

## Species Action Plan



# Yellow-shouldered Amazon (Lora)

**Scientific name** *Amazona barbadensis*  
**Key values** Endemic sub-species  
**Population** Estimated between 1,000-3,264 on Bonaire; global population estimated at less than 8,000 individuals.  
**Population status** The Lora is considered vulnerable to risk of extinction.  
**Distribution**



Photo: Steve Schnoll

Genetically isolated populations are found on Bonaire and Curaçao as well as northern Venezuela and the Venezuelan islands of Margarita and La Blanquilla. Locally extinct on Aruba.

**Habitats** Dry forest; trees and cliffs

SPAW	IUCN Red List	CITES	CMS	Legislation			Other
							<a href="#">Flagship</a> <a href="#">Endemic</a> <a href="#">IBA species</a>
<b>Annex II</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b>	<b>Appendix I</b>	None	<a href="#">Bonaire</a>	<a href="#">Aruba</a>	<a href="#">Curaçao</a>	

### KEY RESOURCES

Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot (*Amazona barbadensis*) [management plan](#)  
 Lora population monitoring and modelling [publication](#) (Rivera-Milán et al, 2018)

### Threats

<b>Habitat loss</b>	Habitat loss caused by overgrazing, particularly by feral goats, land development and conversion. Extensive farming practices cause overgrazing which reduces ground cover, leading to erosion and limits natural regeneration to trees and plants not favoured by grazers.
<b>Poaching</b>	Lora chicks and adults are subject to poaching and are traded locally, chicks are smuggled off island to feed international pet trade.
<b>Climate change</b>	Little is known about the impacts of climate change on Lora. A hotter and drier climate is expected to reduce productivity and lower survival rates; high mortality has been observed during periods of drought.

### Management goals

<p><b>Habitat loss</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support active management of Bonaire’s dry forests to reduce habitat loss</li> <li>• Work with the National government, island government and farmers (<i>kunukeros</i>) to address overgrazing and encourage sustainable animal husbandry practices</li> <li>• Mitigate the consequences of historical habitat loss and degradation through reforestation and restoration (‘rewilding’) to improve habitat structure and plant diversity island wide</li> <li>• Maximize population growth rates to decrease vulnerability and retain genetic diversity by increasing food sources and the availability of nest sites</li> </ul>
<p><b>Poaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness about the value of parrots in the wild and the detrimental impacts of poaching</li> <li>• Increase the effectiveness of existing protected areas and stimulate the creation of new protected areas, focusing on dry forests, to enable more effective enforcement</li> <li>• Enforce existing legislation addressing smuggling</li> </ul>
<p><b>Climate change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies to mitigate the likely impacts resulting from global climate change.</li> </ul>

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## Recommendations

### Management

- Provide nest boxes at strategic sites which offer protection from rats, cats and bees
- Implement the Lora management plan on Bonaire (2012), periodically reviewing priority issues and management goals
- Investigate opportunities for the controlled re-introduction of the Lora into Aruba
- Advocate for the protection of Bonaire's dry forests
- Support local initiatives to address overgrazing and encourage sustainable animal husbandry
- Encourage reforestation initiatives, particularly in Bonaire's dry forests
- Support restoration and 'rewilding' initiatives
- Support nurseries and native gardening initiatives propagating native trees and plants which can be used for the restoration of natural and agricultural areas, gardens and urban environments.
- Identify key locations for habitat restoration with a focus on increasing food sources for parrots
- Boost the economic value of parrots to the local community through the development of sustainable tourism

### Legislation

- Advocate for the legal protection of dry forests and related 'nature areas'

### Enforcement

- Enforce existing legislation to prevent poaching and smuggling of parrots
- Reduce poaching through the active management of dry forest environments
- Advocate for the protection of native, endemic, rare and endangered trees, particularly large trees which can be used by Lora as nesting sites.
- Ensure active site surveillance of nesting sites on Bonaire and Curaçao especially during July, August and September when chicks are likely to be poached and traded

### Science and monitoring

- Improve understanding of Lora population dynamics, growth rates, reproduction and population structure particularly in relation to seasonal distribution and food sources
- Maximise out-breeding
- Monitor nest competitors including European honeybees and Pearly-eyed Thrasher
- Monitor the impact of invasive predator species, rats and cats, on all life stages
- *NOTE: DCNA working group is developing standardized monitoring protocols*

### Stakeholders

- Build community support for parrot conservation
- Work with farmers (*kunukeros*) to encourage 'rewilding' and planting of flora.
- Work with local communities to encourage 'rewilding' of urban areas and gardens
- Increase awareness amongst stakeholder of the impact of habitat degradation and other threats
- Build capacity within local government, police and customs to improve effective enforcement of existing legislation (training, outreach material).

### Networking

- Work collaboratively: [Echo Bonaire](#), [STINAPA Bonaire](#), [DCNA](#), [DROB](#), [CARMABI](#), [FPNA \(Aruba\)](#), [Wild Conscience](#), [World Parrot Trust](#), [BirdsCaribbean](#), [Vogelbescherming](#) (BirdLife NL), [BirdLife International](#) and others

### Information - education

- Develop communication campaign to build support for dry forest and native tree protection.
- Support education efforts to raise awareness of habitat degradation and its ecological impacts, particularly for Lora
- Develop a program to support local community members experiencing conflict with parrots, if possible without reducing the food resource available for parrots.

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## Gaps

- Weak island legislation
- Poor understanding population dynamics
- Poor knowledge of population distribution and foraging areas

## Description

Lora is:

- Bright green parrot with a bright yellow face and crown.
- wings have yellow edges, 'shoulders', with red and blue feathers on the lower wing.
- short tail with rounded wings
- no visible difference between males and females.
- Length: 33 to 35 cm
- Weigh: 270 and 320 grams (adult)

## Biology

- Lora can live for up to 40 years
- Feed on leaves, seeds and fruit
- Nest in cavities in cliffs or holes in trees
- Pair for life and return to re-use nest sites
- Breeding season May-August, average of 3 eggs laid, incubated for 28 days.
- Female birds nurture chicks for up to 2 months, relying on males to bring food.
- Young birds stay with family groups for several months