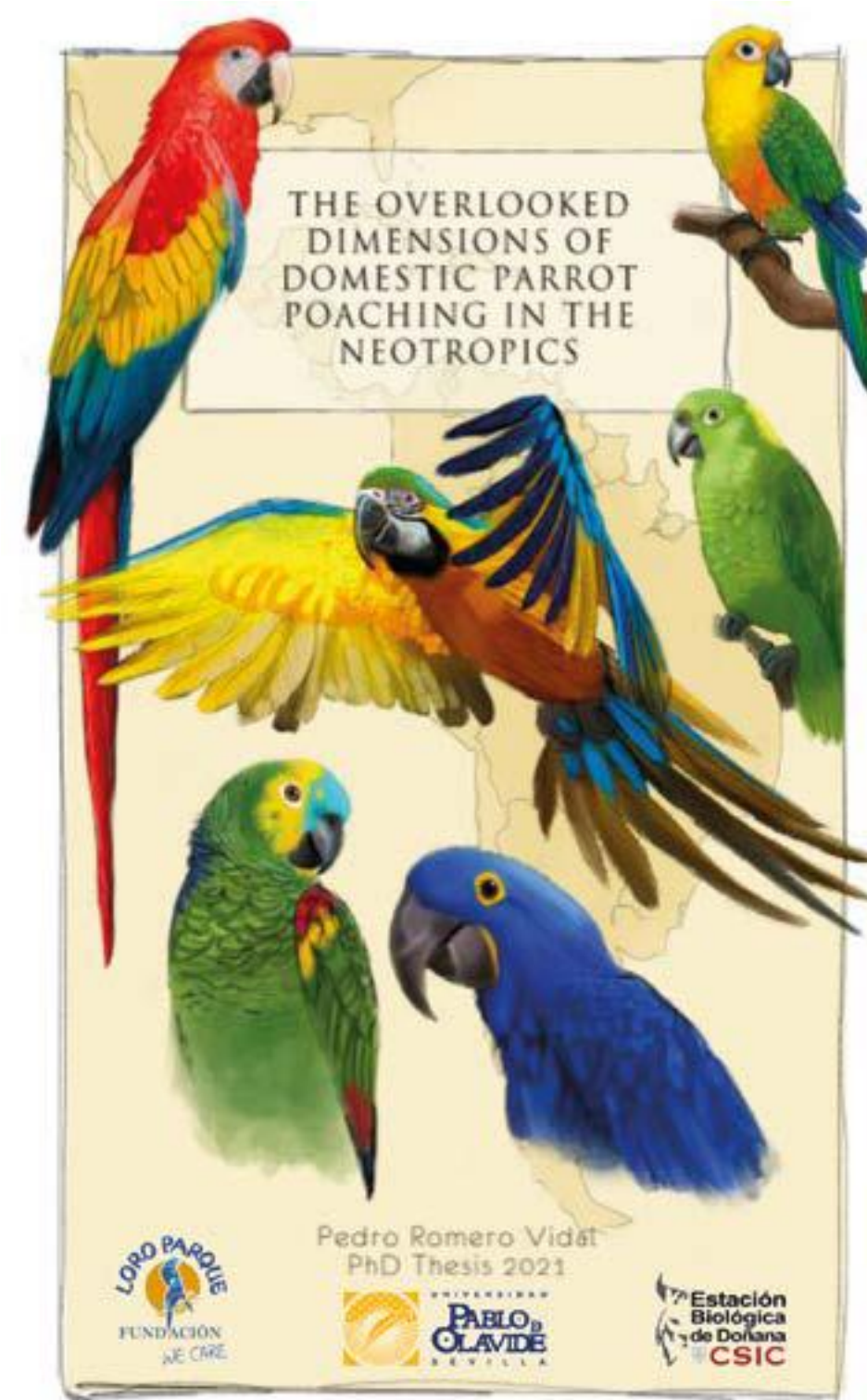
In Ecuador, 20 more red-masked conure were reintroduced into the wild. 59 birds reinserted in total as part of this project that we run jointly with the Fundación Jocotoco.

Its impact on local populations has been such that the police and environmental agents are no longer finding this species in markets.

These parrots were often victims of species trafficking, but thanks to this project it has been possible to get through to society with a clear message.



One of the pairs born in LPF shows signs of reproduction in the natural environment. Photo: C. Albano



Based on scientific data, Pedro Romero Vidal's doctoral thesis reveals key data on illegal trafficking of parrots, maintenance under human care and the key ecological function of this group of birds. Photos: P. Romero Vidal

From Gran Canaria, the cetacean welfare project that we've been developing for almost a decade jointly with the University Institute of Animal Health of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, led by Professor Antonio Fernández, has just published extraordinary progress:

Taking virus samples using a small brush, and avoiding biopsies.

This new technique recently published in the scientific journal, Animals, opens up enormous possibilities to assess other biological parameters in dolphins and wild whales without disturbing the animals.



Researchers, Simone Segura and Silvia Gimeno Ponce, during data collection for the cetacean welfare project. Photo: LPF

In Tenerife, this year major progress has been made in the study of parrot life expectancy. **The University of La Laguna has been able to determine that there is a relationship between chromosome telomer length in parrots depending on the species to which they belong.**

Thus, there are species with greater life expectancy than others and there is a relationship with their reproductive strategy. This study has significant implications for science and is being carried out thanks to the largest living genetic parrot reserve maintained by the Loro Parque Fundación.



The ULL science team. Dr. Rafael Castro, Dr. Elisabeth Córdoba and biologist, Angélica Domínguez.

Also in Brazil, our support for the Hyacinth Macaw Institute is bearing fruit for this emblematic species that is threatened by the loss of its habitat. The scientist and protector of the largest macaws in the world, Neiva Guedes, has made significant progress alongside her team, in her constant work to protect these impressive parrots.



Monitoring of Hyacinth Macaws in the Brazilian Pantanal. Photo: Instituto Arara Azul. Annual control of Hyacinth Macaw nests. Photo: Instituto Arara Azul

Fire and deforestation are the two major threats to the species. Strategic support through drinking-troughs and registration of locations of nests, both artificial and natural, are especially relevant.



Monitoring of yellow-eared parrots in wax palm groves, Colombia

In Colombia, natural trunk nests have been installed to help yellow-eared parrots. And the real threat to the habitat of this species was determined: Wax palm groves have their years numbered. This is indeed very bad news, but it is also key scientific data to spur a response.

Until now, it was believed that protecting wax palm trees was enough. But it's the plants that grow at its base that are key to protecting this type of forest and the parrots that live there.

Without that forest base for the highest palm forests in the world (up to 90m), there will be no future for this parrot species that the Loro Parque Fundación has saved from extinction. This joint project with the WWF stands out for the study of the general biome in which yellow-eared parrots live.

Worldwide. This year, the Loro Parque Fundación has published more than 300 pieces in magazines of the parrot sector around the world. **LPF, with a permanent presence in 17 countries in monthly publications, has divulged information on parrots, ex-situ and in-situ.** Information on breeding, management and conservation has been translated into more than 8 languages around the world both in paper and digital media.

At the international level, scientific publications jointly with the team of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Pablo de Olavide University (UPO), led by Professor José Tella, have managed to complete 98 large-scale parrot census studies so far, covering more than 57,241 km across 20 countries and the main

biomes in the world that are home to this group of birds.

More than 120,000 parrot specimens of 137 different species have been registered. The impressive amount of associated data and the production of scientific papers that have been published so far and will be published in the future are a milestone within the parrot group. The study has also yielded a doctoral thesis.



Red-eared parakeet (Pyrrhura hoematotis). Photo: Moisés Pérez.

And Loro Parque will show the general public a new species for the first time: the red-eared parakeet that is endemic to Venezuela.

It will be the first certified zoo conservation centre in the world where this species can be observed. The 15 births so far show the results of this great breeding success that the Loro Parque Fundación supports at its facilities. And they form part of the safety net for the species in case their peers need help in nature. ■

Take part in PROTECTING NATURE

Become a member and enjoy the special bonus of being part of an organisation that fights to preserve the biodiversity of our planet. With the Loro Parque Fundación membership card you will be able to visit two International Nature Conservation Centres: Loro Parque and Poema del Mar, and you will also receive our newsletter Cyanopsitta during your membership

BECOME A MEMBER!

At LPF we are waiting for you so we can work together for nature!



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