

# 2024 YEAR-END REPORT:

## Protecting the Yellow-Naped Parrot of Guanaja



### Green Island Challenge

KEEP GUANAJA WILD & FREE



GREEN ISLAND CHALLENGE

## Overview

In 2024, the Green Island Challenge (GIC) continued its vital work in Guanaja, Honduras, to protect the endangered yellow-naped parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*). This initiative, which is deeply rooted in restorative justice and community-based conservation, has seen continued success in its mission to prevent the extinction of this iconic species. Through a combination of direct action, education, and community engagement, GIC has significantly boosted the parrot population and engaged local communities in sustainable, conservation-driven practices.

## Key Achievements in 2024

### 1. Annual Parrot Count

- In 2024, GIC conducted a comprehensive annual parrot count, which involved seven days of field monitoring to document and track the yellow-naped parrot population across key habitats in Guanaja.
- The count, which engaged local parrot protectors, community members, and conservation specialists, revealed that the yellow-naped parrot population on Guanaja has exceeded **1,100 individuals**, a notable increase from 323 parrots in 2018. This indicates that ongoing conservation efforts are yielding positive results.

### 2. Parrot Population Growth

- The population of yellow-naped parrots is thriving, particularly in areas where former poachers have transitioned into parrot protectors, ensuring that nesting sites are safeguarded and monitored year-round.
- The continued growth of the parrot population is a direct result of the combined efforts of local communities and the success of the restorative justice model.

### 3. Community Engagement and Education

- **Environmental Education Program:** One of the key highlights of 2024 was the continued success of GIC's environmental education program. This program, launched in 2019, educates the youth of Guanaja about the ecological significance of the yellow-naped parrot and the importance of conservation.

- In August 2024, GIC held environmental education workshops in eight schools on the island, reaching students across various regions including **Cayo “Bonnaca,” Savannah Bight, Mangrove Bight, Brisas del Mitch, and East End.**
- The workshops aimed to foster curiosity and empathy toward the environment by teaching students about the threats facing the yellow-naped parrot, including illegal wildlife trafficking and habitat destruction.
- A key component of the program was a **field excursion** for 9th-grade students, where they were trained on parrot counting methods, helping them engage directly with conservation efforts and sparking interest in becoming future environmental leaders.
- In total, over 1,500 students participated in the program in 2024, creating a generation of informed and motivated young environmental stewards.

#### 4. **Restorative Justice Model Expansion**

- The restorative justice model continued to expand in 2024, with **15 new parrot protectors** hired, many of whom were former poachers who now actively participate in the protection of the yellow-naped parrot. This shift from poaching to protection has not only decreased illegal trade but also provided economic opportunities to former poachers, demonstrating the model's success.

#### 5. **Local Collaborations and Partnerships**

- GIC strengthened its collaborations with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and environmental agencies, ensuring the long-term sustainability of its initiatives.
- The collaboration with local schools and universities grew, integrating conservation programs into the curriculum and creating hands-on opportunities for students to participate in fieldwork and conservation activities.

#### 6. **Public Awareness and Advocacy**

- Through social media campaigns, community events, and radio broadcasts, GIC successfully raised awareness about the environmental challenges facing the island and the yellow-naped parrot’s role in the local ecosystem. The organization also garnered global attention for its unique model of community-led conservation.

## 7. Environmental and Habitat Protection

- GIC continued its efforts to restore key parrot habitats, working with local farmers to implement sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate habitat destruction. The restoration projects focused on regenerating native forests and enhancing areas critical for parrot nesting and feeding.

### Challenges and Areas for Improvement

- **Climate Change Impacts:** Changes in weather patterns, including increased flooding and storms, posed challenges for habitat restoration. GIC is working to develop more resilient ecosystems that can withstand these shifts.
- **Illegal Pet Trade:** Despite progress, the illegal pet trade remains a threat to the yellow-naped parrot. GIC continues to work with law enforcement to combat this issue.
- **Sustaining Funding:** Securing stable funding to maintain the full-time roles of parrot protectors and continue education programs is an ongoing challenge.

### Looking Ahead: Goals for 2025

1. **Increase Parrot Population to 1,500:** GIC aims to continue growing the yellow-naped parrot population, setting a goal of 1,500 individuals by the end of 2025.
2. **Expansion of Education Programs:** The environmental education program will expand to reach even more schools and communities, with a focus on increasing youth participation in conservation efforts.
3. **Strengthening Local Governance and Capacity:** GIC will continue working with local authorities to create stronger frameworks for environmental conservation and policy enforcement.
4. **Climate Resilience Initiatives:** Focus on developing more resilient habitats to mitigate the effects of climate change, including water conservation efforts and restoration of natural ecosystems.
5. **Global Awareness Campaign:** GIC plans to launch a global campaign to highlight the success of its community-driven model and raise awareness about the yellow-naped parrot's endangered status.

## **Acknowledgments**

The success of the Green Island Challenge is made possible by the dedicated efforts of the people of Guanaja. Parrot protectors, local educators, students, and community leaders have been instrumental in ensuring the success of conservation efforts. Support from partners, donors, and global networks has also been critical in sustaining the program. Thank you to One Earth Conservation, World Parrot Trust, and Susan Hendrickson for your continued support.

## **Conclusion**

2024 was another year of significant progress for the Green Island Challenge. With the yellow-naped parrot population on the rise and an increasing number of local youth actively engaged in conservation, GIC is making a lasting impact on both the environment and the people of Guanaja. The organization remains committed to expanding its efforts and ensuring that the yellow-naped parrot thrives for generations to come.