

Canopsitta

The Loro Parque Fundación newsletter

**SPECTACULAR
RESULTS WITH THE
LEAR'S MACAW**

**MACARONESIA
SANCTUARY IN THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**NEW DIMENSION
IN SPECIES RESEARCH**

2023
125

**EXCEPTIONAL
GALAPAGOS TORTOISE
HATCHLINGS**



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Lear's Macaw. Photo: T. Filadelfo

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LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN
WE CARE

Dear friends,

We are about to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Loro Parque Fundación and on the eve of this special event, the annual meeting of our Advisory Board has taken place. For this unique occasion it has decided to allocate an unprecedented amount of 1.6 million dollars to the real conservation of the species.

Adding up the previous 29 years, LPF's total investment to save species will reach 28 million dollars. This achievement has been made possible thanks to you, the visitors of Loro Parque, and our loyal sponsors. It has become a reality that saves animal species threatened with extinction in the Canary Islands and around the world. It is for this reason that we would like to thank you for your continued support to make this possible. Your continued support is invaluable, and it enables us to expand to 76 active projects in the upcoming year 2024

We appreciate the joint support of the Government of the Canary Islands for the CANBIO project, where advanced science enables us to protect and better understand the species of our islands. We also congratulate Prof. Antonio Fernández, our distinguished advisor, for placing the Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety (IUSA) at the helm of the World Network of Collaborating Centers of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). It is a source of pride for all Canarians and for us who work with him.

I must emphasize the presentation of Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación, in the European Parliament in Brussels, where the project to establish a marine sanctuary of biodiversity in the waters of Macaronesia was presented, after more than forty years of our founder's idea, Wolfgang Kiessling. For a week and taking up a floor of the European Parliament, the basis of this concept was laid out and the importance of extending the moratorium on the use of sonar, which LPF once managed to limit in our region of the Canary waters, was also discussed. Today, due to this moratorium, our islands have a unique reservoir for marine life.

Longing for a future in which the serious conflicts of current wars affecting both humans and the environment cease, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who reads and shares LPF's successes. In this year, with 75 projects in 37 countries, we have been able to effectively fight to protect species worldwide. We hope that each and every one of our collaborators, the teams at Loro Parque, Loro Parque Fundación, and the personnel of the prominent entities at all levels with whom we work, feel proud of these achievements, and that the coming year brings us peace and much happiness.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling,
President of Loro Parque Fundación



Spectacular results with the Lear's Macaw in Brazil

Loro Parque Fundación has managed to strengthen a species that was on the verge of extinction with the birth of three new Lear's Macaw chicks in the Brazilian caatinga. This species, considered functionally extinct in 1992, has managed to reproduce in its original habitat, after a long project of reproduction and reintroduction under human care that began at the Foundation's facilities in Tenerife.

This success confirms, once again, the relevance of the work of zoos in the preservation of biodiversity, proving that animals bred in zoos can be perfectly reintroduced into the wild with scientific backing. This case also confirms the extraordinary capacity to return to their habitat and reproduce. One of the pairs born on the island had already achieved this in the previous season. Remarkably, this year the pair managed to raise three chicks in the same clutch on its own, an event that occurs in only 3% of wild pairs.

This great achievement is the result of intensive efforts to teach the animals the skills they need to survive in the wild.

In 2006, the Brazilian government sent a pair of Lear's Macaws to Tenerife to be the source of breeding specimens that could be reintroduced and reproduce in their original biome. Only six months after their arrival at the foundation's breeding station and following the involvement of the entire technical and human team of the accredited zoological centre, the first chicks were born. Since then, more

than 41 Lear's Macaw chicks have been born, 19 of which were sent to Brazil to continue with the breeding programme under human care in different accredited institutions.

Eight macaws were successfully reintroduced in 2019. Among these eight individuals, a pair was spontaneously created and managed to find a suitable cliff for breeding on their own. Now, this pair has procreated for the second time with a spectacular achievement, bringing forth these three chicks. This solidly confirms the success of the intensive work that has been carried out for more than ten years, in which Loro Parque Fundación has collaborated with the Brazilian Government and local scientific institutions.

The pair of macaws that have reproduced in the wild were born in Loro Parque Fundación within the breeding programme



The three new Lear's Macaw chicks are the offspring of a pair born in Tenerife. Photo: LPF

that was developed to confront the extreme risk situation in which this species found itself in 1990, with only 22 specimens.

It should be borne in mind that reintroduction processes are particularly complex as they require personality analysis of each specimen, training with scientific methods to ensure their survival in the wild and resources to maintain a scientific team in the field to support the process before and after the reintroductions. ■



+ info



Video

Loro Parque is a safety net for endangered species

The IUCN Species Survival Commission has this year recognised the vital contribution of zoos and aquariums to the conservation of species

and the prevention of their extinction.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is considered the world authority on species' threat status and the

measures needed to safeguard them. And as an integral part of it, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) is the world's largest scientific network of conservation experts.

In this context and as a zoological centre accredited by the most important national and international institutions, Loro Parque plays a leading role worldwide.

Throughout the year 2023, the Animal Embassy of Tenerife has welcomed some rare species under human care that are very necessary to form the safety net of their peers in the wild.

The most outstanding births are a two-toed sloth, king penguin and rockhopper penguin chicks, ring-tailed lemurs, Nicobar pigeons, Australian black swans, zebra sharks, seahorses, clown fish, several Chilean flamingo chicks and a large number of African spurred tortoises, together with the recent

birth of world importance of six Galapagos tortoises.

All of these are important births, as they are at risk of extinction in the wild and are in addition to some 1,000 parrot chicks of the most diverse endangered species. And to top it all off, almost at the end of the year, two specimens of the emblematic crowned cranes were born, which have been successfully bred by their parents. The latter species, now endangered in Africa, has seen a drastic reduction of almost 80% of its wild populations in recent decades due to human activities.

Now more than ever, the accredited zoo has a vital role to play in the recovery of wildlife. The sum of the factors, involving the awareness of its visitors through education, research and the actual conservation of species, results in a powerful tool in favour of biodiversity. ■



A baby sloth born this year at Loro Parque. Photo: M.Pérez/LPF

Excellence: Loro Parque Fundación Awards at the ULL



Rafael Zamora (LPF Scientific Director), Francisco Javier García Rodríguez (Rector of the ULL), María del Mar Alfonso Rodríguez (Dean of the Faculty of Science), Pedro Alberto Hernández Leal (Secretary of the Faculty of Science) and one of the awarded students, Mónica Monzón Crespo. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

As part of the festivities in honour of Saint Albert the Great 2023, patron of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of La Laguna (ULL), the Dean's Office of the Faculty held an academic ceremony in the Aula Magna of the Physics and Mathematics building. Once again, this year the awards ceremony was held to honour the best end-of-degree projects in Biology and the science area, which includes Environmental Sciences, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, with a prize of €6,000.

On behalf of Loro Parque Fundación, the scientific director, Rafael Zamora, presented the prizes for the best final degree projects for the 2022-2023 academic year. Eight students were awarded for their projects focusing on Canarian biodiversity and its preservation.

The winning projects covered a wide range of topics, from the study of the endemic bee of the Canary Islands

and its diversity, the use of satellite data for mapping marine habitats, analysis of the presence of microplastics in agricultural soils or the search for plant growth-promoting bacteria for the recovery of the Teide broom.

These award-winning projects were carefully selected from more than 36 entries of excellent quality by a jury composed of professors from the University of La Laguna and the Director of Loro Parque Fundación, Javier Almunia.

We trust that these awards will continue to encourage academic excellence and motivate initiatives aimed at preserving biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, as well as protecting and promoting environmental sustainability. ■

Exceptional conservation contribution: 1.600.000 \$



Rafael Zamora (LPF Scientific Director), board members Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez, Prof. Dr. Vincent Janik, Dr. Robin Ganzert, Christoph Kiessling (LPF President), Isabel Kiessling (LPF Board of Trustees), Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt (LPF board member), Cybell Kiessling (LPF Board of Trustees), Dr. Javier Almunia (LPF Director) and Prof. Dr. Antonio Fernández (LPF board member). Photo: LPF

Following an extensive selection process of proposals from all over the world, the annual meeting of the scientific board of the Loro Parque Fundación was a great success.

Loro Parque Fundación's expert committee consists of true leaders in global conservation. These include eminent ecologist Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez, who is currently the chairman of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; Prof. Dr. Vincent M. Janik, illustrious scientific representative of the Scottish Maritime Institute at the University of St. Andrews; Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane, the

leading animal welfare organisation in the United States; Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt, former Director of Loro Parque and now Director of the Karlsruhe Zoo, who as a world expert is one of the leading figures in animal conservation in all German-speaking countries, and Prof. Dr. Antonio Fernández Rodríguez, Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, included in the list of the best researchers in the world and recently appointed director of the University Institute of Animal and Food Health (IUSA) in the board of the World Network of Collaborating Centres of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). They are the ones who, impartially and with scientific

criteria, determine the course of action that will make a difference in the care of species that need it most.

In 2024 Loro Parque Fundación will make a major investment of 1,600,000 dollars, especially given that it will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. This will be earmarked for projects developed around the world directly aimed at protecting critically endangered species and their ecosystems, and recovering those that are in danger of extinction.

250,000 euros will be devoted to projects for

the protection of Canary Islands species, within the CanBio projects that focus on marine species and collaborate with the Government of the Canary Islands, the University of La Laguna and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

This financial contribution, which is in addition to the almost 26 million dollars invested to date, is agreed each year by the Scientific Council, which brings together leading international specialists recognised as true leaders in the field of species protection. ■

The Colombian people turn to the Yellow-eared Parrot



Yellow-eared Parrot in its habitat. Photo: FVS

The **Yellow-eared Parrot Festival** took place during the month of November in the town of Roncesvalles (Tolima) in Colombia. This meeting had not been held for more than five years and, thanks to the support of Fundación Vida Silvestre and Loro Parque Fundación, among others, this important event has been revived.

It included an academic agenda in which our renowned researcher Juan Carlos Noreña, representing Fundación Vida Silvestre and Loro Parque Fundación, updated the status of the high Andean parrot conservation projects.

Finally, the Yellow-eared Parrot Carnival was revived on this occasion, with a parade of locals dressed in allegorical costumes in the colours of the parrot, massively marching through the streets to celebrate the event.

During the event, a street in Roncesvalles was named after the parrot, explaining the conservation trajectory of the species thanks to LPF.

The immense involvement of the community over the years during which Loro Parque Fundación has provided technical and financial support for the recovery of this endangered species, is reflected in the local traditions. ■



Juan Carlos Noreña with the families in their yellow-eared parrot costumes. Photo: FVS



The Queen of Roncesvalles, Betsy Garzón, wore a design inspired by the endangered species. Photo: FVS



In gratitude, the foundation presented the Municipality with a commemorative plaque explaining the intense conservation work being done for the yellow-eared parrot, which will name one of the town's main streets.

Global Humane delivers the "Wolfgang Kiessling Prize" on Capitol Hill

In September, **the Capitol in Washington** became the focal point of the battle for the defense of biodiversity at an event where Global Humane recognised the value of the work of a scientist who has dedicated his life to biodiversity conservation: **Theo Pagel**.

The award is named in homage to the founder of **Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación**, considered by Global Humane as a global figurehead in the fight for the preservation of species.

This award, beyond being a public recognition by this renowned independent association, is a transcendent moment in the fight for the defense of biodiversity, as Wolfgang Kiessling stated in his inaugural speech at the event. In addition to the **80,000-euro prize money**, which will be used for new projects to save species, it is a wake-up call from the

US capital to all the authorities and people committed to the planet's environment.

Theo Pagel, General Director of the Cologne Zoo (Germany) has been awarded this year's Wolfgang Kiessling

GLOBAL HUMANE FIRST TO SERVE KIESSLING PRIZE

International Award for Species Conservation. Pagel is an example of a life dedicated to the protection and rescue of species. He is chairman of the IUCN Red List of Threatened

Species Committee and is a former president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

Global Humane is one of the world's largest organisations for the protection, monitoring, and defense of animal rights. Loro Parque was one of the places that came under their scrutiny. Through several days of auditing, the organisation

well-being of the animals it houses and cares for, it makes an intensive effort to protect species. This vision of active advocacy and work in favour of the care of all species is part of the DNA that **Wolfgang Kiessling, founder, and president of Loro Parque**, imprinted on the species conservation centre from the very beginning.

This remarkable commitment meant that when it came to creating the **Species Preservation Award**, the founder and president of Loro Parque was asked to name it after him. A distinction that Kiessling received as an honour:

"This award is an honour because it represents the recognition of a work that we do every day with commitment, effort and dedication and to which I have dedicated my whole life". ■

determined that the welfare levels, facilities, procedures, and care of the animals residing at Loro Parque exceeded the standards found around the world.

Loro Parque was deemed by the auditors to be an extraordinary international benchmark, because beyond its commitment to the



Video



Wolfgang Kiessling, the honoured Dr. Theo Pagel, Dr. Robin Ganzert and John Payne during the award ceremony.

Photo: AH

The Government of the Canary Islands and LPF propose the Sanctuary for Macaronesia at the European Parliament



View of the exhibition that Loro Parque Fundación placed on the third floor of the European Parliament in Brussels.

Photo: A. Azcárate / LPF

The creation of a Marine Sanctuary in Macaronesia reached the European Parliament through an intensive week of actions organised by Loro Parque Fundación with the support of the European People's Party (EPP) MEP, Gabriel Mato. The events, which began on Monday 23 October and lasted until Friday 27 October, revolved around a **spectacular exhibition which was inaugurated in the parliamentary building.** The event was attended by around a hundred people, including MEPs Juan Fernando López Aguilar and Izaskun Bilbao, members of the European Parliament's Environment Committee, representatives of the Spanish Embassy to the EU, Miguel Angel Morcuende, Director General of Natural Areas and Biodiversity of the Canary Islands Government, technicians from the Canary Islands Delegation in Brussels

and representatives of the various participating organisations. **"The Canary Islands are part of Macaronesia, a world region of exceptional natural wealth. I am aware of the importance of the Canary Islands, one of the biggest biodiversity hotspots, with 17,000 terrestrial and 9,000 marine species,"** said Gabriel Mato, Canary Islands MEP for the EPP Group, at the opening of the exhibition "From red to green: preserving the world's biodiversity". **An essential project for the defense of biodiversity.** The week of actions presented the different aspects of the proposal through three parallel events held by the experts who travelled to Brussels.



Prof. Boris Culik, Dr. Jesús de la Fuente (IUSA) and Dr. Javier Almunia (Director of Loro Parque Fundación), gave a presentation during the first side event; **Guardians of the Deep: Towards the Declaration of a Marine Biodiversity Sanctuary in Macaronesia**, aimed at making visible the importance of promoting a Marine Biodiversity Sanctuary in Macaronesia, making the most of the recent approval by the UN of an agreement for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine resources outside jurisdictional waters (in international waters). It is worth adding that this request was already initiated in the 1980s, as part of Loro Parque Fundación's commitment to the defense of biodiversity. This event provided an extraordinary opportunity to invite representatives of the governments of the Canary Islands, Azores, Madeira, Cape Verde, Spain and Portugal to discuss the possibilities and common interests in



The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by MEPs and senior officials of the European Parliament. Photo: A. Azcárate / LPF



Dr. Javier Almunia, director of the Loro Parque Fundación, at one of the meetings to present LPF's proposals in the Parliament. Photo: A. Azcárate / LPF



Canary Islands MEP Gabriel Mato has been the defender of the initiative in the European Parliament. Photo: A. Azcárate/LPF

the creation of a marine protected area in the region under the IUCN structure and under the new UN High Seas Treaty. The second side event, **Echoes of Protection: Extending the Military Sonar Moratorium to Macaronesia**, was aimed at raising awareness of LPF's proposal to extend the current moratorium on the use of mid-frequency active SONAR, currently set at 50 nautical miles from the Canary Islands to the whole of Macaronesia. The event highlighted both the non-binding declaration of the European Parliament in 2004 and the motion approved by the IUCN World Congress in 2020 and included presentations by Prof. Antonio Fernández (ULPGC) and Dr. Javier Almunia (Director of Loro Parque Fundación). At the end of the meeting, the specific situation of each of the archipelagos was discussed and consideration was given to the creation of a working group to advance the protection of the region. During the third side event, **Preserving Biodiversity: Zoos as Catalysts for the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030**, the role of zoos and aquariums as tools for biodiversity conservation was made visible, associating it with a very important policy for Europe, which is the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030. This presentation featured presentations by several experts: Dr. Lorenzo von Fersen (Chairman of the EAAM Scientific Committee), Martin Boye (EAAM President Elect), Prof. Boris Culik and Dr. Javier Almunia (Director of Loro Parque Fundación).

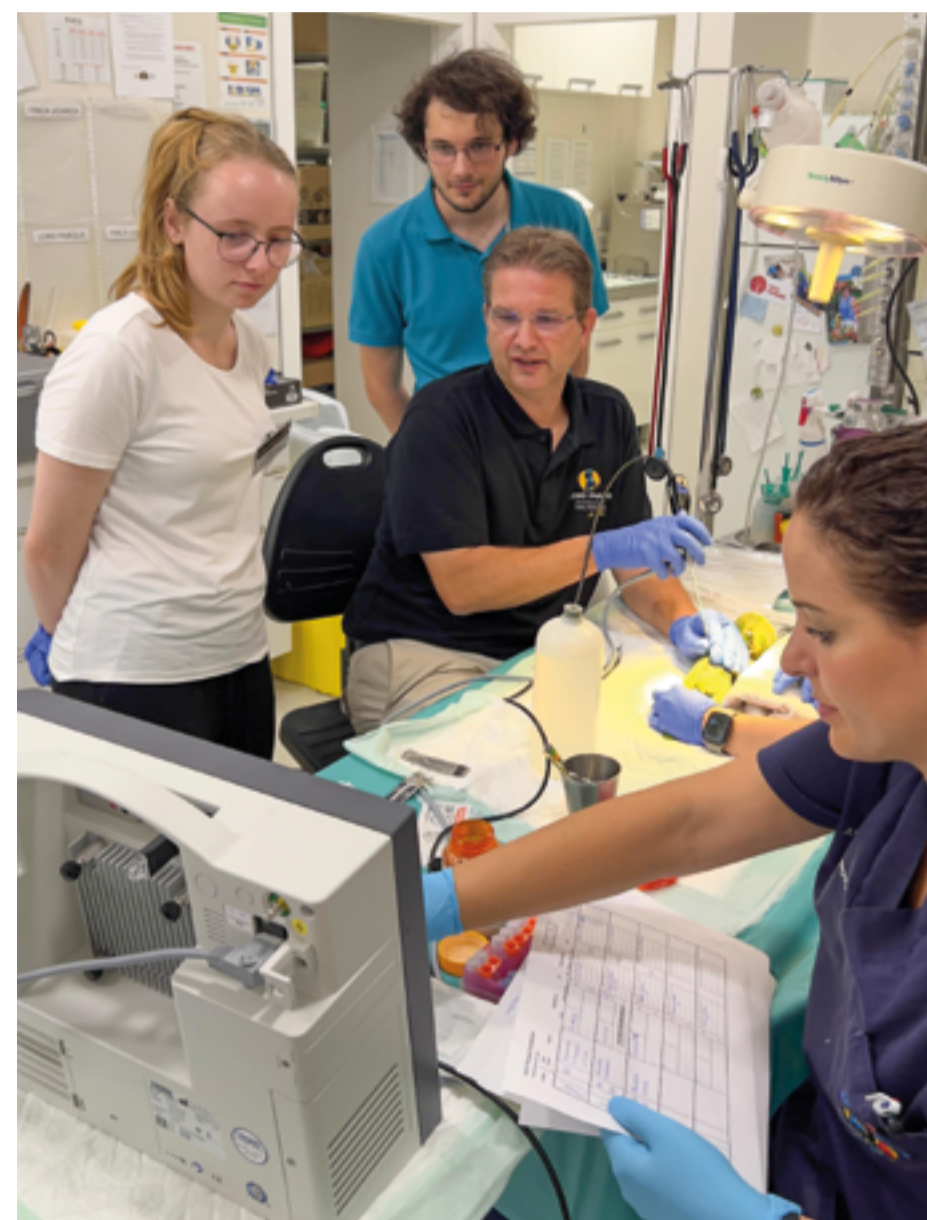
The founder and honorary president of Loro Parque Fundación, Wolfgang Kiessling, recalled with regret that the island of Tenerife has recently lost a third of its forest area, and expressed his support for society as a whole to work together to defend nature: **"50 years after its creation, Loro Parque has earned a position of international excellence in scientific matters, working in education, research and conservation, three factors that are increasingly recognised by environmental and biodiversity advocates"**, said Kiessling, who ended by thanking everyone **"for coming to the heart of Europe"**. This exhibition, as well as the meetings, debates, and exchange of knowledge and projects within the EU framework, was made possible thanks to the collaboration of Loro Parque Fundación, the Centre for the Survival of Macaronesian Species (CSS Macaronesia), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Species Survival Commission (SSC), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), and the Reverse the Red movement. ■



Advanced training in animal welfare



Video



Veterinary students from Germany led by renowned Professor Michael Lierz culminate their internship training at Loro Parque as an advanced conservation centre in clinical management. Photo:LPF

The best students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the prestigious University Giessen in Germany came to complete their training with the team of biologists and veterinarians of Loro Parque Fundación.

The Animal Embassy, as part of its work to support education, receives every year about 20 students of this branch of science, who come to complete their training. On this occasion, a new group of students has had the opportunity to learn, together with the team of professionals who care for the animals on a daily basis, in theoretical and practical training. Over time, this collaboration, which has proven to be highly effective, has given the students a real and highly varied perspective on advanced zoological management and on how to create and maintain a level

of care that guarantees maximum welfare for the animals under human management: this includes a special focus on preventive veterinary medicine.

Already hundreds of students have gone on to become highly respected veterinarians worldwide, taking with them this training that broadens their professional perspective on dealing with animals.



LPF's scientific director trains the students also with knowledge of animals and their ecosystems. Photo: LPF

Biodiversity advocates Michael Lierz and LPF ambassador Bärbel Köhler came to Tenerife to reinforce the training of the new professionals.

Laboratory techniques were taught in a practical way by the ambassador of the foundation Bärbel Köhler, whose experience in clinical animal diagnostics in different parts of the world gives the students a good insight into what their work might be like in the near future. Thanks to their knowledge of humane care, they can also safely work with wild animals in need.

The professionals in charge of the mammal, clinical, penguin, aquarium and bird conservation departments gave them the opportunity to be present at key moments in the day-to-day management, as well as in the preparation of food, cleaning, and development of care protocols in the different facilities.

Rafael Zamora, scientific director, biologist, and zoology expert, represented the Spanish institution as tutor and professor responsible for the German university. He gave them several lectures that related the importance of the basics of

knowledge with direct experience, which must be constantly reinforced to keep up to date with the latest advances. Students have been able to witness first-hand how to work with the Computerised Axial Tomography that Loro Parque has just implemented among its technological advances, placing it at the forefront of the world's accredited zoological centres. ■



Dr Francesco Grande during the training sessions at the Animal Embassy. Photo:LPF



LPF ambassador Bärbel Köhler together with LPF nurses during the training. Photo: LPF



LPF ambassador Bärbel Köhler guided the students in clinical diagnostics. Photo: LPF

“Premio Gorila Award” to two Biodiversity Advocates



Matthias Reinschmidt, Frank Elstner, Wolfgang Kiessling, Rosa Dávila and Manuel Domínguez during the Gorilla Award ceremony. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

The Gorilla Prize honoured two great advocates of Biodiversity.

Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt, former director of the Loro Parque Fundación and currently director of the Karlsruhe Zoo in Germany, together with the famous German presenter Frank Elstner, successfully raised awareness for the conservation of species all over the world.

Frank Elstner began his travels with Matthias Reinschmidt on one of the foundation's most important projects, visiting the habitat of the Lear's Macaw in Brazil upon the invitation of Wolfgang

Kiessling. This was the start of a series of 12 episodes, broadcast in all German-speaking countries, with enormous success.

This award has now been presented 20 times and has honoured important Spaniards such as Mr. Miguél Fluxá of the Iberostar group, Mr. Ricardo

Melchior President of the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, Mr. Juan José Hidalgo of Globalia and Professor Antonio Fernández of the Instituto Universitario de Sanidad Animal (University Institute of Animal Health).

The event was attended by Wolfgang Kiessling, President of Loro Parque, as well as the Vice President of the Canary Islands Government, Manuel Domínguez, the President of the Cabildo de Tenerife, Rosa Dávila, Marco González, Mayor of Puerto de la Cruz and Christoph Kiessling, President of Loro Parque Fundación, among an important representation of distinguished guests of the most relevant institutions of the islands.

This recognition adds to the actions that Loro Parque carries out in support of biodiversity and the preservation of endangered species. ■



Matthias Reinschmidt during his acceptance speech at the award ceremony. From left to right: Christoph Kiessling (President of Loro Parque Fundación), Rosa Dávila (President of the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife), Wolfgang Kiessling (President of Loro Parque), Manuel Domínguez (Minister of Economy, Industry, Commerce and Entrepreneurship of the Government of the Canary Islands) and Marco González (Mayor of Puerto de la Cruz). Photo: Moisés Pérez/LPF



Video

Longer life span in accredited zoos



Applied research in zoological centers is currently one of the most powerful tools for species conservation.

Photo: LPF

A study covering 200 years of computer records of animals kept under human care on the longevity of marine mammals reveals significant advances in animal welfare.

Just as humans are now living longer lives due to advances in medicine and care, so too are marine mammals in accredited zoos and aquariums achieving as much as a threefold increase in life expectancy according to this new study published in "Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences".

The study focuses on 200 years of data from the Zoological Information Management System through the Species360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) programme, which the researchers have used to examine longevity and equality in life expectancy.

Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación run this advanced record-keeping programme where every piece of biological data becomes part of an impressive database of more than 38,000 animals. It is the sum of the last 50 years of advanced work

with the different species. The biological, clinical, and scientific value is incalculable.

The recent study reveals that four species of marine mammals are living longer in zoological institutions than in the past, a result of advances in welfare-focused animal care practices. The study, led by Species360 and Dr Morgane Tidière, a researcher at the University of Southern Denmark, in collaboration with 41 co-authors from academic, governmental, and

zoological institutions around the world, is the first to jointly examine life expectancy and life parity as indicators of population welfare in marine mammal species.

The study also shows that marine mammal species live up to three times longer in zoological institutions than in the wild due to advances in welfare-focused animal care practices.

The same statistical methods used to assess improvements in human population welfare have

been used to analyse data from the world's largest database of information on wild animals in human care.

The study analysed 200 years of ZIMS data, from the early 19th century to 2020, to see whether four marine mammal species - the harbour seal, California sea lion, polar bear and common bottlenose dolphin - have improved their living conditions under human care.

Dr. Morgane Tidière, the lead scientist on the study, explained that the findings indicate significant progress in improving the welfare of marine mammals in zoological institutions due to better management practices in progressive zoos and aquariums. These professional facilities today cannot compare with those of 30 years ago.

The researchers note that these results reflect the average welfare of marine mammals in the facilities of accredited zoological institutions, rather than demonstrating an overall minimum standard achieved by all zoos and aquariums worldwide.

They hope that the results will inspire other institutions, which are not part of professional zoo and aquarium bodies, to evaluate possible improvements in their animal management practices.

These significant results of this study are very important at a time when the animal world, often out of ignorance, makes negative generalisations about the welfare of animals in zoos and aquariums around the world, casting them all in the same light, without differentiating accredited centres with proven effectiveness in the management and conservation of species.

The results of this study contribute to the ongoing dialogue on animal welfare in zoos and aquariums and will help inform future policy decisions. Again, it demonstrates the great importance of scientific research in understanding and improving the lives of animals in zoological institutions and the environment. Preliminary results have already informed legislative decisions in France and Spain, guiding evidence-based measures on the care of marine mammals in these environments. ■

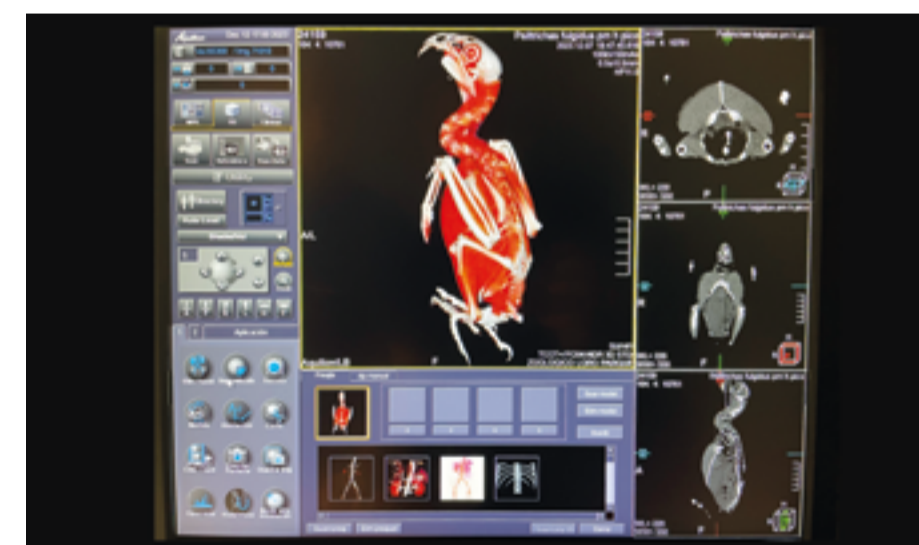


Los centros zoológicos acreditados han logrado rescatar de la extinción a muchas especies gracias al trabajo desarrollado durante décadas. Foto: M.Pérez/LPF



+ info

A new dimension in species research



Loro Parque's veterinary team now has a powerful diagnostic tool. Veterinarians Inmaculada Gallardo and Francesco Grande during their work with the CAT scanner. Photo: A. Azcárate/ LPF



Loro Parque, as an Animal Embassy and accredited zoological centre, has incorporated high-resolution computerised axial tomography (CAT) to its veterinary diagnostic systems. This acquisition represents a new and notable advance that offers the institution's clinical team a highly valuable tool for the health care of the living beings that live under its care.

The CAT scanner represents an

investment of over 375,000 euros and completes the modern veterinary care facilities that provide care for the animals at the animal embassy.

Capable of showing three-dimensional internal structures in the animals, it will also allow advanced interpretation to complete the important analysis and

collection of data that Loro Parque Fundación carries out in its work for the protection and recovery of species worldwide.

CT scanning technology is currently the safest and most efficient method for observing in detail the internal organs, blood vessels, bones, and soft tissues of the organism. The procedure is performed in a non-invasive way, by taking X-rays around the patient's body, which represent, in different planes, all the structures

to be analysed. Unlike conventional radiography, here the tissue is examined in thin sections, or planes, thus eliminating the overlapping that we see in x-rays. ■



Video

Cleaning up the Canarian ecosystems for 10 years

On its 10th Anniversary, Promemar presented an award to Loro Parque Fundación as a token of gratitude for the uninterrupted support given during this time.

Ten years and 58 tons of waste removed from the Canarian coasts by the Promemar association, an

NGO in charge of cleaning the coasts and seabed of Tenerife.

Throughout its 10 years of activity, Promemar has collected a wide variety of debris from the Canary Islands' coasts, carrying out both land and underwater clean-ups, where it has been possible to find a wide range of objects, from tyres to masks and plastics. Its president, Conrado Cabeza, told how they had found such odd items such as a wedding dress or a safety deposit box.

The organisation, together with the Loro Parque Fundación, has developed numerous

educational activities, such as workshops and talks, to raise awareness among the youngest about caring for the marine environment.

Loro Parque Fundación was the first environmental protection organisation to notice the work they were doing and was their first supporter. ■



Video



The President of Promemar Conrado Cabeza together with his team at the 10th anniversary in Loro Parque Animal Embassy. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF



All kinds of waste are removed with the intervention of volunteers who are aware of the importance of this mission for the Canary Islands. Photo: Promemar/LPF

Loro Parque Fundación special guest in Germany



LPF scientific director Rafael Zamora and the director of the University of Giessen Michael Lierz during their speeches. Photo:LPF

Loro Parque Fundación was the guest star in the city of Achern, Germany, during one of the country's most important meetings dedicated to parrots. The 'Papageienmesse' had not been held for three years due to the pandemic and expectations were high to see if it would have the same gathering capacity as in previous editions, which had been able to bring together the sector on a massive scale.

This time the meeting was once again a success, with the presence of the most important personalities in

parrot aviculture in Germany. Moderated by the great representatives of psittaculture in Germany, Matthias Reinschmidt, Michael Lierz, Marcellus Bürckle, the meeting was very successful in terms of participation and audience.

On this occasion, the speakers summarised their topics to allow the audience to ask any questions they desired.

Our scientific director Rafael Zamora was the special guest, who

gave two speeches on the extensive work of Loro Parque Fundación both in the advanced management and breeding of parrots, as well as their direct protection in the countries of origin where the species are endangered.



The presentation of temporary installations for parrots was once again one of the main attractions of this kind of meeting, where the ornamentation of the rooms plays an important role. Photo: LPF



LPF had an active presence at the well-attended event. Photo: LPF

The conclave brought together well-known exhibitors from all over Germany, not only from the environmental enrichment sections, but also from the specialised pet trade and the publishing sector, which was well represented by the renowned Arndt Verlag group. ■

Exceptional hatchlings of Galapagos tortoises in Europe

Six Galapagos Giant Tortoises, **an endangered species**, have been born in Loro Parque's Animal Embassy.

This is a milestone, as it is a new achievement in the preservation of species through accredited zoological institutions.

Currently, only specimens have been born at the Loro Parque Animal Embassy. Just two institutions in Europe have been successful in the reproduction of this species.

Galapagos tortoises are included in the IUCN red list of species, the entity that determines their conservation status and worldwide threat. This is the first time that this species has reproduced in the Tenerife zoological centre and these six small tortoises are a new hope for the species.

Tom, who is over 50 years old, is the father of these new specimens. He is one of the most beloved animals at Loro Parque where he lives with two females, Tomasa and Ronaldinha, mothers of the newborns. They arrived from two zoological centres, one in Vienna and the other in Zurich, and are now 28 years old.

With every birth, Loro Parque, as an Animal Embassy, sets itself up as a centre for the preservation of species worldwide. ■



+ info



Newly hatched Galapagos tortoise at Loro Parque. Photo: M. Pérez / LPF

Looking after our parrots in winter

In the Canary Islands, although our winters are mild, temperatures do change, and this affects the animals under our care. One of the most frequent questions we receive at Loro Parque Fundación is about feeding and care at this time of year.

Indeed, it is very important to give our parrots a protected environment, especially when the sun goes down. At our latitude the temperature can be around 20 degrees centigrade in the morning and drop sharply by more than 5 degrees at dusk. This abrupt change can affect the health of small parrot species, so we must prepare them to cope with it successfully.

To this end we should include in their diet, from October to March, green leaves from plants such as chard, watercress, dandelion, alfalfa, white Alsine or the well-known sow thistle, which grows abundantly on our

islands as soon as the first rains arrive.

There are rules for offering this type of green food, especially if it comes from the wild or from the countryside. In the case of watercress or alfalfa, it is important that it comes from areas with clean, non-stagnant water. Watercress often grows in ravines but also in water that can become stagnant and where bacteria grow that could affect our parrots.

Another useful tip for outdoor-living, small-sized parrots is to provide them with the option to approach or move away from a ceramic lamp shielded from direct contact and emitting no light. This type of device is available from specialist pet shops and allows parrots to thermoregulate at their

convenience in the event of sudden drops in temperature.

By taking these details into account, our parrots will reach the spring season bursting with health.

At Loro Parque Fundación, being the largest parrot genetic reserve in the world, we reinforce the feeding during this period with abundant green food which will also allow the adult parrots to prepare for breeding successfully. ■



Watercress or broccoli are very healthy green foods for parrots in winter. Photo: M.Pérez/LPF



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