People love parrots for their intelligence, beauty and diversity. Sadly, these highly social birds are among the most endangered on Earth, with nearly one in three species threatened in the wild due mainly to trapping for the wildlife trade and habitat destruction.

Millions of companion birds face different challenges - caregivers often do not have the knowledge and resources to meet their bird’s health and behavioural needs.

The World Parrot Trust (WPT) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to saving parrots by leading science-based efforts to eliminate threats, protect habitats and support in-country conservation and welfare programs. We forge partnerships with local individuals, organizations, communities and governments by providing technical, logistical and funding support. Since its beginnings in 1989, the WPT has helped save over 80 species of parrot in 45 countries.
As another busy year draws to a close, all of us at the Trust are keen to look back at and share our recent work with you. We’ve put together this review to guide you through the key areas of our conservation and welfare focus.

Parrot conservation nearly always requires being creative to get work done — it’s something we’ve learned over the years that has allowed us to be agile in our responses to urgent events and effective in the long-term.

As you will see, our work lies in five different areas, many closely linked and all equally important.

You are an integral part of this work and of our successes. Thank-you for continuing to show us that you share our love of parrots.

—The World Parrot Trust family

Our sincerest thanks to you.

Alison Hales, Chairperson
Jamie Gilardi, Executive Director
SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES

SAVING ENDANGERED PARROTS BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING THEIR STATUS IN THE WILD.

Wild parrots are highly threatened, with nearly one-in-three species at serious risk of decline. WPT collaborates with front-line partners to study the ecology and status of endangered parrots by surveying their wild populations, interviewing local people, reviewing historical sightings, carrying out genetic studies and supporting range-wide population counts. These actions help identify serious dangers, which include trapping for the pet trade, persecution, disease, habitat loss and emerging threats such as climate change.

Once we recognise the issues, WPT works with partners to stop further declines and rebuild wild populations with several strategies, including supporting breeding-for-release programs, enabling nest protection work, stopping trade and working on reintroductions.

Seeking the long-term support of all levels of government, local communities and partner NGOs is vital to enduring and impactful conservation success.

Focus: Saving Endangered Species

Saving threatened parrots requires multiple approaches.

In Mexico, WPT supports Organización Vida Silvestre’s work gathering critical data on feeding, roosting, wintering and migratory areas from transmitters attached to dozens of endangered Thick-billed Parrots (Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha), information that will guide new measures to protect these birds. Technology is also proving to be essential in understanding the habitat requirements of Kakapos (Strigops habroptilus) where WPT arm, New Zealand Parrot Trust, has provided GPS units to track these most unusual of parrots. Research into lovebird genetics has been identified as a priority for their conservation. The results will guide breeding-for-release programs in areas where these birds have been lost. WPT also supports projects around the world that are working to boost critically low parrot populations. A collaboration with the Puerto Rican Department of Natural Resources and the Rio Abajo Puerto Rican Amazon Project is helping to significantly improve parrot numbers through a breeding-for-release program, with over 100 chicks having hatched between the captive and wild populations this year alone. There are now over 200 Puerto Rican Amazons (Amazona vittata) flying free, a new milestone, in Rio Abajo State Forest.

Elsewhere, ongoing work with Ara Manzanillo in Costa Rica and PRO-ALAS in Honduras is helping to boost Great Green Macaw (Ara ambiguus) and Scarlet Macaw (Ara macao) populations in protected areas.

Far left, top: A Thick-billed Parrot is fitted with a transmitter.
Far left, bottom: A physical exam is carried out on a Lilian’s Lovebird in Zambia.
Current page: A Great Green Macaw chick is weighed at Ara Manzanillo’s breeding facility.

HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your support, endangered parrots have a greater chance of survival.
PROTECTING WILD SPACES

PRESERVING Viable AREAS FOR WILD PARROTS IS CRITICAL TO THEIR LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.

Parrots are found in many types of habitat, including fragile dry forest, grassland, rainforest and high-altitude mountain ranges. Unfortunately, many of these areas have been destroyed through logging, agriculture and uncontrolled bushfires, all of which have seriously impacted the lives of both parrots and people. WPT helps in-country projects slow the loss of critical habitat through establishing protected areas, growing and planting native trees, and supporting fire mitigation work.

Efforts may initially focus on surveying how much habitat is remaining, assessing its ability to sustain parrot populations and identifying the factors that are negatively impacting it. In addition, determining how wild parrots use habitat for foraging and nesting is a key element for understanding how to protect the most critical areas. Finally, habitat protection and restoration efforts focus on establishing native flora, removing invasive plant species, creating protected reserves, and teaching local communities sustainable use and how to prevent or reduce damaging fires.

At-risk ecosystems are found in the Caribbean and South America. Much of Bonaire’s dry forest has been eliminated by logging and grazing by non-native animals, greatly affecting the land and its wildlife.

The Yellow-shouldered Amazon (Amazona barbadensis) has been particularly hard-hit by these activities, as well as from illegal poaching. WPT is supporting Echo, a local partner working to conserve these parrots and their habitat on Bonaire. Thus far they have protected more than 33 hectares by creating herbivore exclusion zones, planted over 13,000 native trees and shrubs, removed invasive plants and are encouraging awareness of sustainable land use in local communities.

In Bolivia, 2019’s destructive blazes burned nearly 6 million hectares (14.8 million acres), including areas where critically endangered macaws are found.

WPT recently provided technical and logistical support for fire mitigation training in partnership with Fundación CLB, a fire specialist and 70 local participants from three Protected Areas in Bolivia. Trainees were taught how to construct fire lines and use backburning to contain blazes, as well as how to use specialised equipment. Training will continue to help empower local communities to prevent and manage fires to protect themselves and wildlife.

Because of your generosity, hundreds of thousands of hectares are being protected.
FIGHTING WILDLIFE TRADE

ILLEGAL TRAPPING CAUSES WILD POPULATION DECLINES AND WELFARE ISSUES FOR INDIVIDUAL BIRDS.

To address the wild bird trade’s complex challenges, WPT has a multi-pronged strategy that includes providing awareness about the harms of trapping and collaborating to research and investigate what drives trade. The data informs actions with community-based projects to protect wildlife from poachers, and collaborations with local NGOs and law enforcement to disrupt trafficking networks.

WPT also partners with airlines and other corporations in strengthening their systems to prevent trafficking and encourages governments to use evidence-based policies to regulate both national and international trade. WPT has been quick to respond to the threat posed by online platforms that enable trade in wild parrots, and advocates for technology companies and governments to take action to prevent traffickers exploiting online environments.

WPT’s FlyFree programme instructs enforcement agencies, rescue centres and other groups in the responsible care and management of parrots seized from illegal trade. WPT also provides emergency technical and logistical support to rescues, funds supplies and infrastructure, and trains first responders and animal care and veterinary staff. Where possible, and in the interests of conservation and welfare, parrots are rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

HIGHLIGHTS

People have long been fascinated by parrots’ beauty and intelligence. Tragically, that appeal has led to them being threatened by the wildlife trade, which causes suffering to thousands of parrots each year.

WPT’s work centres on research, promoting anti-trade education, disrupting trafficking networks and providing technical and veterinary help to in-country organisations working to rehabilitate and release parrots caught in trade.

WPT is actively carrying out anti-trade work in Africa, South America and Indonesia. With Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Centre in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), WPT took part in the first soft release of 39 Grey Parrots (Psittacus erithacus) into a national park there, and supported a second release of 63 more Greys rescued by law enforcers. In Liberia WPT has helped Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary with ongoing parrot rescue and rehabilitation, most recently with 15 Timneh Parrots (P. timneh) confiscated from traffickers. In Brazil, 500 Blue-fronted Amazons (Amazona aestiva) have been rehabilitated and released back to the wild in collaboration with Lins Ecological Farm, ASM Cambaçara and the Caatinga Parrots Project. Many of these birds are now starting to use nest boxes provided by the project teams.

WPT has also built partnerships with organisations such as the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC) and the Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO) to take steps in stopping online trade.

Your contributions are ensuring that more parrots are spared the devastating effects of trade.
FOR PARROTS TO THRIVE THEY NEED ADEQUATE CARE, SOCIALISING AND ENRICHMENT.

Millions of people keep parrots as companions. Unfortunately, some of these birds suffer because their caregivers have little information about their physical needs. Additionally, thousands of wild parrots endure physical harm at the hands of trappers and dealers.

Providing parrot-related education and awareness is a high priority for the World Parrot Trust. WPT publishes a collection of comprehensive resources, including care, behaviour and enrichment materials, to an audience of hundreds of thousands of caregivers, bird-keepers and rescue workers to help spread awareness for and improve individual parrot welfare. WPT reaches people through hands-on training, webinars, podcasts, social media, email and print resources that are published in multiple languages.

To help alleviate overcrowding in parrot rescues, WPT encourages adoption and education through reputable facilities. In emergency circumstances, WPT also develops and manages facilities such as the United Kingdom’s Kiwa Centre, which is home to hundreds of rescued birds.

Direct support to rescues is also a priority. WPT’s Kiwa Centre in the United Kingdom has provided long-term sanctuary and enrichment for nearly 150 macaws and parrots. Partner Belize Bird Rescue cares for hundreds of birds of various ages, species and health status each year. These patients suffer from poor care, injuries and the effects of trapping. Those that fully recover are released back to the wild.

WPT also provides ongoing training on how to safely manage confiscated birds, country-by-country, for rescue workers, rangers and government officials on the frontlines preventing trade.

Finally, in early 2022 WPT mobilised hundreds of supporters to provide emergency funding for food, medication and transport to safety for Ukrainians and their companion birds in the war-scarred country.

Thanks to your support, greater numbers of parrots in need are receiving proper and timely care.
INSPIRING COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

ENGAGING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SECURE LONG-TERM PROTECTION

Illegal trapping, clearing for agriculture, persecution and other human activities threaten wild parrot populations.

Reaching out to local people where parrots live is the beginning of ensuring their protection. Communities are more likely to protect parrots if they learn more about their lives in the wild, the threats they face and how important they are to their ecosystems.

WPT supports partners that involve communities in learning about and caring for parrots and their habitat. In-country, non-governmental organisations put in place school programs and community events that teach about and celebrate parrots, and also work to create ecotourism and other sustainable, long-term ventures that benefit both people and parrots.

People have important roles to play as stewards of Earth’s natural resources.

WPT has long partnered with local communities that have a common aim in conserving parrots through outreach and awareness.

WPT recently teamed up with Arise News and WildAid Africa to produce a 10-minute film about the conservation and welfare plight of Grey Parrots (Psittacus erithacus) and the impacts of the wild bird trade in Nigeria. The film, which has been broadcast multiple times on national TV in Nigeria and other African countries, explores the threats that wild Greys are facing and what is being done to protect them.

WPT is also supporting other important work: in Mexico, rescue organisation TIVÚ A.C. is teaching local women’s groups how to benefit from protecting parrots through crafting and other micro-industries designed to bring extra income to families. PRO-ALAS in Honduras engages local people in parrot-themed special events and provides educational materials to school children, and ASM Cambaquara spreads awareness of the threats to parrots in Brazil. WPT-Indonesia’s team, together with local organisations, is also seeing positive results raising awareness of the status of wild parrot populations and the illegality of harming birds in villages on Bali. Educational banners are placed in locations where shooting and trapping is known to take place. It is hoped that this initiative will be beneficial in other areas on Bali, as well as other islands in Indonesia.

HIGHLIGHTS

People have important roles to play as stewards of Earth’s natural resources. WPT has long partnered with local communities that have a common aim in conserving parrots through outreach and awareness.

Far left, top: A banner at a village gathering house on Bali Island, Indonesia, cautions against hunting and trapping birds.

Far left, bottom: Annual Guacamaya Fest celebrations engage communities in Honduras.

Current page: Arise News interviews WPT’s Nigeria Country Program Coordinator Ifeanyi Ezenwa.

More parrots and people are benefitting from programs that encourage sustainable initiatives, thanks to you.
What I love the most about my work at WPT is that our hands-on approach, turns conservation possibilities into realities. On Norfolk Island, Tasman Parakeets were down to 30 or so birds in 2013. But now they number 400-500 birds thanks to nest protection from exotic predators and community engagement. Nothing beats the excitement of holding a parakeet chick knowing that its chances of survival are much greater now than a decade ago!

- Luis Ortiz-Catedral
  Director, WPT Oceania Conservation Program

Who would think conservation work around cute and charming African lovebirds could be full of potential threats? We came to a ranger’s camp site in a remote location in Zambia, southern Africa, near a waterhole which attracted animals such as hippos, buffalos, and lovebirds.

When we arrived, the caretaker informed us that the area was also home to a pride of 15 lions. By this time, we were used to getting up at 3AM in the morning to start our work. This night, however, we didn’t sleep. The rangers and caretakers did not allow us to set up our tents but instead use beds in the little hut they had constructed. We followed their advice and were woken up near midnight by loud lion roars. Thanks to them we were surrounded by somewhat stable walls, did not end up as midnight snacks for the pack of lions so that we can be here to tell the story and most importantly continue the journey of saving Africa’s lovebirds!

- Sascha Dueker
  WPT Lovebird Conservation Coordinator

~ Luis Ortiz-Catedral
  Director, WPT Oceania Conservation Program
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Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo
Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
Harewood House
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Isdell Family Foundation
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For the time-period covering Sept 1, 2021 - Sept 15, 2022

THANK YOU!
Donors making a difference

Your ongoing support ensures that parrots worldwide get the care and protection they need. We are forever amazed by your generosity and concern towards these wonderful creatures.

~ Paula Feldman
via Great NonProfits

WPT’s mission is essential to preserving, protecting & maintaining existing parrot populations. The exquisite and unique parrots play a vital role in our habitat environments and we can’t take them for granted.

~ W. Michael Stanton

The WPT is an enormous team working wonders and we are so thankful for your support.

~ Eric Smith
The World Parrot Trust works worldwide - and is very careful with its limited resources. I've been a proud contributor for some time and have personally visited some of their operations in the field. They employ local expertise - working with residents and their government to protect species in their natural environments. Many of their efforts have produced significant results - to protect parrots and nature.

Parrots in the wild are 'canaries in the coal-mine' of our natural world. We are losing them at breakneck speed from poaching, farming and habitat loss. As they disappear, so do all the fauna and creatures that live with them in jungles and forests. We need to nurture for future generations.

Individual Donors

Thank you to everyone who made gifts of $50 USD (£40) or greater between Sept 1, 2021 - Sept 15, 2022. And to those who gave in other denominations, anonymously, via other methods or directly to our Project Partners, we deeply appreciate you all!

[List of donors]

Thank you to everyone who gave in other denominations, anonymously, via other methods or directly to our Project Partners, we deeply appreciate you all!
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A organisations like NFT that give us hope that we will still manage to save many extinct creatures and go on surviving in effect, said, save all our life on earth.
LEAVE A LEGACY FOR PARROTS

Create a personal legacy that will have a lasting impact for parrots.

A bequest is a gift that ensures that WPT can continue critical work to protect parrots and the places where they live, now and into the future. Together, we can make sure that wild parrots will continue to grace the skies for future generations.

For more information on including WPT in your will or planned giving, visit parrots.org/legacy or contact the branch nearest you.