<u>Statement by Mark Stafford of Parrots International 12th June 2016</u>

Tuesday, July 12, 2016, represented another milestone in the story of the Spix's Macaw. A formal partnership was established to create a reintroduction centre within the historical habitat of the Spix's Macaws and begin the process of reintroducing the Spix's Macaw to the wild. This is truly a first, returning a species to nature that has been considered extinct in the wild for 16 years.

The parties to the partnership agreement, officiated by the Minister of the Environment of Brazil, are:
1. The Ministry of Environment of Brazil
2. The Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (The Brazilian Wildlife Authority)
3. The Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP) – Germany
4. Lubara Animal Breeding (Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation- AWWP) – Qatar
5. Parrots International – United States
6. Fazenda Cachoeira (the Spix's holder for the Brazilian Government) – Brazil
7. Jurong Bird Park - Singapore

The parties formally engaged in the Memorandum of Agreement to "establish a partnership to integrate the expertise and technical efforts of the Parties to promote cooperation actions for the reintroduction of the Spix's in its natural habitat, in accordance with the Spix Macaw Action Plan and its captive program."

What does that mean? It means that construction of the reintroduction and breeding facility on Concordia farm will begin within the next few months with completion in 2017. Then Spix's Macaws will be moved to the facility, donated by ACTP, AWWP, and Brazil. These Spix's Macaw will be captive bred and then soft released into the skies of their historical Caatinga habitat. The Brazilian Government will create, by formal decree, a Protected Area of thousands of hectares surrounding the release facility to support their safety.

Truly historical !!! Please do your part to support and promote this project. This is an immense and costly undertaking that will require financial support and donations to realize the final dream. .