Cyanopsitta

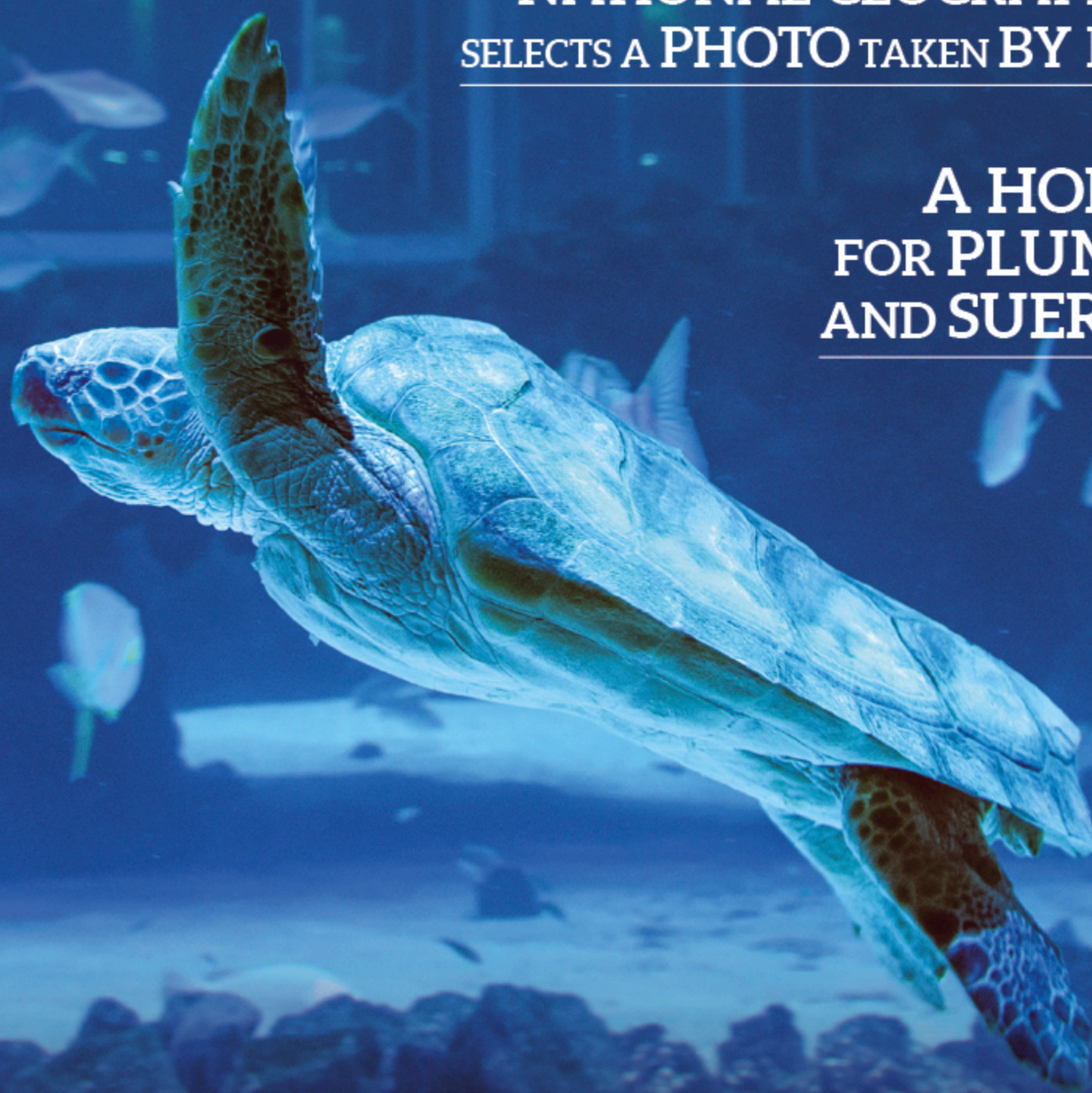
The **Loro Parque Fundación** newsletter

2023
124

THE WORLD'S FIRST ZOO WITH A NEGATIVE CARBON FOOTPRINT

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SELECTS A PHOTO TAKEN BY LPF

A HOME FOR PLUMA AND SUERTE



Poema del Mar AQUARIUM

LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN WE CARE

LORO PARQUE ANIMAL EMBASSY

SIAM PARK

Cyanopsitta # 124 - 2023

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Suerte, loggerhead sea turtle at PDM. Photo: PDM

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LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN WE CARE

Dear friends,

In this edition of our magazine Cyanopsitta we would like to bring you up to date with the latest advances made by Loro Parque Fundación in the protection of species and their habitats.

We would like to highlight two important milestones of which we are particularly proud.

Firstly, we have been distinguished by the Government of the Canary Islands for being the first zoo in the world to achieve a negative carbon footprint. This means that the activity of our group has maximum respect for our environment without leaving waste, focusing on the use of renewable energies and sustainability in all possible aspects. Including our supplies, which are zero kilometre, which expresses how we take care in obtaining products from our farmers and from the closest points, supporting the regional economy and avoiding pollution. This important recognition positions the Canary Islands as a pioneer in the protection and respect for the environment.

In second place, thanks to our long and established collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is an alliance of international governmental organisations with more than 1,400 associated organisations, over 15,000 experts and being the highest authority on the state of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it, we were granted the establishment of the Macaronesia Species Survival Centre in our facilities. Knowing that there are only two such centres in the whole of Europe, out of 12 in the world, this in itself is a significant achievement.

Thanks to this milestone in conservation, we have had the pleasure of presenting a comprehensive study on the alarming loss of biodiversity in Spain. A work with which we are confident that our islands will become a world reference in the protection of endangered species.

The current global environmental situation is worrying. Knowing that, in our oceans, almost two million square kilometres, there are high concentrations of plastic, is a worrying situation. For this reason, we must react in favour of sustainability in all our actions. This has been our motivation, in the Loro Parque group, during the last years in which we have become an outstanding company in this respect.

I am sure that, on the day of the Canary Islands, the reader will enjoy the content of this issue and will gain more knowledge to continue collaborating in the protection of nature. We are counting on your help so that conservation centres such as Loro Parque can gain more and more recognition from our society.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling.
President of Loro Parque Fundación

IUCN

2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

The world's first zoo with a negative carbon footprint

Loro Parque has become the only zoo in the world to achieve a negative carbon footprint. This is a milestone event both for the company and for the effective fight against climate change.

The Minister for Ecological Transition, Climate Change, and Territorial Planning of the Government of the Canary Islands, José Antonio Valbuena, presented the company with an award for this extraordinary achievement.

Mr Valbuena and his team also had the opportunity to visit the Park's renewable energy facilities. Through a guided tour, Loro Parque explained all the work it does in this area and how it has achieved this transcendental success for the survival of the planet.

The event highlighted the example set by "such a large and internationally renowned company in the tourism sector that is clearly and unequivocally committed to renewable energies, water management and reducing greenhouse gases".

Loro Parque and the excellence of its projects have consolidated the Canary Islands in a privileged position worldwide, not only as a sustainable and quality tourist destination, but also as a benchmark in environmental protection.

Loro Parque has been one of the pioneering companies in the Canary Islands in the use of renewable energies. The zoo consumes 100% sustainable energy, with non-polluting energy facilities both inside and outside the zoo. Moreover, the company's goal for this year is to achieve a negative carbon footprint for the rest of the group.

The Animal Embassy has been promoting plans to eliminate the use of single-use plastics for years and has an innovative water management system. As a result, the organisation has received numerous certificates and awards in the environmental field.

Loro Parque is EMAS certified, the European Union's official environmental auditing tool, and has received numerous awards for its initiatives in global biodiversity conservation.

"Since our creation, we have developed a special sensitivity towards caring for our planet. The delicate situation that animals suffer in nature as a consequence of our actions has made us reassert the imperative need to get down to work to reverse all the damage we have done to the world", said Wolfgang Kiessling. President and Founder of Loro Parque.

With this distinction, the Government of the Canary Islands highlights and recognises organisations making a significant contribution to the fight against climate change. ■

+ info

H.E. Mr José Antonio Valbuena presented the award to the President of Loro Parque, Wolfgang Kiessling. Photo: M.Pérez/LPF

The secret of longevity of parrots

The prestigious scientific journal Frontiers in Genetics has published an interesting scientific article that has been made possible thanks to a research initiative between Loro Parque Fundación and the University of La Laguna in Tenerife.

Parrots are capable of living for many years compared to larger animals. This reality aroused the curiosity of researchers from both institutions who decided to initiate research in this direction thanks to the unique possibility offered by the zoo.

Ageing is a process that depends on many factors and includes molecular changes in cells, such as the shortening of telomeres.

Telomeres are found at the ends of chromosomes protecting the DNA.

In vertebrates, telomeres shorten gradually with age, and their rate of shortening plays an important role in determining the lifespan of a species.

However, DNA loss can be enhanced by oxidative stress, which for humans is a consequence of poor diet, exposure to pollution, daily stress and a long list of everyday influences. ***The need for new animal models has recently emerged as a tool to gather more information about the human ageing process.***

Birds, particularly parrots, live longer than other mammals of the same size due to special key traits.

Loro Parque Fundación maintains the largest living genetic reserve of parrots in the world with an extraordinarily large volume accumulated over time and a track record of advanced management of more than fifty years. This exceptional circumstance allows access to a large amount of extremely important scientific data for science: a science that tries to decipher aspects such as longevity in people.

The results of this study indicate that telomeres shorten with age for both long-lived and short-lived birds, with long-lived birds having longer telomeres than short-lived birds.

Moreover, short-lived birds accumulated more oxidative stress products than long-lived birds, which showed better antioxidant capacity.

Reproduction was found to be related to telomere shortening in all species for both long- and short-lived birds. Short-lived birds, especially breeding females, increased their oxidative stress products when breeding, whereas long-lived birds showed higher resistance and even increased their antioxidant capacity.

The conclusion of this study verified the relationship between age and telomere length in parrots.

The influence of the reproductive stage increased cumulative oxidative damage in short-lived species, whereas long-lived species can counteract this damage.

There are many interesting aspects to consider as short-lived birds are the ones that usually rear the most chicks and start breeding earlier.

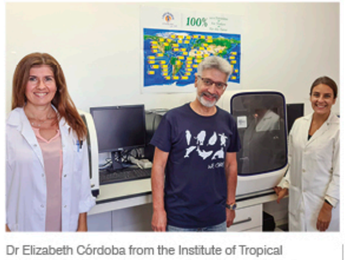
A budgerigar may start breeding as early as 9 months of age and a Salmon-crested Cockatoo at 7 or even more years of age, doing so with a lower production of eggs and chicks.

The multiple factors affecting each species contain fundamental keys to increasing life expectancy. That is why this study, carried out thanks to the collaboration of both Canary Islands institutions, is so important on an international level. ■

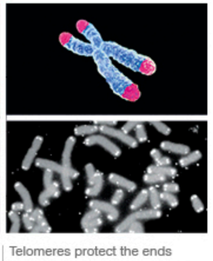
Article

Video

Salmon-crested cockatoo at Loro Parque Fundación. This is one of the species that have records of over 70 and 80 years under human care. Photo: R.Zamora/LPF



Dr Elizabeth Córdoba from the Institute of Tropical Diseases, Dr Rafael Castro from the University of La Laguna and researcher Angélica Domínguez de Barros from the University Institute of Tropical Diseases and Public Health of the Canary Islands (Instituto Universitario de Enfermedades Tropicales y Salud Pública de Canarias [IUETSPC]), are the members of the team that developed this study together with LPF. Photo: ULL/LPF



Telomeres protect the ends of chromosomes and cellular ageing depends on their regenerative capacity. Photos: AJC1 / Telomere caps. PNG U.S.DEHGP

Left: Scarlet macaw at Loro Parque Animal Embassy, another species with a long-life expectancy. Photo: M.Pérez/LPF.
Right: The Mindanao lorikeet (*Apo-mount lorikeet*) was also one of the species participating in this study, as its longevity is remarkable in relation to its small size. Photo: R.Zamora/LPF.

ALERT! Biodiversity loss in Spain

193 species are in danger of extinction in Spain, 101 of them in the Canary Islands

The President and the Director of Loro Parque Fundación, Christoph Kiessling and Javier Almunia presented the new catalogue, essential to develop actions in defence of the natural environment. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

The Macaronesian Species Survival Centre of Loro Parque Fundación and the Spanish Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature presented a detailed report on the risk situation of endangered species in our country.

The complete study represents a giant step forward in the real knowledge of the extreme situation of biodiversity

risk that our country is facing.

In Spain, according to the IUCN Red List of threatened species, there are currently a total of 193 species in critical danger of extinction, 418 endangered species and 498 vulnerable species. Faced with this panorama, the Centre for the Survival of Species of Macaronesia (CSSM) of Loro Parque Fundación, and the Spanish Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, have published the report "State of Biodiversity in Spain 2023".

The aim of this comprehensive document is to collaborate in the implementation of the so-called Conservation Cycle defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature throughout the national territory. A series of actions that represent hope for the preservation of endangered species.

An essential catalogue for the development of actions to defend the natural environment.

The creation of this exhaustive catalogue is an enormous step forward in the work for the development of actions for the protection of threatened species, as it represents a unification of the existing scientific data and criteria. When a comparison is made between endangered species according to the IUCN Red List and those protected by the National Catalogue of Threatened Species or the ones belonging to the Autonomous Communities, an overall discrepancy of 65% can be observed. In fact, more than half of the species considered threatened by the IUCN are not classified in the national or regional catalogues, or are classified in a different category to those established in the Red List. This discrepancy makes evident the need to update the scientific information on these species in the Red List and re-evaluate them, so that the need to update or not update the catalogues can be justified, and thus harmonise the indicators of biodiversity loss with their conservation tools.

Hotspots of species loss in Spain.

In addition, several hotspots of critically endangered biodiversity have been detected within Spain. These are the areas where the greatest number of critically endangered species are concentrated, according to the IUCN, and which require greater attention and protection. These include the Doñana National Park (Andalusia), the Serranía de Cuenca Natural Park (Castilla la Mancha), the Sierra de Espadán Natural Park (Valencia), the Jandía Natural Park (Fuerteventura, Canary Islands), the Doramas Natural Park (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands), the Garajonay National Park (La Gomera, Canary Islands), Tibataje and Las Playas (El Hierro, Canary Islands).

The report also compares protected areas at regional/national/international level with Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are areas designated by the IUCN as contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. As a result of the analysis, an overlap of 65% was found between the two categories, indicating that almost two thirds of the areas designated as KBAs are within the different territorial protection categories, and just over one third would be

In the Canary Islands there are 101 critically endangered species and 141 endangered species.

The most threatened taxonomic group considering the two previous categories is that of plants with 119 species, 44 molluscs and 31 arthropods. For example, one of these species is the Crestagallo de Doramas (*Isoplexis chalcantha*), categorised as critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List and endemic to the island of Gran Canaria, so it is not possible to find it anywhere else in the world.

The partners of this project in the Canary Islands have been Loro Parque, Poema del Mar, Maroparque Fundación Canaria, Rancho Texas Lanzarote Park and Oasis Wildlife Fuerteventura.

These will carry out an educational citizen science project through the iNaturalist application, which is expected to raise awareness and increase public sensitivity to biodiversity. This programme will also serve as a tool for collecting information on endangered species, which will be of great use for their conservation. ■

+ info

Loro Parque helps Zoos in Ukraine

Loro Parque donation truck arriving in Kiev. The goods were transported with local vehicles to the animal.
Photo: Feldman-Ecopark/Ucrania

We received an emergency call from the Feldman Eco-Park in Ukraine. It is a multidisciplinary social and humanitarian organisation that has focused on saving animal and plant species at risk of extinction over the last decade.

Its founding project is based on a public association, the World Open Rehabilitation and Reintroduction Fund for Animals (WOFARR), which focuses on developing and implementing conservation strategies from the zoo, with advanced technologies and programmes to protect at-risk areas for animals and plants on the global map.

Before the war situation in their country, they became a member of LPF and the first Eastern European organisation to join the Canarian foundation's international collaborations in over 100 countries.

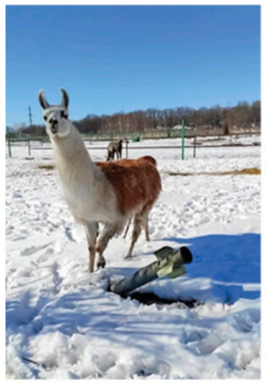
Last year Loro Parque donated €20,000 to the Ukrainian zoos and this time, the same amount (another €20,000) will be donated specifically for the birds at Feldman Ecopark, which has been under constant bombardment since the beginning of the war.

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management recently went there to see on the ground the damage both to nature and to all that had been created in the last 10 years in the region of the ecopark. Their main agenda now is to clear mines, clear the area of destroyed trees and infrastructure, assess the damage caused to nature and find the best way to make amends, restore the park and resume its conservation programmes, and above all ensure that the animals are kept in good condition in order to overcome this serious crisis. Many natural landscapes and recreational areas in Ukraine have suffered and continue to suffer from the consequences of the war.

It is important to understand that they will have to heal the wounds of nature as well as those of people.

Reputable zoos and nature rehabilitation complexes are as important as medical facilities.

Existing facilities will have to be secured and refurbished and new ones created. The Feldman Ecopark is set to be one of the pilot projects in this direction. Thanks to the strong partnership between the Belgian company Versele Laga and Loro Parque Fundación, which produces balanced and specific diets for parrots worldwide, this food is being sent from Loro Parque to effectively help with the survival of the birds kept by the Ukrainian park. ■



Following the arrival of the transport with food, keepers must transport food and animals in private vehicles to reach the areas where the survivors are. Photo: Feldman Ecopark

Scientific news and conservation in Brazil

After more than 30 years of intense work with the Hyacinth Macaws in Brazil, our prestigious collaborator Neiva Guedes has accumulated an immense amount of data in the incomparable habitat of the Pantanal. Now the team from the Instituto Arara Azul, with the support of Loro Parque Fundación, has analysed the growth patterns of the chicks that are born in the natural cavities as well as in the artificial nests placed to support the species.

A frequent observation among breeding centres and private breeders of macaws and parrots in general, is the appearance of birds with size differences. In fact, there is always a preference for larger birds because they are more attractive and more impressive.

We now know thanks to biometric studies, conducted directly in the habitat, that size differences in Hyacinth Macaws exist from the growth of the birds when they are in the nest.

And that differences in size and weight can be significant for some birds that are smaller in size.

The fact that some specimens of Hyacinth Macaws are "dwarfs" explains very well the lines of evolutionary adaptation that animals have. Their growth will depend on environmental factors and each bird will have different characteristics that allow it to adapt better or worse to the circumstances. The individuals that have more advantages thanks to their differences will be able to pass them on to their offspring, who will have more options to adapt to what the environment offers them.

The analysis shows differences between the chicks from a pair's first and second laying of eggs. There are even differences in growth speed between those hatched from the first egg and the subsequent ones.

At Loro Parque Fundación, size differences can be seen with the naked eye between the various Hyacinth Macaws. Some macaws have formidable beaks compared to others, which despite being large, have thinner and smaller beaks.

A curious fact from this study is that the total length of the males and females analysed cannot be used to determine their gender. However, the tails are longer in males than in females. ■

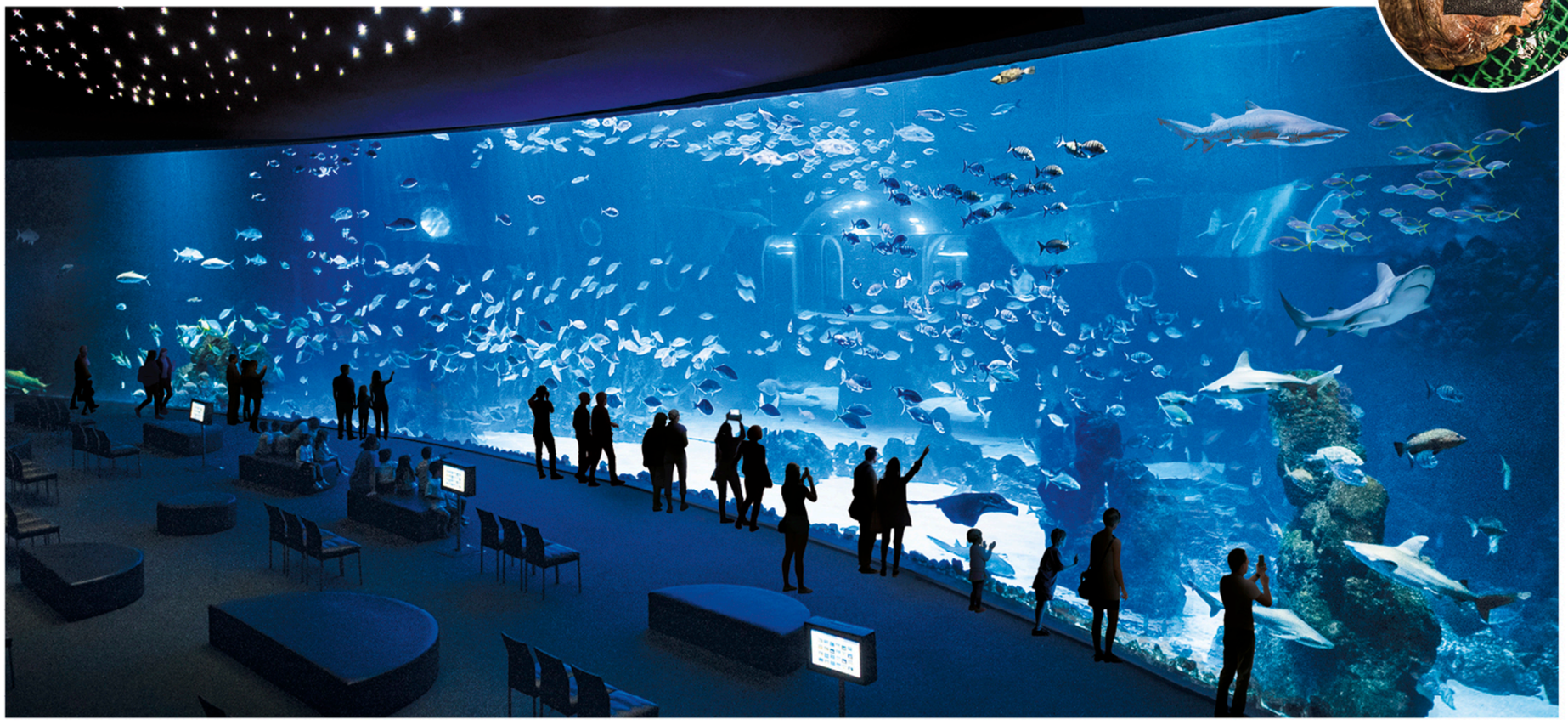
Biologist Neiva Guedes shows the harsh working conditions in a particularly wet season that has flooded the Brazilian Pantanal. Photo: IAA.

Biologists measure the size of the chicks every breeding season. Obtaining fundamental information for the conservation of the species.
Photo: Instituto Arara Azul.

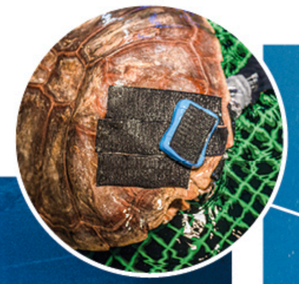
+ info

A home for Pluma and Suerte

The two sea turtles rescued in Fuerteventura are now enjoying the Deep Sea at Poema del Mar

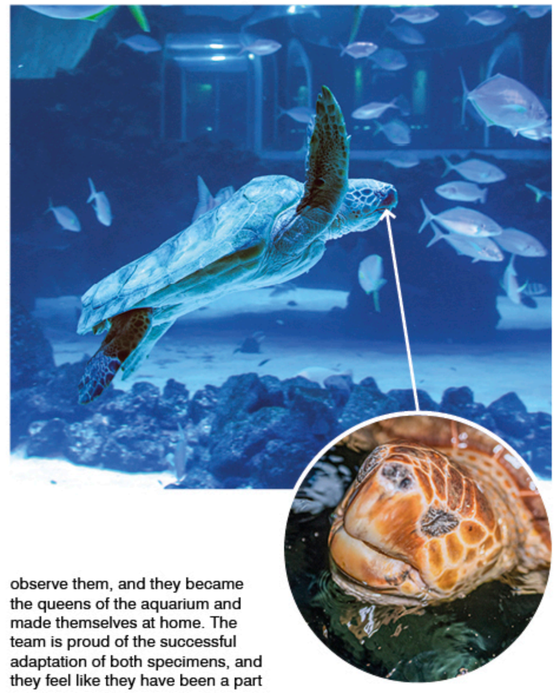


Pluma and Suerte have an immense space surrounded by other species with whom they live in harmony. Photo: PDM



▲ Pluma carries a counterweight to help her swim. Photo: PDM

▼ Suerte arrived from the sea with an eye infection that left her blind. Photo: PDM



Ángel Curros, Poema del Mar's veterinarian during the planning of the relocation. Photo: PDM

Possibly one of the most unknown facets of zoos and aquariums is their role as a home to care for animals that cannot return to the wild, and in some cases do not even have the possibility to live permanently at a rescue centre. Humans are almost always to blame for countless animals ending up at wildlife rescue centres: collisions with power lines, collisions with floating rubbish, accidental capture in fishing nets, collisions with fast boats, cuts caused by propellers, etc. On many occasions, the injuries leave irreversible consequences so that the animals cannot return to the wild. In these situations, rescue centres must consider euthanasia, because space for the admission of other injured animals is scarce and very necessary.

Pluma and Suerte are two of those sea turtles whose injuries prevent them from thriving properly in the wild.

Pluma has a severe deformity on her shell that prevents her from diving properly to find food, and Suerte lost vision in both her eyes, becoming completely blind. Fortunately, the Wildlife Rescue Centre run by the Island Council of Fuerteventura wanted to give them the opportunity to continue living in a home where they could attend to their disabilities. And so, they arrived at the Poema del Mar aquarium almost a year ago.

However, adapting to their new home was not an easy process. It was the first time in many years that both turtles had to change their routine. They were moved to a large 23-metre-long medical pool where they soon made themselves at home. Although both have been big eaters, they had to adapt to the new team, and we had to adapt to them. Suerte, being blind, was trained with the help of an underwater rattle as a feeding signal.

This acoustic target also works for Pluma and both come to eat directly from the divers when they hear it. For Pluma to swim properly, she was fitted with a counterweight on her back to help her movements, and her swimming improved day by day.

After several weeks we were able to move them to Deep Sea, a large space of 5.5 million litres of water teeming with life, where they had to adapt to the great biodiversity that inhabits this rich ecosystem. At first, as they were new, they were the focus of attention of some of the shoals of fish that live in this marine habitat, such as greater amberjacks, palometas and even white trevallies. Suerte was especially frightened because some of them came close to scratch at their shells and she didn't understand what was happening.

Over time they learned the currents, the reefs of the aquarium, the location of the large central bubble from where the public can observe them, and they became the queens of the aquarium and made themselves at home. The team is proud of the successful adaptation of both specimens, and they feel like they have been a part of the big Poema del Mar family since their arrival.

Pluma and Suerte are further proof of the importance of zoos and aquariums in the conservation of nature. If zoos and aquariums did not exist, infrastructures capable of housing different species of animals would not be available, nor would we have the staff with expertise in feeding or handling them, nor the professionals with the veterinary knowledge necessary to be able to attend to their lifelong needs. So, for all wild animals, which are increasingly exposed to man-made threats, the existence of zoos and aquariums is one more alternative for their survival. ■

+ info

Great tribute to the Indigo-winged Parrot

A street named after LPF in Colombia

Juan Carlos Noreña together with volunteers and supporters of the project. Photo: J. C. Noreña/FVS

In Santa Rosa de Cabal, Province of Risaralda, Colombia, there is a street that in recent years was popularly known by the citizens as the street of the foundation.

And all this is thanks to the conservation action that Loro Parque Fundación, in association with Fundación Vida Silvestre in Colombia, has taken in favour of one of the rarest and scarcest parrot species in the world, the Indigo-winged Parrot.

It is on this road that spectacular murals have been displayed reflecting the country's endangered parrots, to which Loro Parque Fundación has allocated over 3 million dollars in recent years to free them from imminent extinction.

This is one of the last two species to be saved from extinction thanks to LPF.

The recognition of the authorities for this enormous drive for nature has been made a reality by naming the street and describing the environmental action of both founding institutions in Spanish and English.

The bureaucratic process of naming the street began in 2019, and by the time it was placed a few years later, the species had already been upgraded from critically endangered to endangered on the international red list of threatened species.

The name of Loro Parque Fundación as an international conservation organisation will thus remain in the city's history forever on the country's street map.

And as this project has had so much national relevance, being an undisputed model of conservation worldwide, a departmental ordinance has also been issued that places the municipality of Risaralda as a global model of conservation for biodiversity. ■

+ info

LPF saving sharks in the Canaries

School shark (*Galeorhynus galeus*)

Sharks are a fascinating but often feared and even hated group of animals. These animals are of great ecological importance and are essential for maintaining the balance in marine ecosystems. Sharks are top predators, which means that they are at the top of the food chain. As such, they help control the population of other marine species, maintaining the balance of ecosystems.

If sharks were to disappear, this would have serious consequences for the oceans and their ability to provide essential resources and services, such as clean air and water, and sustainable fisheries.

In addition to their ecological importance, sharks are also an important source of economic income for coastal communities around the world, through diving tourism and ecotourism. Therefore, shark conservation is not only important for the environment, but also for the economy and human well-being. However, many shark species are endangered due to overfishing, habitat loss and pollution.

This is the case with the school shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*), a shark that has historically been caught both as a primary target and as a bycatch in industrial, artisanal, and recreational fisheries around the world. It is usually caught for its meat, fins, and liver oil. Mortality on release, when caught by mistake, varies according to the fishing gear used, with gillnet mortality ranging from 2-73% and longline mortality reported as 0%. In some Northeast Atlantic fisheries it is caught as a bycatch that is discarded, while in others it is an important target species for recreational fishing.

▲ Geographical scope

Since 2019, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has recommended limiting landings to 376 tonnes per year. The landings data are generally incomplete, as some are reported in aggregated categories that indiscriminately include several similar-looking shark species. ***The IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered and recommends in-situ research and monitoring.*** Implementing a recovery action plan and identifying conservation sites in most of its range is now a priority, entering as one of the objectives of the new sub-project that LPF is starting in 2023 within the CanBIO+ activities.

Multiple species of sharks are marketed in the Canary Islands under the name of "cazón", in some cases similar and much more common species such as smooth-hounds (*Mustelus genus*). Unfortunately, rarer and even critically endangered species such as the *Galeorhinus galeus* are also marketed. Because of this, there have been steady declines in their populations throughout their distribution range (reductions of more than 80%). For that reason, it has risen to the most threatened category of the IUCN red list in the last decade.

In this first year, researchers from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria will perform an exploratory action. ***Research work in collaboration with professional fishermen identifying the presence of sharks in order to determine a possible tagging strategy with acoustic and visual devices that will provide data on their distribution and can lay the foundations for future work on abundance estimation.***

The development of projects of this type is vital to protect these animals, limiting their fishing to sustainable levels and promoting education and awareness of their importance in marine ecosystems. ■

+ info

LPF has been financing the clean-up of the Canary Islands' coastline with PROMEMAR for 8 years

3,200 kg of marine litter has been removed

The PROMEMAR team and the volunteers who took part in the clean-up posing with the rubbish collected from the bottom of the Puerto de la Cruz wharf. Photo: PROMEMAR / LPF

The Promemar Association, with the sponsorship of Loro Parque Fundación, has carried out an underwater and coastal clean-up in Puerto de la Cruz as part of its ***"Por un Océano más Sostenible" (For a More Sustainable Ocean) project.*** During the activity, ***75 kg of rubbish was collected, which is a significant decrease compared to the almost 1,000 kg of rubbish removed in the two clean-ups carried out between 2015 and 2016.***

This reduction in the amount of rubbish collected is a positive sign that the awareness campaigns and waste reduction measures are influencing society. However, there is still a lot of work to be done to protect marine biodiversity and reduce the environmental impact of human activity on coastal ecosystems.

It is important to emphasise that underwater clean-ups should be a continuous task and not a one-off activity. ***In the last 8 years, almost 3,200 kilos of rubbish have been removed from the wharf of Puerto de la Cruz.*** This fact demonstrates the need to continue working to maintain the health of marine ecosystems and protect marine biodiversity in the long-term. In addition to underwater clean-ups, it is essential to implement preventive measures to reduce the amount of rubbish that reaches the sea. These include reducing the use of single-use plastics, improving waste management, and promoting sustainable practices in tourism.

In this regard, ***the work of organisations such as Loro Parque Fundación is crucial for the conservation of marine biodiversity.*** This organisation has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting marine species and habitats and has carried out numerous projects around the world to achieve this goal. In addition to the projects mentioned above, Loro Parque Fundación has collaborated in reintroducing sea turtles to their natural habitat, funded scientific research on marine life, and promoted education and awareness of the importance of conserving marine ecosystems.

Locally, Loro Parque Fundación has collaborated in several beach clean-up campaigns and has worked closely with local authorities and other organisations to reduce the environmental impact of tourist activity in the area.

The divers preparing for the clean-up. Photo: PROMEMAR / LPF

In conclusion, submarine clean-ups are a crucial activity to protect marine biodiversity and maintain the health of coastal ecosystems. The reduction in the amount of rubbish collected in Puerto de la Cruz compared to previous years is a positive sign that awareness and prevention measures are having an effect on society.

However, it is important to remember that underwater clean-ups should be an ongoing task and not a one-off activity, and that it is essential to implement preventive measures to reduce the amount of rubbish reaching the sea. ■

Canarian conservation on prime time

The whole of Germany was able to see the sensational animal care actions that are carried out in our archipelago

Moments before reintroducing two loggerhead sea turtles in Gran Canaria. (From left to right) Poema del Mar's veterinarian, Ángel Curros; the well-known German biologist, Matthias Reinschmidt; the President of Poema del Mar, Christoph Kiessling; Director of Loro Parque Fundación, Javier Almunia; the famous German TV presenter, Frank Elstner; and the biologist and veterinarian of the Island Council of Gran Canaria, Pascual Calabuig. Photo: LPF

One of Germany's best-known presenters, Frank Elstner, paid us a visit. In recent years he has been presenting a documentary series called "Elstner's travels: "the saviour of marine animals". On this occasion, together with the also well-known biologist Matthias Reinschmidt, they filmed several episodes about their visit to the Canary Islands. They show various conservation and species protection projects in which Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación play a leading role.

In the prime-time slot, the whole of Germany was able to enjoy international projects carried out in the Canary Islands, such as the Lear's Macaw project. The famous German presenter, the biologists Matthias Reinschmidt and Rafael Zamora have been working together on the research and dissemination of this species since 2006 and now, 17 years later, they told the camera about the sensational success of this project in which macaws born in Tenerife and reintroduced into the wild are breeding successfully in Brazil.

The projection of the good care of animals in the Canary Islands and the visualisation of the projects carried out to protect nature have been very well received in Germany. The television series includes episodes with sharks in the Bahamas and orangutans in Indonesia, closing with the grand finale of a visit to the Islands, showing conservation works on different animals, both land and sea.

A high-level environmental and tourism promotion with record-breaking ratings. ■

Biologists Rafael Zamora and Matthias Reinschmidt presented the 41st Lear's macaw born at LPF. Photo: LPF

Veterinarian Pascual Calabuig showed his great skills to recover the Canary Islands fauna. Photo: LPF

Presenter Frank Elstner witnesses the healing of a lizard endemic to Gran Canaria live. Photo: LPF

+ info

Canary Islands research on parrots and dolphins in Atlanta/USA

+ info

In March, researcher Sara Torres, in collaboration with Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación, successfully presented a poster at the annual conference of IMATA (International Marine Animal Trainers' Association), which this year was held in Atlanta in the United States.

The poster deals with the study she conducted on the ability of certain animals to repeat commands, thus demonstrating that they have memory of their own actions. To this purpose, she worked with the Blue-throated Macaws at Loro Parque Fundación, with which she conducts advanced cognition research at the Max Planck Institute at the Loro Parque Animal Embassy, and with the dolphins at the zoo, among others.

The scientific exhibition summarised on one single level requires teaching skills and scientific synthesis so that the public can grasp the development of applied science. The good resonance of this presentation echoes the important scientific advances that are achieved thanks to zoos as pillars of cutting-edge research. The results obtained in recent decades have a broad positive impact on animal care and welfare. ■

To the left: Sara Torres next to the presented poster. Above: a moment during the convention in Atlanta. Photo:S.Torres/LPF

LPF supports biology students

Like every year, Loro Parque Fundación collaborates with the organisation of the Congress of Biology Students held at the University of La Laguna. This congress is a magnificent opportunity for students to experience the exchange of knowledge through oral presentations, posters and nature photographs that are shared, over two days, in the same way as they would be at a scientific congress.

A scientific committee formed by professors of the biology degree selects the best works by the students, which are awarded and receive the prizes provided by Loro Parque Fundación. ***In this way, Loro Parque Fundación aims to promote scientific vocations among biology students and collaborate with an event in which undergraduate students are the stars of the show.***

During these conferences, a group of young speakers talked about topics as varied as the role played by sharks in the oceans, the structure of spider webs, the importance of studying cells in Alzheimer's disease and the fascinating fish that inhabit the ecosystems of the Canary Islands' waters.

Loro Parque Fundación values their commitment to the scientific community in the Canary Islands, which is currently recognised worldwide for the quality of the training given at their universities and for their involvement in the development of research applied to the conservation of species. ■

The organisers of the biology student congress together with the speakers and authors of the winning posters: Molaye Mohamed-Ahid Nuez and Adam Khan. Sheila García de Pero-Sanz and Kendra Borges Afonso. Ecological Transition and Innovation Award: Raúl Luis Afonso Dorta and Pedro Aurelio Sánchez Hernández Abad. Best Photograph Award: David Chong Pérez. Photo: LPF

National Geographic selects a photo taken by LPF

as best parrot photo of the century

At the top of the 100 best photos of the century is a snapshot taken at Loro Parque Fundación by distinguished American photographer Joel Sartore, who has photographed a total of ***13,677 species*** of the world's animals for the Photo Ark project, a pioneering work that aims to showcase the planet's biodiversity and raise awareness of the threats facing animals.

One of his photographs, of an Edwards Fig Parrot *(Psittaculirostris edwardsii)* ***at Loro Parque Fundación, the largest living genetic parrot reserve in the world, was selected by National Geographic as one of the 100 best photographs of the century.***

This prestigious photographer has taken some 44,000 photographs so far to protect biodiversity on Planet Earth. He is aware that such important work can only be done thanks to specialised zoological institutions.

Approximately 25,000 species are under human care and, so far, Sartore has been able to portray 13,677 of them in his more than 44,000 images and videos taken at zoos, aquariums and reserves all over the world, including Spain, New Zealand, Vietnam and Uganda.

This work *"allows us to get to know the species better, to have images that in nature are very difficult to reflect in detail and to have a method that will also serve in the long term for the scientific world"* according to Sartore, which needs this information to have a true record of the appearance of the most endangered species. Many of them are represented for science through taxidermy at museums and are far from being a true image of the animals.

In this context, Loro Parque as an Animal Embassy stresses the need to raise public awareness of the threats facing animals in the light of the climate crisis and the sixth mass extinction, accelerated by the increase in population, which reached 8 billion people in 2022.

The fact that this photo was taken at the Canary Island foundation has a high conservation value as it explains in itself, once again, the importance of species management at accredited zoos as a powerful tool for conservation.

There are currently ***over 42,100 species threatened with extinction*** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, including 41% of amphibians, 37% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef-building corals, 34% of conifers, 27% of mammals and 13% of birds.

About Joel Sartore

Joel Sartore, award-winning photographer, author and 2018 National Geographic Explorer of the Year, is a regular contributor to National Geographic and Eagle Scout. Throughout his career he has documented endangered species and landscapes around the world. He is also the founder of Photo Ark, a 25-year-old photographic catalogue that seeks to save species and their habitats.

His work, together with the scientists from Loro Parque Fundación, continues to add species to this important global catalogue of species over time.

"I have been to more than 700 zoos and wildlife sanctuaries around the world to develop this project, yet I have found few places that rival Loro Parque", *explains Joel Sartore.*

Its conservation breeding centre is huge, world-class, and staffed by people who care deeply. They are aware of how vital it is, not only to save rare birds, but to educate the public that the natural world is worth saving... and that there is still time.

"When we save other species, we are really saving ourselves". ■

Facial plumage of an Edwards fig parrot at Loro Parque Fundación. Photo: Joel Sartore / PHOTOARK en LPF

+ info

LORO PARQUE
FUNDACIÓN
WE CARE

Let's protect the Natural Treasure of the Canary Islands!

*Bull ray
Aetomylaeus bovinus
Canary Islands

*Angel shark
Squatina squatina
Canary Islands

*Scalloped hammerhead shark
Sphyna lewini
Canary Islands

***There are 101 critically endangered Canarian species, and it is our responsibility to preserve them for future generations.**

*Chuchanga Samarines
Hemicycla plicaria
Tenerife

*Chuchanga de Arinaga
Theba arinagae
Gran Canaria

*Cigarrón Palo Gomero
Acrostira bellamyi
La Gomera

*La Palma Lotus vine
Lotus pyranthus
La Palma