

Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery

Ecological Services Sub-Office

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Iguaca, Puerto Rican Parrot by Tom Mackenzie, USFWS



El Yunque, parrot habitat by Sam Hamilton, USFWS



Parrot eggs by Alejandro Avampini

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Station Facts

- Established: 1990.
- Staff: 14 employees
- FY10 budget: \$1,515,842

We are the primary federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Puerto Rican Parrot and its habitats.

Station's Mission

Coordinate interagency recovery efforts through partnerships and using the best available science.

Implement recovery activities, coordinate management and research for the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), the only native parrot in U.S. territory.

Release captive-reared parrots into El Yunque National Forest and Rio Abajo Commonwealth Forest, managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), respectively.

Manage the Iguaca Aviary and provide state-of-the-art veterinary care to captive reared and wild parrots.

Promote conservation of habitat for the Puerto Rican Parrot and other endangered, native, and migratory bird species.

Promote international technology interchange and assist other nations manage vulnerable bird species.

Promote awareness and education for the plight of the Puerto Rican Parrot.

Adaptive Management and Data Integration

We work with DNER, USFS, and North Carolina State University, using adaptive management and structured decision making to evaluate sites to reintroduce a third population of Puerto Rican parrot.

Refine management practices in collaboration with the US Geological Survey, Mississippi State University, Lincoln Park Zoo, Disney's Animal Kingdom, and the University of Puerto Rico

Activity Highlights 2010

Conducted two population surveys that show the population in El Yunque is low but remains stable, and the new wild population in Rio Abajo is stable and slowly increasing.

Gathered field data to assess suitable habitat for a third population of Puerto Rican Parrots. Also, designed and coordinated research projects to develop and refine techniques for the reintroduction of captive-raised parrots into the wild.

Continue to restore nest cavities and field infrastructure in El Yunque National Forest. We exchange technology and technical assistance with DNER to conduct similar activities at the Rio Abajo Forest.

Continue to implement innovative solutions to deal with predators, competitors and diseases.

Optimize captive population reproduction by manipulating wild nests and facilitating surrogate parents of active wild nests, among other techniques.

Provided technical assistance to biologists and technicians in Chile and the Dominican Republic to aid vulnerable bird species in those countries.