

The CDF's Statutes define its **objectives** as follows:

- to perform scientific research and collaborate in activities of basic and applied research in the Archipelago
- to disseminate the results of its research and relevant research produced by other organizations
- to provide advice to the Ecuadorian Government on the conservation of the environment and biodiversity of Galapagos
- to contribute to the process of policy formation with precise and timely technical information
- to develop actions that increase the local and national capacity for conservation of the environment and biodiversity
- to obtain funds on a national and international basis to finance its operation
- to make the necessary efforts to achieve excellence in the functioning of all areas of support for its mission
- to promote national and international cooperation in programs and projects with organizations compatible with the mission and objectives of the CDF

To fully empower the CDF to fulfill these objectives, in 1964 a field research station –the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS)– was established in Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos.



Jill. Key

CDRS, created through an agreement with the Government of Ecuador, is the operational arm of CDF. Scientists stationed there work in cooperation with local and national partners, as well as researchers worldwide, carrying out basic and applied science throughout the archipelago.

Their work includes establishing baseline studies of Galapagos species; monitoring the state of native, endemic and invasive plants and animals; prioritizing areas for action; developing and testing control and management techniques; conducting research on priority issues; and building local technical capacity, among many other activities.

The CDF's **mission** is:

To provide knowledge and assistance through scientific research and complementary action to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity in the Galapagos Archipelago.

Over the coming decade, the CDF will work to achieve its mission by promoting a future for Galapagos founded on solid principles of ecosystem management.

This will require cultivating a holistic understanding of the complex and dynamic Galapagos ecosystem. People are a vital part of this ecosystem and building long-term options for the inhabitants of Galapagos is critical for the effective management in the islands.

The realization of this mission is founded on a set of **core values**:

- recognition of the uniqueness of Galapagos
- cultivation of transparency and integrity to build trust
- belief in dialogue and working with people
- pursuit of excellence in all aspects of work
- commitment to leading by example

The CDF foresees a future for Galapagos in which people work together toward a shared vision, with strong local institutions that support sustainable and equitable businesses. The local culture will be built on cooperation, understanding of the local ecology and awareness of the major challenges confronting this island ecosystem.

To help forge this future, the CDF will support effective planning, advise decision makers, build capacities among local organizations and individuals, undertake research, and communicate knowledge to support sustainable development and increase understanding of the local ecology.

Within this context, the **vision** of the CDF for 2016 is:

To be the world's leading research institution dedicated to the conservation of the biological diversity and natural resources of Galapagos, and committed to building a sustainable and collaborative society to achieve this objective.