

Preventing Red-fronted Macaw Extinction: **Saving the Red-fronted Macaw palm breeding population in Bolivia**



The Bolivian endemic Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) with less than 1,200 individuals left in the wild, is Critically Endangered. We need to urgently increase their numbers to bring the population out of a highly vulnerable state.

Red-fronted Macaw numbers have plummeted due to the illegal pet trade and the increasing destruction of their foraging habitat. As the Red-fronted Macaw is known to breed in cavities within steep isolated rock cliffs, their breeding sites face less danger by habitat destruction. Though this is not the case for the recently discovered palm breeding Red-fronted Macaw population that is found within El Palmar National Park.

In the El Palmar National Park a population of Red-fronted Macaws are using the Pasoyapa Palm for breeding. This is an endemic and highly threatened palm only found in the dry Andean valleys of Bolivia. Even within the National Parks boundaries, the palm habitat is lost at a rapid rate due to mad-made fires and the increasing agricultural frontier. As all know breeding sites are within this National Park, it is crucial to implement strong measure that protect both the endemic palm and macaw from extinction.

This project aims to protect the vital breeding habitat of the palm breeding Red-fronted Macaw population in El Palmar National Park. Armonía started working with El Palmar in 2021 and our goal is a long-term presence to secure an increasing population trend.

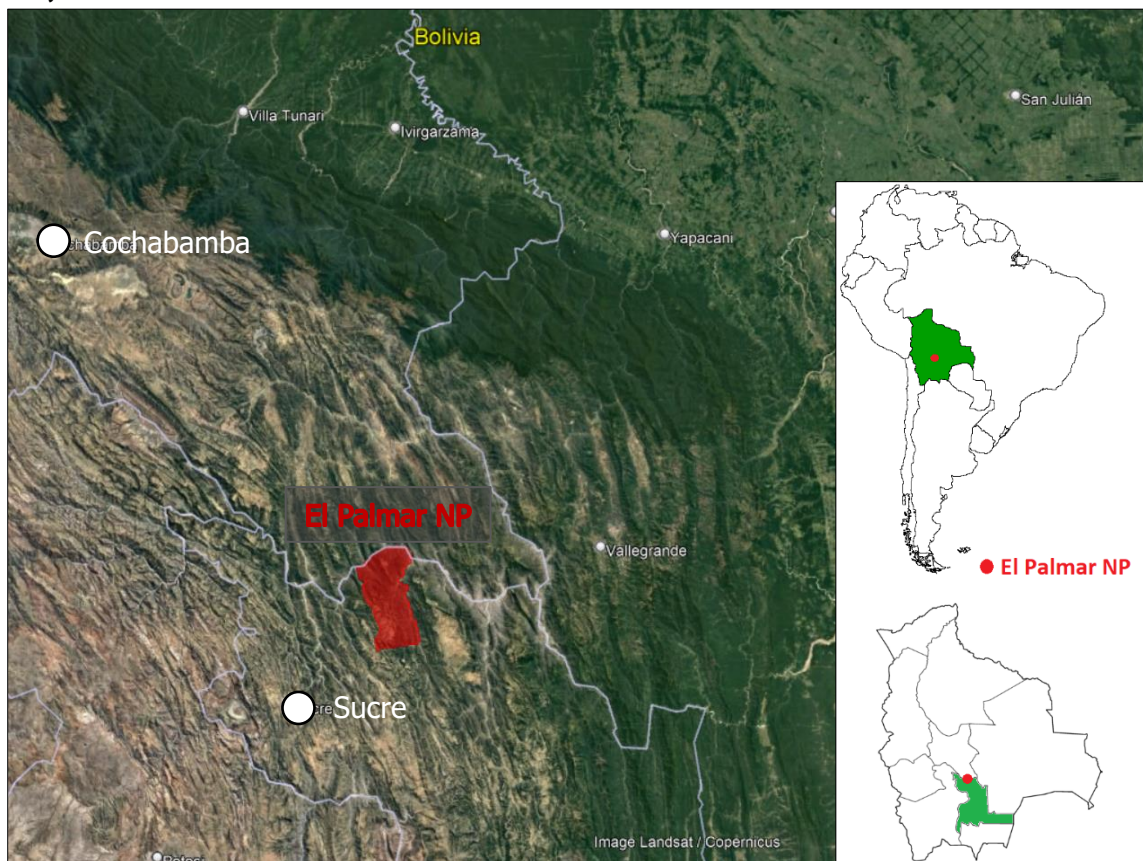
Our objectives are:

1. Generate awareness to protect the Red-fronted Macaw at 6 communities within the National Park
2. Find natural Red-fronted Macaw nests at unknown palm forests to identify conservation priority sites
3. Gather breeding information through monitoring the Red-fronted Macaw nestboxes

To meet our objectives, we set the following activities:

1. We will organize a workshop and invite members from 6 communities that are within the National Park to demonstrate the importance of protecting both the Pasoyapa Palm and the Red-fronted Macaw. We will provide conservation banners for each community as well as promoting the splendor this NP has to offer for tourism.
2. We will organize a search expedition to find natural Red-fronted Macaw nests at a highly isolated Pasoyapa palm stand deep within the El Palmar National Park which is still little impacted by humans. When we find breeding Macaws, we will develop a protection plan to prevent human encroachment.
3. Together with El Palmar park guards we will monitor the Red-fronted Macaw nestboxes to better understand their breeding behavior and to prevent illegal trafficking of macaw chicks.

Project location:



Budget

Red-fronted Macaw Conservation Support in El Palmar NP		
Item	Description	Budget (EURO)
Project supervisor	Rodrigo Soria-Auza/Tjalle Boorsma	400
Project coordinator	Guido Saldana	600
Environmental education	1 workshop, 6 Red-fronted Macaw conservation banners for communities, promotion material El Palmar	1,300
Red-fronted Macaw search expedition	Food, lodging, travel, guides for 10 days	2,000
Nestbox monitoring material	Ladder, climbing gear, binoculars	900
Asociación Armonia	Administration	780
Total		5,980