

Cyanopsitta

The Loro Parque Fundación newsletter

2024
126

LPF SHOWS THE
MARINE BIODIVERSITY
OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

LPF TAKES CENTRE STAGE
AT THE WORLD SPECIES
CONGRESS

CANBIO WARNS ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF THE CLIMATE
IN THE CANARY ISLANDS



Poema del Mar
AQUARIUM



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Message from the President of Loro Parque Fundación2
 Great success promoted by Loro Parque at the parliamentary evening3
 Getting to know the butterfly ray better4
 Science to protect endangered species4
 Great success of the annual EAAM symposium in Tenerife5
 In memoriam Petra Deimer5
 Bringing glory to conservation6
 Impressive "Coral Kingdom"7
 Loro Parque Fundación shows the marine biodiversity of the Canary Islands8-9
 Innovation in environmental enrichment10
 Pioneering Environmental Education Method10
 A successful Canarian father in the UK11
 The Subdelegation of Defence at the Animal Embassy11
 Great danger of diseases due to illegal captures12
 LPF takes centre stage at the World Species Congress13
 LPF: the Hope of the Yellow-naped Amazon13
 New decontamination achievement in Tenerife14
 25 Years of training in animal welfare14
 CANBIO warns about the future of the climate in the Canary Islands15
 Back cover16

COVER PAGE:
 Traveling exhibition of Macaronesian cetaceans promoted by LPF in the Canary Islands. Photo: LPF

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Dear friends,

This year is particularly special because Loro Parque Fundación is celebrating its 30th anniversary. For three decades, we have combined our extensive knowledge of animals under human care with conservation efforts in the wild, all grounded in science. This powerful approach has proven highly effective, saving 12 parrot species from imminent extinction and preserving their ecosystems.

Building on this legacy, Loro Parque recently hosted a successful parliamentary evening in Germany. Various European representatives of different backgrounds related to nature conservation and sustainable tourism, received valuable insights from experts of different accredited zoological centres, who are achieving important milestones for the protection of animal species through a common line of work based on the protection of wildlife.

I would also like to thank the great reception we are receiving for our travelling exhibition of marine mammals. We are showing species that live in the seas of the Canary Islands, but are virtually unknown. Being able to see life-size replicas of the most representative species close up offers a great educational opportunity to learn about them, to value them and to protect their environment.

The dire prediction of a sixth mass extinction and the urgent need for measures to prevent its devastating effects now have the support of advanced conservation centers. These institutions, which work with animals through scientific backing and direct environmental action, are undoubtedly the most effective way to combat the threat of species extinction.

At Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación we strive every day to make sure that animals are protected and properly cared for, wherever they are. Our teams of specialists have more than 50 years of valuable experience in animal care. Having developed extensive knowledge ex-situ, the foundation has been able to apply this knowledge with great success in-situ.

We continue to focus on understanding animals better, bringing science to society so that together we can preserve nature in all its glory.

WE CARE

Christoph Kiessling,
 President of Loro Parque Fundación



Great success promoted by Loro Parque at the parliamentary evening

Loro Parque organized a major parliamentary meeting in the German Bundestag on the topic "Modern zoos, ideal partners for sustainable tourism and nature conservation". This event attracted the attention of numerous politicians from the European Parliament, as well as representatives of accredited zoos, the tourism industry and animal and nature protection organizations.

The patron of this parliamentary evening was Dr. Gero Hocker, spokesman for agricultural policy of the FDP parliamentary group. Although he was unable to attend, he was represented by Bundestag Member Ingo Bodtke, who, in his speech, expressed both of their recognition and unwavering support for the importance of modern zoos.

Wolfgang Kiessling, founder and chairman of Loro Parque, **underlined the growing social relevance of modern zoos**, criticizing the "animal rights" industry for hindering the work of nature and animal protection through unjustified attacks.

Sven Liebert, Secretary General of the Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry (BTW), emphasized the importance of travel for international understanding and nature conservation, **highlighting the crucial role of zoos in sustainable tourism.**

Andreas Casdorff, Director of Hannover Zoo, spoke about the educational role of zoos as places of outdoor learning, where animals act as ambassadors for nature protection.

Christoph Kiessling, President of Loro Parque Fundación and Vice President of the Loro Parque Group, **outlined Loro Parque's pioneering commitment to nature and the environment, highlighting its sustainable practices** such as plastic waste



The participants of the parliamentary evening in Germany, Stefanie Brandes NABU, Matthias Reinschmidt (Zoo Karlsruhe), Wolfgang Kiessling (Loro Parque), Jörg Junhold (Zoo Leipzig), Sven Liebert (BTW), Wolfgang Rades (Loro Parque), Christoph Kiessling (Loro Parque Fundación), Ingo Bodtke (FDP), Sandra Dollhäupl (Zoo Karlsruhe), Theo Pagel (Köln Zoo), Marcel Stawinoga (Zoo Dortmund), Cybell Kiessling (Loro Parque). (Photo: LP)



Christoph Kiessling, President of the Loro Parque Fundación and Vice President of the Loro Parque Group (Photo: LP)

reduction, local organic farming and renewable energy generation along with the significant reduction of the park's carbon footprint. He also eloquently developed in situ and ex situ conservation efforts, including the rescue of endangered species and protection of valuable habitats.

Representing Leipzig Zoo, Director **Prof. Dr Jörg Junhold** spoke about the zoo's commitment to environmental protection, emphasizing **the reduction of energy consumption and climate emissions, as well as its support of species conservation projects.**

Theo Pagel, director of Cologne Zoo, underlined the problem of human overpopulation and the importance of zoos as conservation tools.

He stressed that zoos are visited by 700 million people a year and contribute US\$350 million annually to conservation projects.

Renowned biologist **Dr Matthias Reinschmidt** presented the

transformation of the Karlsruhe Zoo into a species conservation center, citing investments in conservation projects both in Germany and worldwide.

Similarly to Loro Parque, Karlsruhe Zoo also acts as an animal rehabilitation center, with a focus on animal welfare.

This meeting featured a final talk moderated by Wolfgang Rades, where young conservationists and keepers engaged in a constructive dialogue on the importance of sustainable tourism and nature conservation. **Cybell Kiessling**, managing director of Loro Parque, together with other experts, **highlighted the commitment of accredited zoological institutions to overcome global ecological crises.**

The event concluded with a final get-together that gave participants the opportunity to discuss the issues raised, bringing to a successful conclusion what is already Loro Parque's 4th Parliamentary Evening at the European Parliament. ■



Ingo Bodtke, Member of the Bundestag (Photo: LP)



Biologist Dr Matthias Reinschmidt (Photo: LP)



Cybell Kiessling, Managing Director of Loro Parque. (Photo: LP)



Andreas Casdorff, Director of the Hannover Zoo. (Photo: LP)



Dr Jörg Junhold, Representative of Leipzig Zoo. (Photo: LP)



Dr Theo Pagel, Director of the Cologne Zoo. (Photo: LP)

Getting to know the butterfly ray better

The butterfly ray has a rhomboidal body that can reach a wingspan of up to two meters. Despite their large size, they are true masters of camouflage and go quite unnoticed in Canarian waters as they provide a vital global refuge for their reproduction.

Research is key to protect this endangered species from extinction.

As part of a research project carried out by Poema del Mar in collaboration with the team of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), we are immersed in the study of the cycles of butterfly rays, a fascinating cartilaginous fish whose activity seems to follow almost annual patterns.

Specialists from Poema del Mar and Loro Parque

are monitoring the butterfly rays at sea and under human care. This in-situ and ex-situ work is of great scientific value.

The purpose of this monitoring is to observe and record any changes in their behaviour or in the results of ultrasound scans. If any significant variation is detected, the frequency of measurements is increased to once a week for about two months. This approach will allow us to obtain more detailed and accurate data on their life cycle.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the entire ULPGC laboratory team for the results obtained to date. This work not only expands the knowledge about



Poema del Mar veterinarian Angel Curros with the Loro Parque team during one of the field samplings (Photo: LPF)

this cartilaginous fish, but also contributes to the conservation and management of this species in its natural habitat.

We are convinced that the information collected throughout this year will be crucial to better

understand the biological cycles of butterfly rays and to develop more effective conservation strategies. We will continue our efforts and dedication, always in search of new findings and scientific advances. ■

Science to protect endangered species



+ info

The team of Loro Parque Fundación and Fundación Vida Silvestre in Colombia, report in a scientific publication six new plant species found in the diet of the Indigo-winged Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*), a Colombian endemic species at risk of extinction.

An important scientific note for Colombian and world ornithology has been published, which broadens the knowledge about this parrot species with a very specific distribution in the mountain forests of the country.

They prefer mature ecosystems where there is mistletoe,

a type of parasitic plant associated with this parrot.

This parrot has been a mystery to science, being one of the least known and rarest parrots in the world.

Loro Parque Fundación has given technical and financial support to a multidisciplinary team deeply involved in the conservation of high Andean parrots. Fundación Vida Silvestre in recent years has taken a step forward by involving hundreds of national and international

ornithologists. They have joined this cause in the increasingly prestigious Risaralda Festival. Birdwatchers from all over the country gather there, and since they are frequently in the field, they are essential for the detection and conservation of the species.

Until now, only thirteen plant species had been documented as part of the parrot's diet, including three mistletoes. Among these, the fruits of the hemiparasite *Antidaphne viscoidea* (*Santalaceae*) were noted as particularly important.

Since 2019, fieldwork with photographs has been able to document six plant species as new food sources for the Fuertes' Parrot, including two more species of mistletoes.

Understanding the diet of such iconic and endangered species allows us to gain deeper insights into their biology and, consequently, better understand their role in ecosystems. ■



Researcher Juan Carlos Noreña has found new parasitic plants that are part of the diet of this species. (Photo: FVS/LPF)



Great success of the annual EAAM symposium in Tenerife

Tenerife hosted the 52nd Annual Symposium of the European Association of Aquatic Mammals (EAAM)

The Hotel Botánico & Oriental Spa Garden in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, was the venue for the meeting of the world's leading experts on marine mammals under human care.

The European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) organized an annual research symposium to share information on the results of scientific studies, advances in management or veterinary care and

other key fields for marine mammal professionals from around the world.

The inauguration was attended by the President and Founder of the Loro Parque Group, Wolfgang Kiessling.

This presentation of relevant studies in the different fields is a great opportunity for professionals from all corners of Europe and other countries to establish collaborative networks and thus contribute to the advancement of their respective fields of expertise.

The knowledge gained during the symposium is key to protecting

animals from the many threats they face in the wild.

Among the relevant topics, they addressed the successful conservation efforts on dolphins through studies in the wild and under human care.

EAAM (European Association for Aquatic Mammals) members include veterinarians, biologists, zoo and marine park directors and managers, trainers and keepers, researchers, students and others who dedicate a significant amount of time

to the welfare and conservation of marine mammals through research, medical care, training, education, conservation, management and other related activities.

The event was held at the Hotel Botánico & The Oriental Spa Garden 5 * GL, with the support of the Government of the Canary Islands and Tourism of Tenerife, an organization under the Tenerife Island Council. It was attended by leading international experts in various fields related to these animals, including Renaud de Stephanis, Elisabetta Palagi, and Heidi Lyn.

The symposium combined lectures by invited speakers with visual displays and technical workshops aimed at strengthening direct cooperation in all fields of marine mammal science. ■



Video



From left to right: The inauguration was attended by the President and founder of Loro Parque Group, Wolfgang Kiessling. Dr Jonás Luke, Computer Systems Engineer, from the University of La Laguna during his speech at the congress. Veterinarian Guillermo J. Sánchez, President of EAAM, during his speech (Photos: LPF)

In memoriam Petra Deimer

Petra Deimer, the great German marine biologist, and founder of the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM) has recently passed away. Both Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación express their condolences to family, friends and the conservation community.

Petra had a steadfast commitment to the defense and protection of cetaceans at all levels. **Her scientific involvement for the preservation of marine biodiversity and the waters of Macaronesia awarded her the Gorilla Award in 2011.**

Throughout her professional career, Petra Deimer was a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Conservation of Species of the

German Government, as well as an advisor to the International Fund for Animal Welfare and many other entities linked to marine protection. In addition, she authored seven books, several television scripts and countless articles on whales, dolphins, and seals.

Regarded as the first scientific advocate of marine species at the international level, she got to know Loro Parque and positively and publicly appreciated this centre's good management as well as its significant implications in scientific contribution and conservation of cetaceans.

Only a few visionaries like this distinguished biologist were able to see the importance of cetacean protection for sustainable development in the Macaronesia archipelagos. This foresight led to the idea of creating a sanctuary, an endeavor Wolfgang Kiessling has been tenaciously involved in, aimed at the sustainable use of Macaronesia's marine resources. In

1987, Petra successfully closed the last whaling station in the Azores, which is now one of the world's premier locations for whale watching, along with Madeira, Cape Verde, and the Canary Islands.

With these words, we pay tribute to Petra Deimer from the Loro Parque Fundación, confident that we will uphold her advice and her legacy of wisdom and unwavering passion for the animal world. ■



Petra Deimer Gorilla Award 2011

Bringing glory to conservation

The Gloria, Colombia's flagship to the world, arrived on Spanish shores, docking in Barcelona and carrying a special message: the successful conservation projects of the Yellow-eared parrot and the Fuertes' parrot. Both species have been saved from extinction thanks to Loro Parque Fundación and Fundación Vida Silvestre's projects in Colombia.

This impressive schooner, owned by the Colombian Navy, is decorated with birds from the municipalities of Pereira and Risaralda, in which endangered species play a leading role.

LPF's message has travelled throughout the Americas, South to North and vice versa, on a cruise route, giving visitors the opportunity to learn about the richness of the country's avifauna and the projects in which Loro Parque Fundación has put so much effort in the last decades.



The Gloria is the Colombian flagship, now with international environmental commitment (Photo: FVS/LPF)



Jennifer Bermudez, LPF member and Colombian resident in Barcelona, visited the ship and explained to visitors the importance of protecting these endangered species. (Photo: J. Marti)



Lieutenant Commander Efraín Gamarra with the tireless researcher Juan Carlos Noreña, who leads this conservation project in Colombia for Loro Parque Fundación (Photo: FVS/LPF)



The Vessel Gloria docked at the Port of Barcelona (Photo: J. Bermúdez/LPF)

This year, the Colombian schooner left Cartagena for the United States and from there to Europe where it will visit 10 countries.

Over the past 30 years, the Loro Parque Fundación has invested more than 3 million dollars in these projects, successfully reversing the threat of extinction faced by both species. The itinerant exhibition aboard this flagship vessel holds significant

importance due to its extensive and diverse outreach across the globe.

The Colombian environmental press, inspired by the ship's name, has lauded this international initiative as glorious, recognizing it as an environmental movement that sets a conservation model for biodiversity worldwide. ■

Impressive "Coral Kingdom"

A natural and immersive exhibit unique in the world



Coral Kingdom's immersive experience is unique in the world (Photo: LPF)

Loro Parque-Animal Embassy has inaugurated a unique aquatic system, the only one of its kind in the world, designed for this species of animals, which are both highly threatened and little known by the public.

Corals are among the most fascinating animals in the oceans. With their stony appearance and peculiar shapes and colours, they create the deceptive impression of being rocks or plants.

This new space at Loro Parque stands out for displaying the marine world in a unique way, using the most modern technology available. Amazing projections, holograms, LED floor images, are part of a thrilling immersive experience that has to be experienced in person.

For many years, biologists and aquarists from the Animal Embassy

have been preparing this novelty in the world of zoos. Coral Kingdom, the largest coral reserve outside the oceans. A space in which visitors feel like they are entering one of the most incredible and surprising underwater ecosystems on the planet.

The presentation of this new marine habitat focuses on the conservation of these ecosystems, which are vital for the sustainability of the planet, yet are one of the most endangered.

The new space allows you to experience a real immersion, the contemplation of more than 8,000 coral specimens living in around 255,000 litres of water in an immense ecosystem that houses more than 40 species of tropical fish totalling over 4,000 specimens in a variety of colours. A marine world of incomparable biodiversity.

The farming of these animals will enable the development of a gene



During the inauguration, the Vice President of the Island Council Lope Afonso, the President of the Council Rosa Dávila and the Mayor of Puerto de la Cruz Marco González, together with the Kiessling Family. (Photo: LP)

pool to provide an essential reserve for the survival of these species. It will also offer marine researchers an opportunity to study these species more deeply, generating knowledge that will help protect and restore them in their natural environment. ■



Video

Loro Parque Fundación shows the marine biodiversity of the Canary Islands



Director of Loro Parque Fundación Javier Almunia, Adeje Town Councillors: Alberto Álvarez, María Mercedes Vargas, Coraima Afonso, Adolfo Alonso, President of Loro Parque Fundación Christoph Kiessling, Councillor Patricia Paulsen and representative of Fundación La Caixa Pilar Ramos, in front of the sperm whale model at the exhibition in Adeje, Tenerife (Photo: LPF)



The mayor of Puerto de la Cruz Marco González, the territorial director of the Fundación la Caixa Manuel Afonso, the president of LPF Christoph Kiessling and the councillors of Puerto de la Cruz Roberto Medina and Rebeca Toste, inside a sperm whale during the exhibition (Photo: LPF)

The stunning exhibition “Cetaceans of Macaronesia” of Loro Parque Fundación has begun its tour throughout the Canary archipelago, starting at the University of La Laguna, Puerto de la Cruz and Adeje. This exciting project, supported by Fundación La Caixa through CaixaBank, aims to raise awareness of the region’s abundant cetacean population. But this initiative goes further: it also promotes the establishment of a Marine Biodiversity Sanctuary in Macaronesia and the moratorium on the use of Medium Frequency Military Sonar in the region, presented last October by Loro Parque Fundación in Brussels.

Highlights of the exhibit include seven life-size inflatable figures of some of the region’s most characteristic species, including two beaked



Loro Parque Fundación staff during an educational activity with schoolchildren from Adeje during the exhibition (Photo: LPF)

whales, two dolphins, a killer whale, a pilot whale and a 17-meter sperm whale. The sperm whale is especially impressive, as it is accessible and allows the public to enter and appreciate the size of the animal’s internal organs. This exhibit, designed to captivate the youngest visitors in the mornings and the public in the afternoons, offers a unique and immersive educational experience, combining the spectacular replicas with the use of augmented reality.

In addition to the replica figures, the exhibition features informative panels and digital models of the 31 species of cetaceans of Macaronesia, which visitors can observe through augmented reality using QR codes on their mobile devices. This innovative technology allows visitors to explore and learn about a wide variety of marine species in an interactive and immersive way.

Over the next eight weeks,

the exhibition will travel to every corner of the archipelago, serving as a powerful educational and awareness-raising tool on the importance of protecting cetaceans and preserving their marine habitat. In the mornings, it will be dedicated to education, receiving school groups guided by educators specialized in cetacean issues. In the afternoons, it will be open to the public, giving everyone the opportunity to get close to these majestic creatures and learn more about them.

The exhibition “Cetaceans of Macaronesia” is not only a testament to the commitment of Loro Parque Fundación and its collaborators to marine conservation, but also a call to action to protect and preserve the region’s unique biodiversity.

Augmented reality through a QR code scan with a mobile device will allow visitors access to 3-D models of the cetacean species present in the Macaronesian region. This

innovative feature offers visitors the opportunity to fully explore the physical characteristics of these magnificent animals from the comfort of their mobile devices.

Inflatable replicas Loro Parque Fundación has been raising awareness about cetaceans in Macaronesia for more than two decades through a number of different tools: informative panels, audiovisual presentations, talks, whale watching and social media.

All these activities are carried out in an effort to convey to the participants the real size of these animals, as well as the enormous variety living in our seas. Activities

with life-size animal figures have been carried out in different parts of the world, and the educational effect is enhanced when users perceive the full dimensions of the animals. The main idea of this proposal is to draw society’s attention through a traveling exhibition of life-size cetaceans that attracts the public for its spectacular nature and awakens their interest so as to engage them in educational and awareness-raising activities. The exhibition consists of 7 replicas of the most characteristic and distinctive species of Macaronesian cetaceans. ■



+ info

Innovation in environmental enrichment

In the largest living genetic reserve of parrots that exists, the differences between the specimens, despite belonging to the same species, are evident. These distinctions in characteristics and behaviours indicate significant brain development. This is why the parrots we care for at Loro Parque Fundación are continuously stimulated with changing circumstances and elements.

This is the main purpose of environmental enrichment. During the spring season, when most pairs are breeding, it is important to consider that many specimens, being younger, will not yet enter this process. They will also experience metabolic changes due to longer days and more food availability. This is why we provide them with new enrichment opportunities that allow them to express all their natural behaviours.

For both adults and juveniles, environmental enrichment must be especially abundant and varied during the spring season. Pine branches, with their fine green leaves and fruits, are

part of the regular fresh supply they are offered, and in this spring season, it is important that they have access to other fresh elements in formation and growth.

This includes palm inflorescences. **Some palms produce long branches of flowers and immature fruits, which are one of the favourite enrichments for many species.** In the case of the Oceania exhibit, Australian parrots display a predilection for such additives. The inflorescences of the queen palm are a real magnet for all psittacine species.

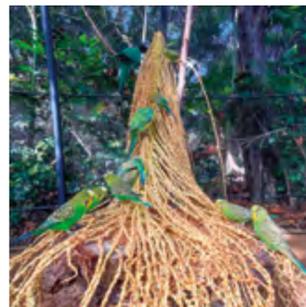
Similarly, the leaf branches of many palm trees are a source of fresh fibres, which most parrots like to chew on. And at Loro Parque - Animal Embassy we have an endless variety of leaves from the most diverse palm trees, which are regularly pruned. Our parrots clearly appreciate this, which trains their powerful beaks and feet. ■



Lear's Macaws enjoy pruning the central part of the palm leaves (Photo: LPF)



Yellow-fronted parrot with pine enrichment (Photo: M. Perez/LPF)



The long filaments carrying the flowers of the queen palm in Oceania. (Photo: LPF)

Pioneering Environmental Education Method

Loro Parque Fundación has achieved innovative environmental education through live videoconferences with schools.

In a continuous effort to promote environmental awareness among young people, the foundation has carried out an outstanding educational activity during the 2023-2024 school year. Through exciting live videoconferences, the education team has connected with schools across the Canary Islands and other parts of Spain.

This initiative, which has so far involved nearly 50 schools and more than 1,600 students from kindergarten to secondary school, aims to bring students closer to the wonders of the animal world. **Each telematic connection offers participants the unique opportunity to observe Loro Parque's animal ambassadors in real time.** From the majestic macaws to the amazing sharks or directly from their facilities at the centre.

Beyond fascinating them, these educational sessions aim to convey to young people the vital importance of conserving and protecting biodiversity. Through captivating images and shocking facts, students learn about the challenges faced by species in the wild and the fundamental role that modern zoos play in their preservation.

Since 1999, more than 300,000 students have received animal and nature education from Loro Parque. More than 3,200 schools have been able to provide their pupils with information about biodiversity and nature.

Through this innovative approach to environmental education, Loro Parque Fundación continues its mission to inspire and empower the next generation to become passionate defenders of nature through scientific knowledge and certified animal care experience. ■



LPF biologist and educator Raquel Afonso broadcasting for school children live (Photo: LPF)



A successful Canarian father in the United Kingdom



One of Kiburi's two offspring born in recent months at London Zoo

In 2022, an impressive male lowland gorilla named Kiburi was sent from Tenerife. An adopted son of the island, Kiburi grew up in Loro Parque alongside a group of bachelor males. He took part in a pioneering program designed to house males from various accredited centers worldwide. His destination was the prestigious London Zoo, where a new silverback leader was needed for another group of his species.

Kiburi was the perfect candidate and arrived in the UK like a true movie star. The press announced his trip as a great triumph highlighting the well-being and comfort that characterized the trip, which culminated with a cup of tea upon his arrival in true London style.

Kiburi has successfully courted two females and has had offspring with both in a short time.

The birth of two western lowland gorillas in accredited zoos is a real cause for celebration. This subspecies is critically endangered, and due to poaching and diseases, its wild population has declined by more than 60% in the last 25 years.

Loro Parque stands out as the first in the world with this bachelor males programme, where the gorillas stay in Tenerife temporarily. This offers a sensational opportunity for visitors to see them live during this phase of evolution and growth. ■

The Subdelegation of Defence at the Animal Embassy



The Deputy Delegate of Defence, Colonel Juan C. Irizar Sigüenza, and personnel from the Recruitment Area, together with a group of seven reservists were received by LPF President Christoph Kiessling and Loro Parque executive Hans Müller. (Photo: LPF)

The Subdelegation of Defence of Santa Cruz de Tenerife made an institutional visit to the facilities of Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación. The Deputy Delegate of Defence, Colonel Juan C. Irizar Sigüenza, and personnel from the Recruitment Area, together with a group of seven volunteer reservists from the Sub delegation, including an honorary reservist, **were received by the president of the Loro Parque Fundación, Christoph Kiessling. They were presented with an outline of the work of conservation, protection,**

education, awareness and promotion of the animal species present in the facilities. Some 50 million visitors have attended the park in its 52 years of existence.

The visit took place in the company of the head of public relations Hans Müller, touring the different facilities and paying special attention to the work of the Foundation, where the scientific director, Rafael Zamora, explained the various conservation and research projects of animal species around the world, as well as initiatives for the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. ■



The subdelegation received information about LPF's conservation projects around the world (Photo: LPF)

Great danger of diseases due to illegal captures



+ info



Breeding under human care in accredited centres is a guarantee to avoid zoonotic diseases. Yellow-shouldered amazon chick at Loro Parque-Animal Embassy (Photo: LPF)

A new scientific article has recently been published by a team from the Universidad Pablo Olavide and the Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) among others, supported by Loro Parque Fundación. An article that reinforces the importance of breeding birds in controlled environments and under human

care to avoid the capture of birds in the wild, which are also a major risk to human health.

Zoonoses are infectious diseases that pass from animals to humans and constitute a major global health risk. For this reason,

comprehensive assessments of the potential emergence of new disease outbreaks are essential to ensure the effectiveness of health controls and to establish control measures.

This study is part of an ambitious continent-wide project in rural settlements, carried out over 13 years in 15 neotropical countries.

The extent of illegal capture to satisfy local demand for pets has been documented and evaluated on a scientific basis, with data indicating that thousands of families live with some 275 species of wild animals without any kind of sanitary control. Parrots account for approximately 80% of wild pets. And unfortunately, with a high mortality rate, mostly due to diseases around the first year of life.

This tradition is deeply rooted culturally, dating back to pre-Columbian times, and may carry health risks by bringing parasite- and pathogen-prone wild animals into close contact with humans and their exotic pets or all kinds of domestic species, including livestock.

Although animal pathogens and parasites have been transmitted to humans for centuries, the current trend of human population growth

and connectivity may increase the risk of zoonotic outbreaks spreading at an unprecedented rate.

Similarly, the transmission of diseases from humans and poultry to wild animals can also be expected to be further enabled through wild-caught pets, which would cause serious problems for the conservation of the species and their habitats.

Several studies have highlighted the risk posed by markets where wildlife is sold as a pathway for cross-species disease transmission, ignoring the risk associated with the widespread keeping of illegally captured wild pets in rural areas.

Given the geographical and social dimension of this phenomenon, a comprehensive approach is required to reduce this illegal activity that poses clear risks at all levels. Strengthening health surveillance of seized individuals and people in close contact with illegally caught pets is in the interest of people and wildlife.

Thanks to registered zoos, parrots born under human care, with full health safeguards, are the best alternative to counteract the millenary need of human beings to live with animals in a safe and environmentally sustainable way.

At Loro Parque Fundación, an average of 1,000 new specimens are born each year, representing over 300 different species of parrots. Disease control is conducted through an in-house laboratory that compares its results with international reference laboratories. Similarly, the veterinary team, equipped with the most advanced technology to maintain the health and biosecurity of the world's largest living genetic reserve of parrots, thoroughly examines each specimen. This ensures that those destined for the specialized pet trade or those involved in breeding programs for threatened species, which may be reintroduced into the wild if necessary, are in optimal condition.

And this is the most effective way to combat wildlife poaching. ■



Examples of wild animals and cross-transmission risk situations encountered during the surveys. (a) Group of *Psittacara erythrogenys* poached with nets in cornfields in Ecuador, prepared in a cage for sale. (b) Senegal parrots poached in Africa. (c) Native species *Brotogeris versicolurus* kept as a pet in Ecuador sharing a cage with Australian parakeets. (d) Several *Brotogeris cyanoptera* and an *Aratinga weddellii* in the market of Atalaya, Peru. (e) Two *Amazona ochrocephala* displayed in a bar in Colombia, in contact with human food and poultry. (f) Pesquet's parrot in Papua New Guinea. (g) Young woolly monkey in Peru. Photos: Guillermo Blanco, Pedro Romero-Vidal, José L. Tella. The widespread keeping of wild pets in the Neotropics: An overlooked risk for human, livestock and wildlife health, within a project funded by LPF

Loro Parque Fundación takes centre stage at the World Species Congress



Participants in the Spanish satellite event of the World Species Congress: Representatives of the Centre for Species Survival Macaronesia, MITERD, IUCN Spanish Committee, IUCN Office for Mediterranean Cooperation and members of several Spanish scientific societies (Photo: LPF)

The World Species Congress organised by Reverse the Red is set to be a crucial event to amplify collective conservation efforts and facilitate critical connections to accelerate our impact on species. Loro Parque, as one of the sponsors of the congress, positions itself as a key player in this important event.

The Loro Parque Fundación promoted the goal of reaching 100,000 pledges to save and protect endangered species.

For 24 hours the Reverse the Red movement brought together worldwide efforts for the protection and rescue of endangered species.

The global conclave consisted of gathering entities, people and institutions committed to conservation to present issues of priority interest, all oriented towards the same goal: the protection of species.

Reverse the Red is a coalition of organisations, groups and agencies co-chaired by the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Together, they are committed to accelerating and amplifying successful species recovery efforts through collaboration, innovation and support for national capacity.

With 196 countries committed to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, agreeing to meet Target 4 by 2030, recovering threatened species, maintaining genetic diversity and managing human-wildlife conflict, the World Species Congress becomes a vital venue for advancing these goals. The project was made possible in each country thanks to different organisations.

Loro Parque Fundación was the organiser in Spain through the Macaronesia Species Survival Centre located on its premises, the Spanish Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and

the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean

Cooperation, which was the virtual host at its premises in Malaga. The event was also hosted by the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD). During this important Spanish satellite event, several Spanish scientific societies presented the situation of the group of species they work with, the new National Species Specialist Group in Spain, and the work of both the Spanish Committee of the IUCN and the CSSM. This conference highlighted the need for the creation of a National Red List and the updating of the Red Books in Spain, as the information contained in the IUCN Red List currently shows a high discrepancy between these and the information contained in the IUCN Red List. ■



LPF: the Hope of the Yellow-naped Amazon

Ometepe is a true refuge for this species in Nicaragua

Loro Parque Fundación supports conservation work in an island ecosystem that is providing effective protection for a critically endangered emblematic parrot species: the Yellow-naped Amazon.

Keyla Mena of the NGO BIOMETEPE conveys the importance of LPF's support for the conservation of this species for more than two decades. Its steady decline in the wild has been dramatic in recent years. The charisma of this parrot is well known in Central America as it has an extraordinary ability to imitate the human voice. It also has an extroverted and cheerful nature that makes it a major player in the parrot world.

Breeding under human care is not very common and there are not many breeding centres.

Therefore, the demand for the illegal market is high and social awareness is needed to protect their natural habitat. Thanks to the Loro Parque Fundación's collaboration with the organisation Biometepe, 54 chicks have been successfully fledged from 42 active nests, constantly monitored by the field teams. Still, several looting actions were detected, but have been halted by the National Police/MARENA, through patrolling supported by the

families who have been instructed in recent years in multiple educational initiatives.

Censuses carried out in one year in the Ometepe Biosphere Reserve have recorded an increase of 1,383 specimens, which translates into an increase of 9.2%.

Once again, tenacity in the education of the local communities, the provision of field teams and the collaboration of the people involved have shown promising results for species that are targeted by illegal markets and poachers. ■



Biometepe technicians during chick monitoring in Nicaragua (Photo: Biometepe/LPF)

New decontamination achievement in Tenerife

More than 230 kilos of waste have been removed from the coast of Radazul in Tenerife thanks to the productive collaboration of Loro Parque Fundación and Promemar.

In total, more than 19 tons of waste have been removed from the Canarian coast since 2020.

Tyres, boat fenders, traffic cones and a large amount of cans and plastic bottles have been removed from our seas in a huge effort that adds to the many actions regularly carried out on our coasts.

The waste found is astonishing to say the least. In a privileged area of the valley of Güimar all kinds of diving enthusiasts are familiar with the crystalline waters of this panoramic corner of the Canary Islands. ■



The work teams have encountered surprising underwater debris. Its removal from our seas is very important. (Photo: Promemar)

25 Years of training in animal welfare

Loro Parque Fundación celebrated the 25th edition of the Arndt-Verlag Workshop dedicated to parrots. This internationally prestigious event took place in May at the Loro Parque-Animal Embassy facilities in Tenerife, bringing together a select group of German-speaking parrot experts. For one week, workshop participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the fascinating world of parrots, exploring their diversity, behaviour and the importance of their conservation. **The event brings together parrot experts and enthusiasts, especially from Germany, to share knowledge, experiences and best practices in the care and protection of these iconic birds.**

The meeting was attended by leading international specialists, such as renowned biologist Matthias Reinschmidt, organiser René Wüst from Arndt-Verlag, leading veterinarian Petra Wolf, Elisabeth Schlumpf as Swiss avicultural expert, and the Loro Parque Fundación team: biologists Marcia Weinzettl



Group photo of those attending the 25th Arndt-Verlag-LPF Workshop (Photo: M. Pérez/LPF)



Participants were able to interact continuously with the speakers who concluded the workshop in a Q&A session. (Photo: M. Pérez/LPF)



Renowned German biologist Matthias Reinschmidt recalled the beginning of this series of workshops that has been so successful over the years. (Photo: M. Pérez/LPF)

and Rafael Zamora together with veterinarian Richard Heidrich.

This parrot workshop offered a unique opportunity for the exchange of ideas and collaboration between the different participants.

The event also included excursions on the island to observe Canarian birdlife and dinners in local restaurants, so that participants could also taste local gastronomic delicacies.

Loro Parque Fundación thanks all the participants for their trust and participation in this important initiative and hopes that this edition of the Workshop will be a resounding success in promoting public awareness of the importance of protecting birds in their natural habitat. ■



+ info

CANBIO warns about the future of the climate in the Canary Islands

The event 'A journey to a sustainable future', held on April 4 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication of the University of La Laguna, stood as a key milestone to present the research results of the CanBIO project. Funded by the Government of the Canary Islands and Loro Parque Fundación with three million euros from 2019, this project has been dedicated to studying the effects of climate change on the terrestrial and marine biodiversity of the Canary Islands and Macaronesia.

During the opening ceremony of the conference, the Dean of the University of La Laguna, Francisco García, stressed that CanBIO is an exemplary project for many reasons, including the fact that it is a formula for public-private collaboration that is beneficial for science and for obtaining tangible results on the processes derived from climate change and human influence, such as ocean acidification and noise pollution.

The Dean of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Lluís Serra, thanked the research staff involved in the project who were present at the event for their constant efforts to set up projects on regional biodiversity and how climate change affects it.

Serra thanked Loro Parque Fundación and hoped that in the coming years even more projects like this would emerge to continue fighting for the preservation of nature and its sustainable uses.

The event was opened by Javier Almunia, coordinator of CanBIO and director of Loro Parque Fundación, who also highlighted the working model of the project as a fine example of collaboration between public and private sectors, unheard of in other autonomous communities, which, after six years, has dedicated three million euros to top-level research.

Featuring researchers from the universities of La Laguna and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the event highlighted the commitment to bring science closer to the public and to highlight the importance of university research on crucial issues such as climate change.

The CanBIO project, with an investment of three million euros, has addressed different indicators of climate change in Canary Island ecosystems, from ocean acidification to noise pollution.

The collaboration between public and private entities has been fundamental to the success of this project, as highlighted by the Canary Islands public university deans during the signing of the Manifesto for the protection of biodiversity.



Right: Coral death due to ocean acidification caused by Climate Change. If coral reefs die, thousands of species that live and feed on these organisms will lose their livelihoods. (Photo: Martin Colognoli/Ocean Image Bank)

Achievements of the CanBIO project

MacPAM:

First passive acoustic campaigns with ocean gliders in the Canary Islands. First cetacean research campaign 60 miles west of the Canary Islands.

CanOA:

Accreditation as a CLASS 2 oceanic station within the European Carbon Dioxide Observing Network (ICOS ERIC) Generation of data for the GOAON (Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network) acidification network and SOCAT (Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas) CO₂ studies in the ocean

BuoyPAM:

First underwater noise measurement network in the Canary Islands with fixed stations, detection of underwater noise reduction during COVID-19 confinement in the Canary Islands.

BioACU:

Development of the first autonomous vehicle for tag tracking of critically endangered marine species.

BioMAR:

Registration of record seawater temperatures off the coast of Tenerife, acoustic tagging of more

than 200 angelsharks and spiny butterfly rays in the Canary Islands, setting up of the first acoustic tag tracking network in the Canary Islands, drone monitoring of potential sea turtle nesting sites in Fuerteventura.

Re-evaluation of more than 25 critically endangered species endemic to the Canary Islands.

Creation of the first national network for monitoring underwater soundscapes in the Natura 2000 areas of the Canary Islands.

The results submitted during the conference revealed a worrying increase in ocean acidification and water temperature, with adverse effects on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

Species such as angelsharks face

challenges in their reproductive cycles due to marine heat waves, although areas have been identified that could serve as refuges from warming waters.

The session closed with a panel discussion on Communication and Science, highlighting the importance of spreading scientific findings to raise awareness of the urgency of tackling climate change and protecting marine biodiversity.



Group of speakers and participants at the presentation of results (Photo: LPF)



Dr. Javier Almunia presenting the results of the SonMAR project that monitors underwater noise in the Canary Islands (Photo: LPF)



Results Presentation Day. From left to right, Christoph Kiessling (President of Loro Parque Fundación), Ángel Montañés (Director General of Ecological Transition and Fight against Climate Change) and José Antonio Batista (Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication of the ULL). (Photo: LPF)



Lluís Serra Majem (Dean of the ULPGC), Francisco García Rodríguez (Dean of the ULL) and Javier Almunia (LPF Director) during the signing of the manifesto in favour of the conservation of the marine resources of Macaronesia. (Photo: LPF)

In addition to the presentations, exhibitions were organised on topics related to sustainability and biodiversity, as well as educational activities to involve young people in environmental conservation.

In conclusion, the conference 'A journey to a sustainable future' not only presented the results of the CanBIO project, but also highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and scientific dissemination in the fight against climate change and protecting biodiversity in the Canary Islands and the Macaronesia region. ■



Video



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