

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Long-term Lorikeets: Managing lorikeets for conservation, education and guest experience

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Lorikeets and lories (tribe Loriini) are Indo-Pacific parrots characterized by brush-tipped tongues for a unique lifestyle: eating nectar. 13 of 61 known species (21%) are threatened by habitat loss and the cagebird trade, and only about half the species are found in human care. Mandai Wildlife Group manages almost 300 individuals from 21 species, including threatened species such as the scarlet-breasted lorikeet (*Trichoglossus forsteni*) and yellow-backed chattering lory (*Lorius garrulus flavopalliatu*s). Most of this collection is displayed as a multi-species flock in the 0.25ha Lory Loft, where visitors can have close encounters as they walk through on an elevated pathway, be educated on topics such as lorikeet diversity, behaviour and threats, and partake in the public feeding experiences. Mandai's focus on Asian bird species has recently resulted in a five-year lorikeet management plan considering conservation, education, guest experience and collection sustainability. The distribution of lorikeets within the range of SEAZA means there are many opportunities for members to support and contribute *in situ*, while focusing efforts on *ex situ* conservation of these iconic birds.

Key words: lorikeets, collection planning, population management



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