



WORLD PARROT TRUST

# IMPACT REPORT

2016/17





## A MESSAGE FROM: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As another year has flown by, it's a special treat for us at the Trust to take stock of the various developments and accomplishments of the recent past. It's always a challenge to select projects to highlight the different focal areas of our work, as inevitably we can only mention a small subset of our ongoing programs in a summary like this. We hope this recap will be helpful in walking you through the key components of our efforts to save parrots.

One thing to bear in mind as you read through these examples of our work to combat trade, boost the recovery of threatened populations, and so forth, is that in practice nearly all our projects include all of these components to one degree or another. The optimal recipe in each case is of course determined by the real-world threats to these species, their immediate needs, and the available opportunity to help. In reality saving parrots nearly always requires using more creative means to get the job done.

And while our approach to parrot conservation and welfare has always been based on sound science, real-world solutions nearly always involve the rallying of all the support we can muster. We do this by tapping into insights and solutions from everyone in our 'big tent' approach – including not just parrot scientists, but also nutrition specialists, welfare experts, behaviourists, accomplished parrot breeders, artists, writers, intrepid travellers, those with corporate connections, translators, even recreational runners with a purpose – essentially parrot lovers of all stripes.

Our annual impact report is therefore not just a welcome opportunity to look back to see how much we've accomplished for parrots this past year, it's also our chance to voice our deepest appreciation to you for making this progress possible. Thank you for all you're able to do for parrots, and for your continued and generous support of the World Parrot Trust.



*James Gilardi, Ph.D*  
Executive Director  
World Parrot Trust

### ABOUT THE World Parrot Trust

Capture for the live-bird trade, habitat loss, and other factors put wild parrots at risk. One in three parrot species are currently threatened in the wild.

As a leader in parrot conservation and welfare, the World Parrot Trust works with researchers, local organisations, communities and governments to create effective solutions that save parrots.

Since 1989, the WPT has grown to become a global force that moves quickly to address urgent issues and support long-term projects for parrots. WPT has led projects in 42 countries for 66 species of parrot.

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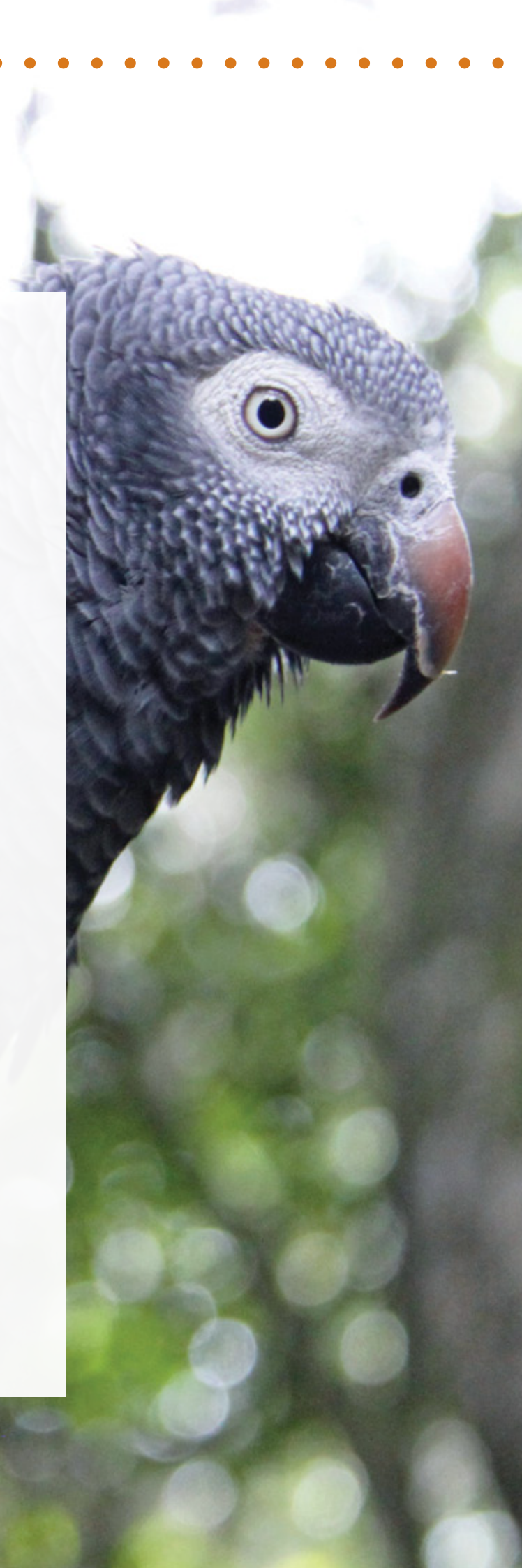


## COMBATTING TRADE: HELPING WILD PARROTS GET THE PROTECTION THEY NEED

**T**he World Parrot Trust continues its fight against the trade in wild parrots. Grey and Timneh Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus* and *P. timneh*) have been some of the most highly traded species around the world. Since 1975 more than 1.2 million of them have been recorded in international trade, causing wild populations in Africa to crash.

In October 2016 in Johannesburg, the two species were granted much-needed protection by the delegates at the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17), which voted to end all international trade in wild African Grey Parrots (encompassing Grey and Timneh Parrots) for commercial purposes. The proposal was submitted by Gabon and co-sponsored by Angola, Nigeria, Guinea, Togo, Senegal, Chad, the United States and the European Union. During the debate, many other African states spoke up in support of the proposal. Based on our work in Africa, WPT strongly supported this move, preparing reports and scientific papers to support decision-makers, and addressing the Conference of Parties to explain why it was critical that CITES adopt the proposal.

A milestone has been reached for the conservation of these birds: the new ruling, effective January 1 2017, has made it illegal to trap them for export throughout their range. WPT is continuing to work for the species' protection, encouraging range states and importing countries to implement the decision, and developing in-country conservation projects. In 2018, our work focuses on Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Tanzania.



**Timneh Parrot**  
(*Psittacus timneh*)  
Photo © Mark O'Flaherty  
SOUTH AFRICA

## BOOSTING POPULATIONS: RELEASED GREAT GREEN MACAWS NOW BREEDING

**F**or more than two decades, WPT has supported captive breeding, nestbox projects, and rehabilitation and release programs in many countries where parrots live, such as Costa Rica.

The Scarlet and Great Green Macaws (*Ara macao* and *A. ambiguus*) at WPT's partner *Ara Project* have had a banner breeding season this past year – for the first time, recently released birds are breeding in natural cavities and man-made nest boxes, and their chicks are successfully fledging.

The captive macaws of the project, all from Costa Rica, are given large enclosures to allow for exercise and socializing with other macaws, and to breed and raise their young. The birds are fed nutritionally complete diets, and given opportunities to forage. Macaws selected for reintroduction are exercised in flights in the release area, are taught about how to utilize local foods, and are monitored after release.



**Great Green Macaws**  
(*Ara ambiguus*)  
Photo © Steve Milpacher  
COSTA RICA



## EDUCATION & AWARENESS: ENGAGING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONSERVING THE TASMAN PARAKEET

**T**he Tasman Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus cookii*) is endemic to Norfolk Island, situated between Australia and New Zealand. It was formerly found over the entire island but is now scattered in remnant forest patches and orchards adjacent to Norfolk Island National Park.

The birds have been threatened by past clearance of forests for timber and agriculture, non-native plant invasion, competition for nest sites, and predation by feral mammals. There have been a number of cycles of decline, conservation effort, and recovery in the population's history.

Since 2013, WPT has been supporting conservation work aimed at protecting and restoring the population. Now the team is launching education and awareness programs to reach over 2,000 people, stressing the importance of protecting nests, keeping domestic mammals away from the parrots' nesting areas, and for promoting native plant propagation. The current state of their habitat means that Tasman parakeets are 'conservation dependent', where ongoing work on nesting sites, education and habitat expansion will be necessary within the next few years to help these birds.

The team continues to make progress on seeing that adults and chicks are protected. Meanwhile, by March of 2017 there were at least 17 females sitting on eggs or raising chicks, potentially adding to the current population of ~100 birds.



**Tasman Parakeet**  
(*Cyanoramphus cookii*)  
Photo © Luis Ortiz-Catedral  
NORFOLK ISLAND

## HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION: PRESERVING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR BLUE-THROATED MACAWS

**C**onservation of endangered species can only progress when habitat is fully protected. On February 22, 2017, after months of WPT-sponsored meetings and workshops between the people of the Bolivian township of Loreto, government officials, and NGOs, a municipal law was signed for the declaration of the 580,000 ha (1.4 million ac) Municipal Park and Natural Area of Management Integrated Gran Mojos. This tract includes a wide range of important ecosystems such as wetlands and savannas. The local people will be in charge of managing the land, reducing habitat clearing, protecting water sources, and preventing fires, hunting and poaching.

To the south, the new park connects with Isiboro Secure National Park and to the north, it joins Ibare Mamor Municipal Protected Area, creating an essential corridor for wildlife. The tract's creation will provide protection for over twenty parrot species, 465 bird species and over 50 endangered species. Critically, the area is very important for the Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*), with 35% of the entire known wild population and 50% of known breeding pairs living there. Additionally, everyone living in the area will have equal access to the benefits of sustainable development and the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and will have a voice in decision-making processes for future conservation actions.



**Blue-throated Macaws**  
(*Ara glaucogularis*)  
Photo © Darío Podestá  
BOLIVIA





## RESEARCH: UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING THE LEAR'S MACAW

The Lear's Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*) has successfully staved off extinction: by 1983, their population was thought to be just 60 birds due to trapping, loss of important Licuri palms, and hunting and persecution. Thanks to intensive conservation work the population now stands at over 1,200.

Since 2010, WPT has been supporting the Lear's Macaw project at Canudos Biological Station in Brazil. In 2016, the Lear's team and volunteers set out on a 45-day expedition to study what environmental barriers exist for the dispersal of macaws to new areas. The team collected and catalogued food items, and sampled more than 800 feathers in non-invasive diet studies. Biological samples from nestlings were tested for diseases, and for genetic variability studies. Team workers monitored 35 nests in four breeding sites, health checking and banding 27 nestlings. Nest sites are also a part of an ongoing study of potential impact from invasive Africanised bees, so a plan can be developed to protect the young and eradicate the insects. The team also took time to interview local people, developing a history of the macaw's range and population density.

At Baixa do Chico a new nest was discovered. The macaws had disappeared from this area in the 1980s, but in the past year about 60 birds returned to breed. Another area, Boqueirão da Onça, was examined as a possible release site, as it once had a hundred of the birds. Now it has only two. It is hoped that captive-bred macaws can someday be released there to restore the population.

Researcher Erica Pacifico and assistant Máximo Cardoso rappel down a steep rock face to work with Lear's Macaw nestlings. Photo © Roberta A. Cunha  
BRAZIL



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*I am a believer that all living creatures deserve respect and the freedom to live in a safe environment. I support World Parrot Trust because of the critical work they do in protecting those birds when they cannot protect themselves.*

~ Karen D. Shaw,  
United States

“

*Working inside the world of parrot conservation is often a logistical and political nightmare; often a Sisiphean task that seems hopeless at times. WPT and their partners persevere every day in the face of terrible odds, and for that I am eternally grateful.*

~ Emily Robinson,  
United States

“

*With its focus on conservation, research, welfare and education – the four pillars necessary for saving wild parrot populations – the World Parrot Trust has built a strong foundation upon which my dream of a peaceful and compassionate world full of parrots can be built.*

~ Cheryl Rutherford,  
Canada

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We at the World Parrot Trust are immensely grateful for our supporters' generosity. Your gifts allow us to continue the all-important work of conservation and welfare advocacy for the parrots of the world.

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**Yellow-shouldered Amazon**

*(Amazona barbadensis)*

Photo © Brian Lasenby

**BONAIRE**

FRONT COVER

**Blue-fronted Amazons**

*(Amazona aestiva)*

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**ARGENTINA**

BACK COVER

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