

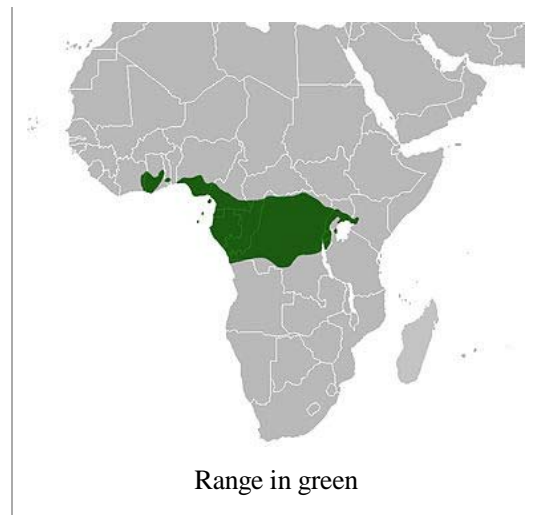


## Food and feeding

The African grey parrot is primarily a herbivore, feeding on fruit, nuts, leaves, bark and flowers. However it will also eat insects.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Threats to survival

Humans are by far the largest threat to wild African grey populations. Between 1994 and 2003, over 359,000 African grey parrots were traded on the international market. Mortality amongst imported birds is high.<sup>[3]</sup> As a result of the extensive harvest of wild birds, in addition to habitat loss, this species is believed to be undergoing a rapid decline in the wild and has therefore been rated as vulnerable by the IUCN.<sup>[4]</sup>



## Relationship to humans

The species is common in captivity and is regularly kept by humans as a companion parrot, prized for its ability to mimic human speech. However, it may be prone to behavioural problems due to its sensitive nature.<sup>[3]</sup>

African Greys are also highly intelligent, having been shown to perform at the cognitive level of a 4-6 year old child in some tasks. Most notably, Dr. Irene Pepperberg's work with Alex (parrot) the parrot showed his ability to learn over 100 words, differentiating between objects, colors, materials, and shapes.<sup>[5]</sup>

## References

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Categories: IUCN Red List vulnerable species | Psittacini | Animals described in 1758 | Animal intelligence | Talking birds | Parrots of Africa | Fauna of Central Africa | Birds of Cameroon

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