

YELLOW-EARED PARROTS PROTECTED FROM EXTINCTION

# Success in species protection in Colombia

Although there are more than 8,000 kilometres between the Canary Islands and Colombia, there is an important link between the country's yellow-eared parrot and the archipelago: The number of these birds, threatened with extinction, has now multiplied significantly thanks to the financial support of the Loro Parque Foundation and the direct intervention of the Vatican.

The Foundation's involvement, in close collaboration with the local ProAves Foundation in Colombia, was fundamental in ensuring that the wildlife population of this species has recovered so well today. The story of their survival began in the mid-1990s, when the Loro Parque Foundation supported the protection of the last 20 specimens in Ecuador. In 1988 they had disappeared and it was already feared that the species was completely extinct. Nevertheless, the Ognorhynchus project began that year with the aim of ensuring the survival of this species and its habitat in the Colombian Andes.



↑ Successfully saved from extinction – the Colombian yellow-eared parrot  
 → The protection of the wax palms and the creation of alternatives to traditions during the Palm Sunday festival was an essential part of the rescue operation

After a year of research, a group of 81 specimens was discovered in Roncesvalles in the Central Andes, and in January 2001 a second population of 63 specimens appeared at the foothills of the western

Andes at Jardín in the Antioquia area. In recent years, from the beginning of its collaboration, the Foundation has been the main player in an initiative that has become the most successful in South America.

In fact, the recovery rate was so high that the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) reduced the risk category of the yellow-eared



↑ The species risk is now listed as endangered



national tree, which is also endangered by the grazing of livestock and the discriminatory use of fronds to celebrate Palm Sunday. The years of research on habitat use, nutrition, distribution and reproductive behaviour have made it possible to develop a global action plan for species conservation. The cooperation with



↑ Safe nesting places are important to invite the parrot pairs to breed

the Vatican was also important in this context, thanks to which alternatives for the Palm Sunday festivities were presented to the population. This project is an example of the many initiatives supported by the Loro Parque Foundation on all continents to work locally for the conservation of endangered species.



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