

What can you do to help protect this species and other parrots?

1. Share this brochure and information with others
2. Encourage others to support the villagers through eco-tourism or One Earth Conservation through donations.
3. Inform others about the dire conservation status of so many parrots, including the sun parakeet, and encourage them not to trade parrots or keep parrots in captivity.

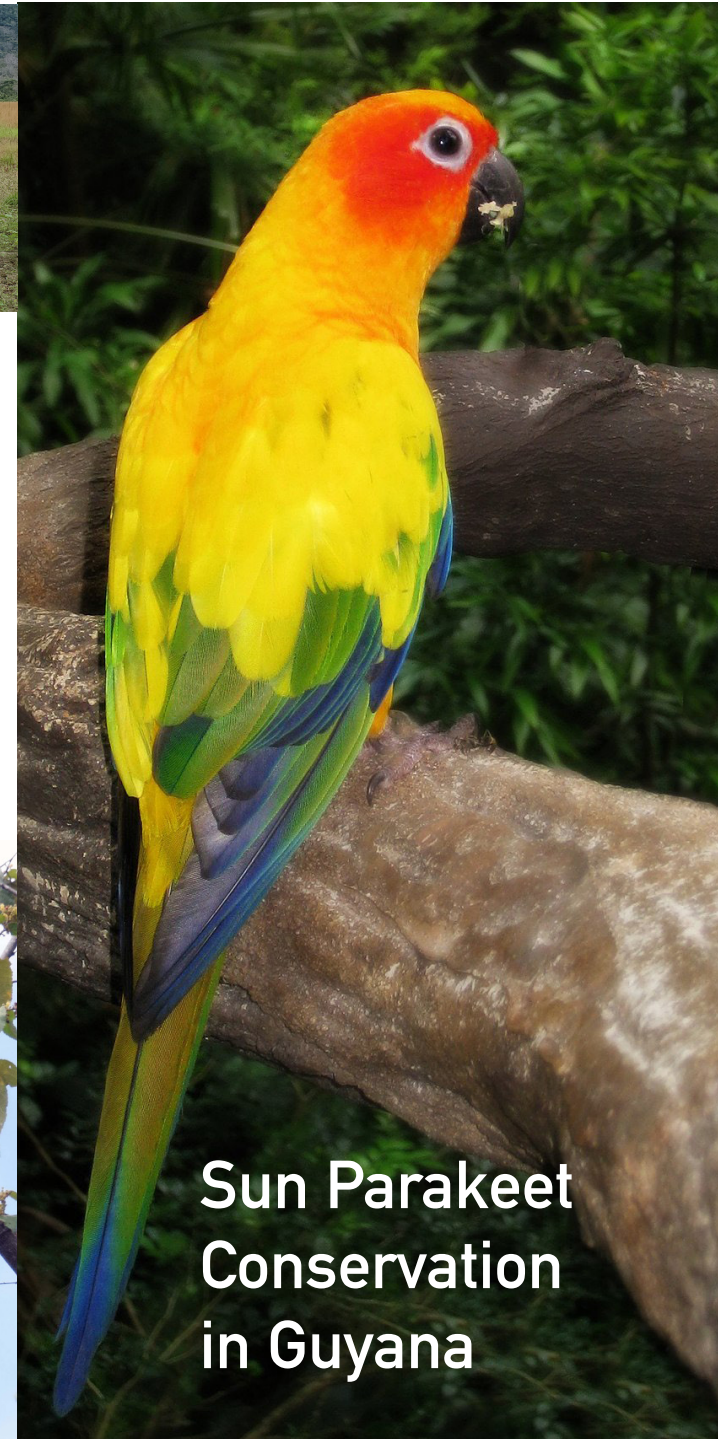
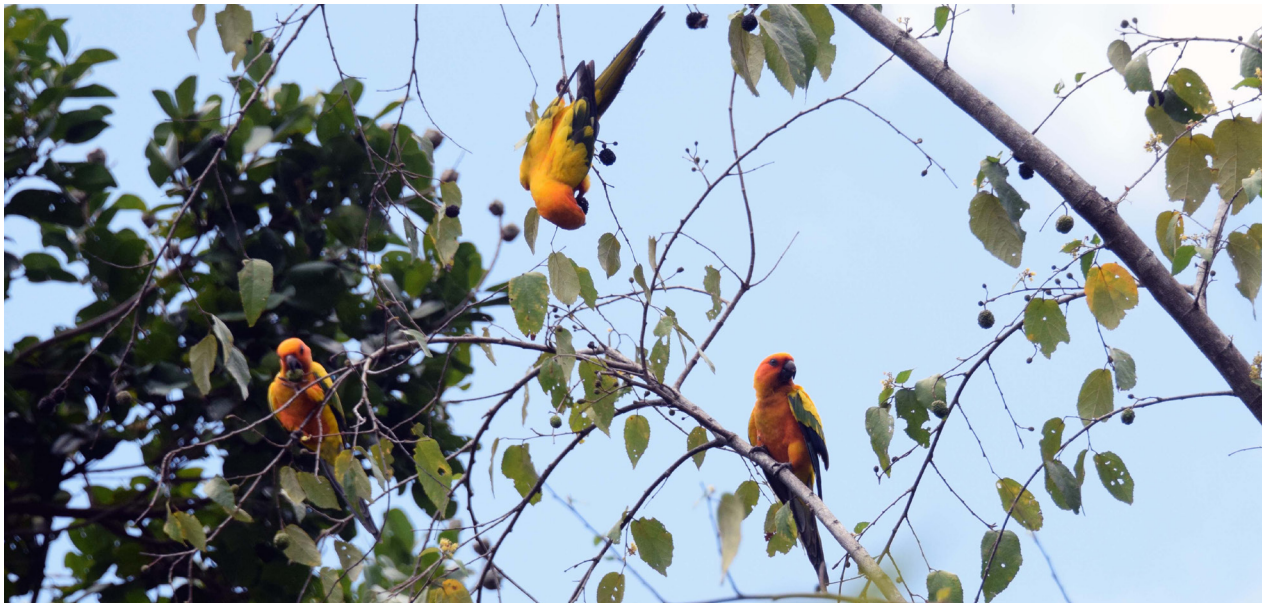


*For more information, contact us at:*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/keseecolodgekarasabai>

Email: [kezeecolodge@yahoo.com](mailto:kezeecolodge@yahoo.com)

Whatsapp: +592 672 5280, +592 653 1539



**Sun Parakeet  
Conservation  
in Guyana**





**The sun parakeet (*Aratinga solstitialis*) is one of the most endangered parrots in South America, which is very serious given that parrots in general are the most endangered group of birds in the world.** There are about 400 sun parakeets in Guyana and an unknown number in nearby Roraima, Brazil, perhaps altogether totaling 1,000-1,500.

The species is critically endangered, because it has been historically trapped for the pet trade. Once ranging widely over the savannah in Brazil and Guyana, it is now only found in the mountainous regions of Karasabai in Guyana and similar remote areas in neighboring Brazil. Currently, there are hundreds of thousands in homes all over the

world, but very few left in the wild. The sun parakeet's popularity as a pet species is due to its bright yellow and orange plumage and active personality. It is also quite vocal in the wild and in homes, which unfortunately causes too many humans to abandon their birds.

**However, there is now hope for the sun parakeet, because of the efforts of the village of Karasabai. Since 2016, villagers have been protecting the birds and their numbers appear to be increasing.** Parrots can be legally trapped and exported in Guyana, except for the sun parakeet and scarlet macaw.

Protection efforts include the formation of the Parakeet (Kesee) Rangers, who are charged with monitoring and protecting the species.

They work closely with the U.S.-based NGO, One Earth Conservation, on these efforts. The villagers' hope to learn all they can about the parrot, so as to protect them, and share their knowledge with the many visitors who come to see the birds.

Currently, not much is known about the sun parakeet. We aren't sure when or how they breed, though we do know that they nest and roost as family groups in tree cavities of different species of trees, including the water cedar. So far, we have seen them eat parts of Waru, Monkey Brush, Poi, Savannah Green Heart and Mi plants and trees. **This is a tremendous success story and the village is to be congratulated and celebrated!**

*Photo credit: Agnes Coenen, 2018*