

THE GUACAMAYO PROJECT IN TAMBOPATA

regional conservation policies. It has recently included telemetric studies through light aircraft from where birds equipped with small chips are studied. They are still in the data collection phase, but they have already found out that individuals have wider distribution ranges than was thought before. This means that they fly well beyond the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahuaña Sonene National Park. The problem is that they seem

monitored. The number of birds that visit the place is recorded to establish seasonal changes. Different lick sections have also been analyzed, and they have established that birds concentrate in the areas where there is the highest content of sodium. They need it to neutralize the toxins they ingest together with their favorite food: seeds. This is the largest known lick in the world, both due to the number of species and the number of



The Guacamayo Project has become one of the broadest and deepest pieces of research in the study of wild macaws in the world. Its history and that of Rainforest Expeditions are intertwined.

The Tambopata project on macaws is a multidisciplinary long-term project aiming at preserving species from the psittacid family (parakeets, parrots and macaws). The project's approach mainly seeks greater understanding

of these species and to develop techniques that may contribute with the recovery of their population in neotropical zones -where they are endangered species -. It also intends to use research results to promote national and

to be moving to the area of influence of the Southern Interoceanic Highway. Knowing their distribution range would let us be able to propose protection of the zone they migrate to.

Other study points include monitoring macaw nests to record chick growth and mortality rates, both in natural and artificial nests. Besides, activity in the macaw lick is being

individuals that visit it. Rainforest Expeditions, which operates the Tambopata Research Center -an ecolodge and research center that lies less than one kilometer away from the lick - has supported the project from the start with food and lodging for researchers to facilitate their field work. The Guacamayo Project is about to turn 20 years old and still has a lot to research about one of the most spectacular bird families in the world.