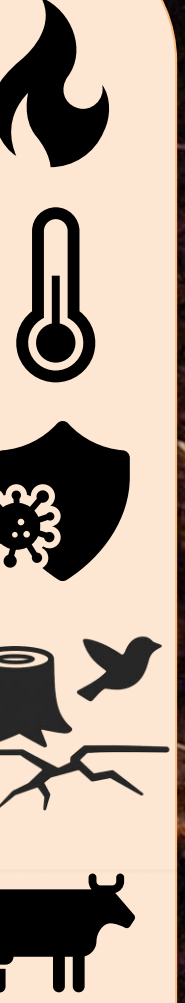


### Status In-situ

#### Threats:

- Intense **wildfires** ⇒ destruction of breeding cavities (only 5% of Panama trees (*Sterculia apetala*) persist), loss of chicks, depletion of food resources.
  - The rise in **extreme climatic events** (heavy rainfalls, droughts, extreme temperatures) ⇒ reduced chick survival and elevated parasitism rates.
  - Recent **virus outbreaks** (Pacheco's) ⇒ several hundred birds perished within a few couple of months in 2024.
  - Additional hazards include **habitat degradation**, illicit domestic and international commerce, exploitation of feathers for ornamental uses, disturbance by humans.
- All hazards result in **heightened dispersal** and a reduction in flocks and individuals.



#### Conservation initiatives:

- **Nationwide Population Management Programs (PMp)** for all three species of Blue macaws are currently being developed by ICMbio (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade), IUCN, in-situ conservation organizations, EEP and others.
- **Instituto Arara Azul** operates in the northern Pantanal region. Their **provision of nesting boxes** and further efforts have mitigated population decline.

### Status Ex-Situ Population

#### Varia

- The species is **challenging to breed** successfully. Most birds in the past were raised via artificial incubation and hand-rearing, resulting in imprinted and socially inept animals.
- Most **embryos die** a few days before hatching / during the hatching process / are inadequately fed by parents.
- The EEP population primarily expanded through **acquisition from non-EAZA institutions**.
- Frequent requests from various authorities to take care of **confiscated animals**.

#### Population

- EEP population: **323 individuals** (169.138.16, Aug. 2025) in **71 institutions**.
- ~ 1/3 of the population is in a non-breeding situation.
- In the past three years, only **11 institutions successfully** hatched and reared chicks.
- As almost no breeding occurs in coordinated programmes outside of EAZA, the EEP represents the only **ex-situ population with potential for conservation initiatives**.
- The population exhibits a **male bias**, more males hatching in the last years and males tend to live longer.

### Aims & needs of the Hyacinth macaw EEP

- Our objective is to establish a **self-sustaining, coordinated ex-situ population** in the next years
- Gain deeper comprehension of **unsuccessful pairings** by analysing failed breeding attempts
- **Investigation into hatching failures** to check influence of diet, environment, expertise of the breeding pair, inbreeding...
- Establish **Kindergartens** to congregate the birds in flocks until they reach maturity (early social development is crucial)
- **Mate selection:** To establish stronger pair bounds by voluntary mate selection, Zoo Wuppertal built a dating aviary (Aralandia)

#### Actions of the holders

- **Prohibited actions:** assisted hatching, artificial incubation, hand rearing, single animal holding, hybridizing with other parrot species ⇒ we need **socially competent birds only**.
- Thorough **virus screening** see: "EAZA Reference Document – Virus management in parrots", Parrot TAG, Feb. 2021
- **Genetic research:** Numerous holders are urged to facilitate **single-sex groupings** (males), given the male-skewed population
- **Collect samples** whenever feasible. Currently, a project investigates genetic relatedness within the EEP population and compare it with the in-situ population



### Get involved

- We would be happy to welcome you as a new member of the **Species Committee**
- Become a **new holder of Hyacinth macaws**. Please contact us.
- In-situ: Instituto Arara Azul is a reliable and commendable collaborator for conservation initiatives. **Financial assistance** for their efforts is encouraged



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