# Celebrating 30 YEARS

The World Parrot Trust began in 1989 with a mission: to save the world's most threatened parrots.

Three decades on we've provided help to more than 70 species in 43 countries. This work is possible because of collaborations with local, regional and international partners, and the backing of thousands of supporters across the world.

# The highlights

# **Protecting and Increasing Wild Populations**

In 1990, the WPT's first project was with local and international partners to protect and increase the last remaining Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*) population in Mauritius. With intensive management the species' numbers have increased from a low of 12 known individuals to over 700.

From the mid-1990s WPT has supported reforestation work, education programmes, captive breeding and release, and rehabilitation and release of Great Green Macaws (Ara ambiguus) and Scarlet Macaws (Ara macao), with in-country partners in Mexico, Honduras and Costa Rica.

# **Stopping Trade in Wild Parrots**

In 2007 WPT and over 230 other non-profits helped achieve a permanent ban on bird imports into the European Union, sparing the lives of millions of birds each year. Over a five-year span, WPT collaborated with international groups and governments to convince CITES to uplist Grey and Timneh Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus* and *P. timneh*) to Appendix I by 2017 to protect remaining wild populations. Intensive work to stop parrot trapping

is also ongoing with partners in Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, Central America, and the Caribbean. Work includes directing workshops for customs, police and rescue workers on best practices for emergency and rehabilitative care as well as funding veterinary aid, disease testing, supplies and food, and building more housing for confiscated birds. WPT is also supporting education, awareness and ecotourism.

# Supporting Education, Awareness and Ecotourism

The World Parrot Trust's first successful education and awareness project with Paradise Park Cornwall, UK was to provide interactive education buses to schools and other locations in St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Vincent in the Caribbean, and Paraguay in South America.

In other countries where people and parrots co-exist WPT has supported efforts to engage communities in protecting and benefiting from native parrots. Poaching remains a threat for these birds, and WPT's work demonstrating the concept of stewardship and sustainable ecotourism in place of trapping has proven successful in Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, Africa, Honduras, and Bonaire.

# Protecting and Restoring Important Ecosystems

In Bolivia, thousands of native trees have been planted in an ongoing reforestation effort. In early 2017 WPT helped local and international partners establish Gran Mojos, a new 1.5 million acre protected area for the macaws and other species. The reserve holds 35% of the known Blue-throated Macaw wild population, and an estimated 50% of breeding pairs.

Bonaire's dry forest has been systematically degraded over 250 years. WPT has partnered with local organisation Echo to restore and protect areas on the island with native plants and trees. To date, Echo has protected over 33 hectares of dry forest and planted more than 13,000 native trees.



## **Research Leading Conservation Work**

Since 2002, the World Parrot Trust has led the Blue-throated Macaw (Ara glaucogularis) Program, an effort that has gained important insight into the birds' recovery issues. Ongoing studies include: breeding success and chick survival, molecular (genetic) analysis comparing wild populations to captive ones, and assessing the extent of habitat loss.

In the latter 2000s, a joint project between WPT and two universities found that both Central American Mealy Amazon subspecies were distinct from their South American cousins. Two new species, Northern Mealy Amazon and Southern Mealy Amazon (Amazona guatemalae and A. farinosa), were recognized by IUCN in 2014 and uplisted to Near Threatened due to trapping.

In early 2007, WPT backed research to study range and habitat use of Yellow-naped Amazons (Amazona auropalliata) in Costa Rica, and in 2015 for surveying and protecting a population on an island off Honduras. WPT has recently backed surveys in Costa Rica and Nicaragua; they found that there has been a marked decline in population from 2005 surveys.

## **Emergency Welfare Efforts for Parrots**

WPT staff assisted with the recovery of the Puerto Rican Amazon project at Rio Abajo after Hurricane Maria in late 2017. Armed with funds generated by hundreds of WPT supporters, the team assembled incubators and brooders to nurse chicks, and bought cameras, recorders and climbing equipment for monitoring wild nests.

Also in 2017, a massive effort to rescue over 170 macaws and other parrots took place in the UK, thanks to a concerned individual donor who financed the building of The Kiwa Centre. A group of volunteers comprised of zoo personnel and veterinary staff took part in examining, disease testing, treating, and transporting the birds to the new facility. After months of recovery some birds have moved on to ambassador roles or breeding programs.

Elsewhere, WPT is providing support to rescues in Belize, Brazil, Honduras, Bonaire and Bolivia for parrots that cannot be released back to the wild. These birds also become public ambassadors or will be introduced into captive breeding programs.























