

## Loro Parque Fundación

### Recent trade, capture of wild African Grey Parrots

In recent decades a high level of capture and legal trade in wild African Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) has occurred. A major exporting country has been Cameroon, with official statistics from 1981 to 2005 showing that it exported 367,166 individuals, with a yearly average of 15,299.

From 1990 to 1996, it exported 48 per cent of the African Grey Parrots of all countries in Africa. From 1993 to 2006, the official CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) annual export quota for this species from Cameroon had remained 12,000.

The high volume of trade and consistent exceeding of the quota led to concern over the impact on wild populations, and the Animals Committee of CITES called for scientific-based field surveys of wild populations, and the development of National and Regional Management Plans before resuming any trade, in line with its recommendation to institute a moratorium on exports of *P. erithacus* from Cameroon for two years from January 2007.

Restrictive measures were also recommended for certain other exporting countries within the natural geographical range of the species. To help with assessment of the situation in Cameroon, in 2006 the Loro Parque Fundación commenced its financial support to a sustainable trade and conservation project led by Dr. Simon Tamungang, Senior Lecturer in Ecology & Wildlife Management, University of Dschang, Cameroon.

During the period in question, as a protective measure for livestock and human health, the European Union decided to prohibit the importation of wild-caught birds, effective July 1, 2007.

In relation to these restrictions, what is happening now with capture and trade of

**Table 1. Gross exports of live wild-caught African Grey Parrots**

Exporting countries	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Range countries of Africa	16	48,456	10	17,110	12	6,422	11	10,390
African countries out of range	9	246	6	215	7	944	5	105
Middle Eastern countries	10	983	8	53	3	9	4	768
Asian countries	2	118	2	3,177	2	1,065	1	537
All other countries	18	794	12	61	12	33	8	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50,597</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20,616</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8,473</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11,815</b>

A = number of countries, B = number of specimens

Note: All countries not within the natural geographical range of the species re-exported the specimens.

**Table 2. Gross exports of live wild-caught African Grey Parrots**

Exporting countries	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
European	19	38,271	13	7,561	11	2,088	15	5,568
Middle Eastern	9	3,987	8	3,689	4	2,238	6	2,861
Asian	7	1,206	12	5,873	9	2,364	6	2,589
African (range and non-range)	17	5,248	7	2,212	10	1,665	4	756
All other countries	18	1,938	11	1,278	5	122	4	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50,650</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20,613</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8,477</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11,786</b>

A = number of countries, B = number of specimens

Note: The import and export specimen totals do not exactly tally, possibly due to delays in the returns made by some countries.

**Table 3. Live wild-caught African Grey Parrots from some\* exporting range countries: CITES export quotas and official actual numbers exported**

Exporting countries		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Democratic Republic of Congo	Quota	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Actual	15,986	10,787	3,826	6,158	-
Cameroon	Q	12,000	12,000	in prep.	in prep.	0
	A	17,053	4,300	704	307	-
Congo	Q	8,000	10,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	A	8,773	606	1,622	3,580	-
Côte d'Ivoire	Q	-	-	-	0	0
	A	3,827	1	1	5	-
Guinea	Q	-	-	-	0	0
	A	958	1,400	220	320	-
Gabon	Q	250	250	250	250	-
	A	54	10	10	10	-
Sierra Leone	Q	-	-	-	0	0
	A	650	0	0	0	-

\* Including the main ones; in prep. = establishment of the quota in preparation.

Hyphen indicates no information available

African Grey Parrots? I analyzed the official figures (the CITES figures reported by the member countries) on international trade in wild-caught live specimens, and the results are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

These figures exclude quantification of numbers of specimens trapped, traded with other countries illegally, and traded or exploited in other ways within national borders.

From the figures in the tables several comments can be made. There is an overall decline in the legal wild-caught African Grey Parrots in international trade, both in terms of numbers of countries exporting and importing (down to half the number), and in terms of the number of parrots exported and imported (more than a four-fold decrease).

There is an almost sevenfold decrease of the imports into Europe. The figures do not support the hypothesis of an increase of legal imports into Asia and the



SIM ON TAM UNGANG / African Grey Parrots are crowded into a trader's premises, awaiting exportation.


Middle East corresponding to the decrease of imports into Europe. Some additional specific comments can be made. In these figures, South Africa accounts for 92.7 percent of all imports into African countries, and accounts for 99 percent of the higher re-export figure in 2007. Of the continuing imports into Europe in 2007 and 2008, 99.1 percent are accounted for by Serbia, a country not directly affected by the EU prohibition. The Asian and Middle Eastern

countries still showing signs in 2007 and 2008 of substantial imports are Bahrain, Lebanon, Pakistan and Singapore.

The downward pressure exerted by CITES on export quotas appears to have had an effect, with a notable drop even in 2006 of African Grey Parrots legally exported from Cameroon.


Establishment of the quotas for 2007 and 2008 are noted as in preparation but Dr. Tamungang reports that, as a result of Cameroon not submitting the management plan to CITES the annual quota was first reduced to 6,000, and to zero in the following year. The quota remains at zero pending the production and submission of the document by the Cameroon government.

Dr. Tamungang also reports that the restrictions have caused varied reactions among trappers and exporters in Cameroon. Some of the traders with good international connections apparently have found ways to export their birds to Asian



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countries. Others have auctioned birds locally, while others smuggled their birds to neighboring countries, where they are sold to parrot traders now at a better price than in Cameroon.

Research confirms that the parrot trappers receive the smallest economic share from trade but, given their minimal economic base, the financial threshold to switch other exploitation is also low.

In this context, the project reports that trappers are turning to killing the parrots and trading their body parts, which will now fetch a price as acceptable as trade in live birds.

Obtaining sufficient information of this kind to make reliable estimates and reveal trends is risky, and takes time to accumulate. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in Cameroon is still in the process of issuing a public tender for the work to result in the required management plan.

~ David Waugh,  
Loro Parque Fundación, Tenerife

## Weltvogelpark Walsrode

### Highlights from the previous breeding season

The premier birdpark in the world, the Vogelpark Walsrode, is getting all set for a new beginning in 2010. With the takeover by the Belgian company Floralux and its owners Kris Carrein and Geert Vermeersch in April 2009 the park was given a new future. Now the park will be setting new standards for bird parks.

The park will position the new beginning by demonstratively changing its name and logo. Weltvogelpark will be the new name; this German term means world-bird-park and is in many ways self explaining as to what this bird park in Walsrode represents. "Bringing the world of birds closer to us humans."


The branding process is well known for companies that reinvent themselves. It is important for any company to have a clear

direction. This is important for the costumers but also for the staff that in essence produces the product that need attention. The Worldvogelpark is indeed a product well worth attention; it is an extraordinary and specialized zoological institution without a match.


"The park is not changing its direction, much more it is getting back on the

right course," said General Director Geer Scheres.


The 2010 season started on March 18 with an ocean of flowers. The gardens of Weltvogelpark Walsrode are well known as some of the most wonderful and well kept anywhere in Europe. They change not only with the season but also with every change in blooming cycles of the different main



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The Weltvogelpark is the place to go not just for those passionate about birds or gardens. It's also the place to spend a leisure day out with the family, German and international cuisine, play-grounds, commented feedings and educative flight-shows serves for the entertainment all the while the world of the birds becomes more and more familiar.

What follows is a few news and highlights from the previous season that had not yet been published.

The two most southerly distributed Pelican species are the Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) and the Peruvian Pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*). Thus their genetically hardwired breeding season falls during our cold season and the breeding occurs only in the wintering houses which consist of a heated green houses with a large pool. During the 2008/2009 season the

Weltvogelpark reared four young Australian Pelicans and nine Peruvian Pelicans which is a good result that strengthen both breeding groups for the future.

The 2009/2010 season is still ongoing and the fresh eggs are carefully removed by the keepers Matthias-Malte Müller and Thomas Eichler, who is also responsible for the important record keeping on which pair was caring for which egg and which birds pair together.

Leaving the eggs with the parents is too hazardous as the life in the small breeding colony is very lively indeed. Meanwhile the first young Australian Pelican for 2010 has hatched in the hand-rearing station.

The Madagascar Pond Herons (*Ardeola idae*) reared their own young in 2009 in the community aviary for Madagascan mangrove birds, which is located behind the owl-castle. Because of the birds' secretive behavior, one of the clutches was not

detected until the chicks were almost ready for fledging.

Madagascar pond herons are currently only maintained in captivity at the Weltvogelpark in Walsrode therefore the five offspring in 2009 plays an important role for maintaining a viable population of this endangered species. In the same aviary the equally rare Blue-eyed Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*) also reared a young.

The African Open-bill Storks (*Anastomus lamelligerus*) also occurs in the depleted mangrove forests of western Madagascar. Although the three species also nest together in the wild the Open-bill Storks are by far the most dominant and do cause disturbance for the ibises and herons in the aviary, not least because they steal nest material from one another and the other species.

The Open-bill Storks are diet-specialists that feed almost exclusively on large freshwater snails that are most difficult to



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acquire in northern Germany and therefore the natural rearing succeeds only on rare occasions in aviaries.

Using commercially available digestive enzymes such as Creon and best quality day old rats we have managed to perfect the hand-rearing protocols. In 2009 the hand-rearing station managed to successfully rear 14 African Open-bill Storks an improvement of our own record from 2005 where we reared seven chicks.

With the two very rarely kept ibis species the Southern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus calvus*) and the Madagascar Crested Ibis (*Lophotibis cristata*), most of the eggs are removed for artificial incubation and hand-rearing. This is a safety precaution until the populations reaches a sufficient level to guarantee the viability. This way eight Southern Bald Ibis and 10 Madagascar Crested Ibis could be reared in 2009.

In 2009 we had, as in previous years, good

results with our Malagasy "Silky-Cuckoos," the Couas. Especially the Crested Coua (*Coua cristata*) is meanwhile quite well established. Since 2000 almost 80 chicks have hatched in Walsrode.

Unfortunately in 2009 only the hand-rearing were successful. We lost a few juveniles, being reared by their parents, probably because of poor weather. The breeding cycles of the Crested Couas are among the fastest for any bird species. Then, up to two, chicks hatch after 13 days incubation and remain only for 11 days in the nest before they fledge.

With our Roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*), this season proved quite productive with nine successfully reared juveniles. The species is well numbered in European zoos but still the population seems to be in trouble.

In the past few years Weltvogelpark Walsrode has been the only institution

with any successful breeding results. Unfortunately almost the entire population seems to be very closely related to each other and inbreeding issues may be difficult to avoid in the future.

In 2009 the rearing of Spectacled Owls (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) succeeded for the first time in Walsrode. Two chicks of this remarkably colored owl species hatched and was reared in the hand-rearing station. Spectacled Owls are distributed in vast parts of South America and due to their large distribution they are not considered to be endangered. However they are only found in places with a suitable forested habitat.

Surprisingly, our pair of Red and Yellow Barbets (*Trachyphonus e. erythrocephalus*) produced two chicks only three months after they had initially been introduced to each other. The two chicks turned to be males and were left with the parents and then assisted with the rearing of the

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successive clutch which turned out to be a female. By the time the nestlings develop their first feathers the gender is easily recognized as male if they develop a black throat patch.

The nest they selected was a burrow in an artificial sand-stone wall, intended for Bee-eaters with a door for nest inspections in the rear section. After the first nest inspections the pair decided to relocate the clutch towards the burrow entrance in such a way that that no further inspections were possible for the responsible keepers Juergen Vielguth and Kirstin Kirchhoffel. To rear the young's they preferred mealworms and soaked hill-mynah pellets.

Late 2008 we received a small group of Sudan Golden Sparrows (*Passer luteus*) consisting of just five birds, that started nest-building in the early spring of 2009. Due to skirmish within the group, at the time where the young of the first pair were ready for fledging the young of the second pair were ejected from the nest, the day after hatching. The four minuscule chicks were taken to the hand-rearing station and were successfully reared with surprisingly ease by our experienced team.

The two pairs went on to rear another 10 chicks during 2009 without further disputes. About six months after hatching the young Sudan Golden Sparrows molted into their first adult plumage. Interestingly two of the young that were hand-reared successfully started nest building and went on to egg-laying. They were not successful but thanks to the exact record keeping by our biologist Anne Hoppmann we can now tell at which age the young become sexually mature.

Our small group of Montezuma Oropendolas (*Psarocolius montezuma*) is the only group in Europe. Another group is being maintained at the Bronx Zoo in New York. For this reason the breeding of this species is particularly important to us. In Walsrode they are kept in the large free flight aviary together with Scarlet Ibis and Roseate Spoonbills among others. They build their

impressive nests of fresh grass at the very top of the aviary.

In 2008 and 2009 parent rearing were unsuccessful so we decided to try to hand-rear the young. The first challenge was however to retrieve the inaccessible eggs. A job not for colleagues with a fear of heights. We managed to secure two eggs. Unfortunately we lost one of the chicks but the other was, to our great joy, successfully reared.

For more up to date information do visit our website at [www.weltvogelpark.de](http://www.weltvogelpark.de).

## Armonía

### Wattled Curassow (*Crax globulosa*) conservation

Program Coordinator: Hugo Aranibar;  
[haranibar@armonia-bo.org](mailto:haranibar@armonia-bo.org)

Program area: Tacana III Indigenous Territory, Lower Rio Beni, Dept. of Beni

The IUCN has placed the Wattled Curassow as only Vulnerable of extinction through a misunderstanding of its specific habitat and a lack of reliable data. The species has undergone a radical range and population decline in the last sixty years. Today the species occurs in small isolated populations in Colombia, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia, and is believed to be extirpated in Ecuador. In Bolivia, the single known surviving

population, which inhabits an area of approximately 125 miles in the recently declared Tacana III Indigenous Territory, is estimated at fewer than 130 individuals and considered Critically Endangered.

Under the leadership of Hugo Aranibar, we have built a strong collaborative relationship with local indigenous communities and also the Organization of Tacana Indigenous Communities of Ballivian Province and the Coalition of Indigenous Peoples of Beni. Armonía has been supporting the creation of the 370,000 acre Tacana III Indigenous Territory which protects the entire Bolivia Wattled Curassow population. Within the territory, 10,000 acres have been designated as complete protection encompassing the Wattled Curassow range.

We have been working with the communities on several fronts, including training community biologists in wildlife monitoring, environmental education and the development of community-based ecotourism as a means to generate economic incentive to sustain the communities' commitment to the conservation of the Wattled Curassow and its forest ecosystem. With support from the USAID-ICAA Small Grants Program and the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, we also are working with the communities to strengthen local capacity in

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reserve administration and natural resource management. To further the long-term preservation of the Wattled Curassow and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Tacana III Indigenous Territory, we are seeking \$15,000 to consolidate the community ecotourism enterprise (improvements to the tourist lodge, training and promotion) and \$9,000 to assist the communities with the development of a management plan for the indigenous reserve.

### **Horned Curassow (*Pauxi unicornis unicornis*) conservation**

Program Coordinator: Natalia Zambrana; [nzambrana@armonia-bo.org](mailto:nzambrana@armonia-bo.org)

Program area: Amboró National Park (Department of Santa Cruz) and Isiboro-Sécure Indigenous Territory and National Park (Department of Cochabamba)

The Bolivian Horned Curassow is the most threatened species in Bolivia. Without a strong conservation program, extinction

of this species is imminent in the next ten years. It is considered Endangered owing to its small range and small, fragmented population. It is known from two populations separated by 800 miles in central Bolivia and central Peru. Currently treated as subspecies, the two populations are certain to represent two distinct species as they differ in morphology, song, altitude and habitat. As separate species they would be Critically Endangered country endemics.

In Bolivia, all recent records are from three national protected areas—Amboró, Carrasco and Isiboro-Sécure. Regrettably, though these protected areas clearly have been vital to the preservation of the Horned Curassow thus far, the species' long term survival continues at risk because the national park service does not have the financial and human resources needed for effective protection of these areas which have sizable human populations and ongoing encroachment by settlers, illegal

logging operations and forest clearing to grow coca for cocaine production. In 2006, together with local stakeholders we developed a Working Species Action Plan that summarizes our knowledge of the distribution, biology and ecology of the Horned Curassow and a set of priority conservation actions. In 2007–2008 with support from the World Pheasant Association and Nuttall Ornithological Club-Charles Blake Fund, we initiated actions focused on two high priority sites that have potentially viable Horned Curassow populations: Ichilo Colorado in Amboró and Fátima in Isiboro-Sécure.

Presently the program is without funds. To have a serious impact against the extinction of this species, we need a program of at least \$35,000 a year. We are seeking \$7,500 to fortify an existing community-based ecotourism initiative in Ichilo Colorado, and \$6,500 for a widespread awareness-raising campaign in Isiboro-Sécure.

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### Conservation of Royal Cinclodes (*Cinclodes aricomae*), Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes alpinus*)

Program Coordinators: Vanesa Serrudo, Isabel Gómez; [vserrudo@armonia-bo.org](mailto:vserrudo@armonia-bo.org); [polylepis@armonia-bo.org](mailto:polylepis@armonia-bo.org)

Program Area: Apolobamba, Madidi and Cotapata National Parks

Tiny remaining fragments of humid *Polylepis pepeii* forest are restricted to remote valleys at around 13,000 feet in the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, and are the only habitat for two highly specialized and threatened birds: Royal Cinclodes and Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, which are listed as Critically Endangered and Endangered, respectively. Their habitat, already all but lost, continues to be reduced and degraded through cutting for firewood and building materials, burning and overgrazing. We are working with three communities—Puina, Keara and Pongo—to integrate forest conservation and community development

with actions such as forest restoration with locally-raised seedlings of *Polylepis pepeii* and other native species, community plantations of native species to provide an alternative source of wood, implementation of more efficient wood-burning stoves, environmental education materials and teacher training, composting latrines and textile production.

We are seeking \$8,000 to complete a tourist information center in Pongo and to begin a forest restoration project with the Pongo school.

### Bolivian Spinetail (*Cranioleuca henricae*) conservation

Program coordinators: Daniela Aguirre, Mónica San Cristóbal; [mailto:cranioleuca@armonia-bo.org](mailto:mailto:cranioleuca@armonia-bo.org)

Project area: Inter-Andean dry forests of the Cotacajes river basin, Departments of Cochabamba and La Paz

The endemic Bolivian Spinetail is

considered Endangered owing to its very small range in which suitable habitat is severely fragmented and in steady decline. The only known viable population is found in the Cuenca Cotacajes (Cotacajes river basin)—an Alliance for Zero Extinction site located in western Cochabamba and eastern La Paz departments. The Bolivian Spinetail inhabits dry, seasonally deciduous forest in rain-shadow valleys, an inter-Andean dry forest type considered endemic to the region. Thought to have once been more widespread, much of this forest has been cleared for agriculture and replacement with Eucalyptus plantations. Remnant forest fragments generally are small and severely degraded by cutting for firewood and commercial charcoal production, with poor regeneration due to overgrazing and burning.

We have identified four priority areas with significant Bolivian Spinetail populations—Machaca, K'uti, Larimarka and



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Cuyupaya—located in the municipality of Independencia, Cochabamba department, where we have been working with local communities and the municipal government to raise awareness of the Bolivian Spinetail and the importance of the native dry forest to sustainable development. Presently we are participating in a government pilot project funded by COSUDE (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) that aims to engage local stakeholders in the development of a management strategy for the long-term conservation of native forests in Independencia. If all goes to plan, COSUDE will continue to support our work as part of the second phase, which began in April 2010 and which will run for three to four years.

We are seeking \$7,000 for the purchase of a secondhand field vehicle. As there is no public transportation between the four project areas, vehicle rental uses a significant portion of projects funds.

### **Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) conservation**

Program coordinator: Abraham Rojas;  
mailto:frenteroja@armonia-bo.org

Program area: Inter-Andean dry valleys of the Mizque, Caine, Pilcomayo and Grande river systems; Departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Potosí and Santa Cruz.

The Endangered Red-fronted Macaw is endemic to a small area on the eastern slope of the Andes in south-central Bolivia. It is locally common at a number of sites but declining throughout its range. Based on the results of censuses conducted by Armonía over the past several years, the remaining population is estimated at 800-1000 individuals. The principal threats to the conservation of the Red-fronted Macaw are illegal trapping for the pet trade and habitat loss to agriculture and overgrazing by goats.

We have made considerable progress toward the protection of a high priority nesting site on the Río Mizque where we are assisting three communities with

ecotourism development and honey production. In 2008, through support by Thomas Henry Wilson Sr. and Jr., Armonía purchased 124 acres of land for the creation of a reserve to protect the San Carlos nesting cliffs (the principal attraction for tourists) and native vegetation that is important foraging habitat not only for the Red-fronted Macaw but also for honey bees.

Through support from The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, the Red-fronted Macaw Ecolodge has been expanded and now has space for 14 guests, a detached kitchen facility and housing for support personnel. Also, a trail was opened to provide access to a pre-Inca archaeological site, Fortaleza de Tunas Mok'o.

We are expanding the scope of the program to include priority areas in the Caine, Pilcomayo and Grande river valleys. As trapping for the illegal pet trade continues to pose the principal threat to the survival of the Red-fronted Macaw, a large scale education campaign is needed to raise widespread awareness of the situation. Through CEPA support, we have produced education materials for rural schools (21-page student workbook, 79-page teacher manual). The Parrot Society supported our anti-illegal trade campaign, a travelling exhibit of information panels that will be used in community presentations. In collaboration with the Santa Cruz Zoo, we are building a Red-fronted Macaw exhibit that includes an aviary and interpretive area.

We are seeking \$6,000 for the 2010 rural education campaign, which will include teacher training workshops, monitoring the application of educational materials, community presentations, radio broadcasts and school fairs.

### **Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) conservation**

Program Coordinator: Mauricio Herrera; mherrera@armonia-bo.org

Program Area: Llanos de Moxos (savannahs), Department of Beni.

The Blue-throated Macaw conservation

program has been developing successfully following the priority actions in the Species Recovery Plan. The program has been able to conduct a variety of different conservation actions in accordance with the direct threats on the species.

The most significant latest conservation action has been the discovery of a series of isolated ranches with the highest recorded abundances of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw, and the subsequent purchase of land in the area thanks to the support of American Bird Conservancy and World Land Trust-US. The Barba Azul Nature Reserve, created in 2008, protects 8,750 acres of Beni savanna, gallery forest and forest islands. We are in the process of purchasing another 2,000 acres to extend the reserve.

In order to improve habitat, Bird Endowment has supported the development of 150 nest boxes on the reserve and within the southern population for this breeding season. In order to reduce hunting, Parrots International and CEPA have supported our workshops with local community members to make artificial feathers meant to replace hunted macaw feathers traditionally used in the indigenous Machetero dance. The Armonía/ Loro Parque Fundación program has developed our efforts against the illegal pet trade through a travelling campaign describing the realities of the trade and wildlife treatment, in the Beni region and nationally. Also with Chester Zoo and CEPA support, we have continued our strong environmental program, including the three Blue-throated Macaw interpretative centres, also supported by the local governments in Santa Rosa, Santa Ana de Yucuma and Trinidad.

The priority for the conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw is to protect the key stronghold site. Through World Land Trust-U.S. ([www.worldlandtrust-us.org](http://www.worldlandtrust-us.org)) we will extend our Barba Azul Nature Reserve. Bird Endowment ([www.birdendowment.org](http://www.birdendowment.org)) is seeking support for our nest box campaign.



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