GALAPAGOS PASSPORT



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GALÁPAGOS – ECUADOR



Science in Galapagos



Our Thanks

to the Ecuadorian Government, to Ecuador's Ministry of Environment, to the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD), the Galapagos Bio-security Agency (ABG), the Governing Council of the Special Regime for Galapagos (CREG), all individual and institutional collaborators, our staff, our volunteers and our generous donors for supporting our work in Galapagos over the past 60 years.

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Charles Jarwin

In 1831 a young 22-year-old Charles Darwin left England onboard the HMS Beagle as part of a journey that lasted almost five years. When he arrived in the Galapagos Islands in 1835, his five weeks of scientific research, and his theory of evolution transformed our understanding of life on Earth.

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Please DONATE!

You can donate by visiting our Website: www.darwinfoundation.org

Other Ways to Support our Projects

The Foundation also receives donations by check, direct transfer, planned regular donations, and donations of stocks. If you would like to donate using one of these methods, please contact our Fundraising Area by writing to: cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec

If you live in the United States, you can make your mark in Galapagos and consider the Charles Darwin Foundation when planning your estate inheritance.

For more information about leaving your legacy, please communicate with: cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is a non-profit organization that has been working for 60 years in the Galapagos Islands and will continue to generate science for the next decades to conserve this unique World Heritage Site.

MISSION

The mission of the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Research Station 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.

VISION

The vision of the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Research Station is to contribute to a sustainable Galapagos by providing breakthrough research which informs conservation actions and inspires humanity to conserve this extraordinary Archipelago and our planet as a whole.

INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



1959

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) was created, and the Galapagos National Park (GNP) was established.

1964

The Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) was inaugurated in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz.

1965

The Program to Breed in Captivity and Repatriate Giant Tortoises began on Santa Cruz.

1966

The first Education for Conservation of the Galapagos Islands Program began.

1971

The GNPD and CDF discovered Lonesome George, the last known survivor of the giant tortoises from Pinta

1972

The CDF Scholarships and Volunteers Program began for Ecuadorian students.

1976

Along with the GNPD, the CDF undertook the Land Iguanas Breeding and Repatriation Program.

1995-97

The CDF rediscovered the Margarita tree (Scalesia atractyloides) and the Floreana Lino (Linum cratericola), believed to be extinct, in collaboration with the GNPD.

1997

The Isabela Project began focusing on eliminating goats and pigs from northern Isabela and on Santiago and Pinta Islands.

1998

With the approval of the Special Law for Galapagos (LOREG) the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR) was created.

2000

The data base for the natural history collections and the Land Invertebrates Collection was created. The Galapagos Quarantine and Inspection Program (SICGAL) began.

2002

After several years of studies about potential biological controls, the Australian ladybug (*Rodolia cardinalis*) was released to control invasive aphids (*Icerya purchasi*).

2007

The Charles Darwin Foundation issued the report, 'Galapagos at Risk'.



2012

CDF launched the DataZone virtual platform. Efforts to discover and evaluate mechanisms to control the *Philornis downsi* invasive fly.

2014

The first Mangrove Finch was born in the CDRS as part of the "Early Raising in Captivity" Program for endangered species.

2016

CDF scientific research supported the declaration of the Darwin and Wolf Marine Sanctuary. The Charles Darwin Exhibition Hall was inaugurated.

2017

Ecuador's National Assembly ratified the cooperation agreement between the CDF and the Ecuadorian Government.

2018

"Marine World" was inaugurated at the Van Straelen Interpretation Center. We launched the first Atlas of

We launched the first Atlas of Galapagos, co-authored by CDF and WWF.

2019

60th Anniversary of the Charles Darwin Foundation's creation.



ALÁPAGOS - ECUADO



Arturo Izurieta Valery Executive Director

Dr. Arturo Izurieta Valery assumed the role of Executive Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) three years ago in 2015. He is the first Ecuadorian permanent resident of Galapagos to have a Doctorate of Philosophy in the field of Natural and Rural Systems Management. Dr. Izurieta has experience working internationally and in his role as Executive Director led new national and international alliances. He has been strengthening the fundraising capacity, institutional scientific production and the operations of our Research Station in Galapagos.

María José Barragán Paladines Science Director

Dr. María José Barragán Paladines joined CDF in early 2018. She obtained her PhD in Human Geography at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, in St John's, Canada. Her degree in Biological Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE) and her subsequent Master of Science degree from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, included research topics focused on marine-coastal ecosystems and marine protected areas, with an emphasis on wild marine fauna. Dr. Barragan's experience and leadership is enriching our science team, and our work of science in Galapagos.

SUSTAINABLE GOALS

The work of the Charles Darwin Foundation is focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN). Learn about our projects and the role we play to achieve these goals.



Do you want to volunteer with us?

Visit our website and learn how to apply:



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MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND PRIORITY SPECIES

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Shark Population Status and Ecology

We research the ecology of the most common species of sharks to determine to what degree the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR) actually protects these highly mobile and globally threatened species. We are also studying the effects of El Niño/La Niña cycles on shark populations in the context of climate change and analyzing connectivity among the different marine populations of sharks. Our goal is to better manage and conserve shark populations in Galapagos.

Reducing Threats for Marine Turtles in Galapagos

CDF, in alliance with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in Ireland, has conducted research to assist efforts by the GNPD to reduce the number of marine turtles hit by maritime transport vessels.

Population Studies of Marine Birds

The CDF-GNPD team, with the collaboration of Ecuadorian and international universities, is working on ecological monitoring of the Galapagos penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*), flightless cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*), Galapagos albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) and their nesting zones on Fernandina, Isabela and Española islands.

Study of the Population Status of the Galapagos Flamingo and Lagoon Birds

In 2018 CDF-GNPD examined the population status of the Galapagos flamingo versus threats such as climate change, introduced species, human interaction, impact of pathogens and non-infectious diseases. This program is a multi-institutional collaboration among CDF, GNPD and CI.

Subtidal Ecological Monitoring in the Galapagos Marine Reserve

This long-term monitoring of the marine ecosystem provides us with an opportunity to observe and react to new changes in these ecosystems, such as changes in communities, depletion of fish populations, invasion by non-native species, and decreasing speciesof-interest tourism. It will also assess possible threats posed by El Niño events and by climate change, and provide us with a valuable tool to suggest management measures.

Exploring Seamounts and Ecosystem Services

In 2015, CDF and the GNPD established the program to study GMR seamounts. This was possible thanks to the support of the Ocean Exploration Trust, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and National Geographic's Pristine Seas, who brought three specialized ships for this type of marine exploration, in 2015 and 2016. During these cruises, remote operation vehicles (ROVs) and submarines were used to explore several seamounts and lava flows at depths of 100 to 3500 meters, in localities in the GMR. To study the biodiversity in this ecosystem, photographs and transects were taken. Over 300 specimens were collected.

Preventing the Impacts of Invasive Marine Species

Scientists from CDF, the GNPD and Conservation International take monitoring trips annually to the different bioregions in the Archipelago to register diversity, abundance and size of the species present in three major groups of macro fauna: fish, macro-invertebrates and sessile organisms. The diving team moves along a 50-meter transect parallel to the coast making visual censuses of these three taxonomic groups, at a depth of 15m and 6m.

Monitoring Plastics and Invasive Marine Species

CDF is developing a monitoring program to assess the threat posed by marine plastic as potential transport for introduced species with capacity to become invasive, harmful species in Galapagos. This program will attempt to detect early-on the presence of non-native species to reduce the probability of secondary dispersal by plastic debris.

Toward Sustainable Fishing in the Galapagos Marine Reserve

We are studying the life history of fish species that are endemic to the Eastern Pacific and economically important, e.g., scorpionfish (*Pontinus clemensi*), yellow snapper (*Lutjanus argentiventris*), whitefish (*Caulolatilus princeps*), "Galapagos cod" (*Mycteroperca olfax*), and camotillo (*Paralabrax albomaculatus*), an endemic species to Galapagos, categorized as 'endangered' by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Spatial Studies of Fisheries in the Galapagos Marine Reserve

Interactions among ecosystems, their species, and human beings determine the most important conservation zones in the GMR. This project focuses on the spatial dimension of fishing resources in the protected area, delimiting mangrove ecosystems and beaches around them.

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND PRIORITY SPECIES

This program is a multiinstitutional collaboration among CDF, the Max Planck Institute of Ornithology, GNPD, Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, the Houston Zoo and the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program

This program has pursued new lines of research to better understand the threats confronting these giants and how we can contribute to their conservation. We have continued conducting meteorological censuses, surveying local farmers about impacts that tortoises may have on their farms, or walking for hours, come sun or rain, to follow tortoises around in the field or devoting long hours to marking newborn tortoises.

This program is a multiinstitutional collaboration among the CDF, the Max Planck Institute of Ornithology, GNPD, Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, the Houston Zoo and the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

Tortoises

Assessing the Health Status of Land

Under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Deem, Director of the Conservation Medicine Institute of the Saint Louis Zoo, we have started a new research component this year under the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program: ascertaining the health status of land tortoises and determining how living close to human beings

and domestic animals may affect their well-being.

Small Landbird Population Conservation and Ecology

A special risk for birds living on inhabited islands is posed by the introduced parasitic fly, *Philornis downsi*, currently the main threat to conservation of small landbirds, known to affect almost every species present in Galapagos. The CDF has been working with a number of partner and collaborating institutions to develop a method to control this parasitic fly.

This year we have worked on understanding the causes for declining Vermilion Flycatcher populations, to develop a protection plan. The greatest success has been in experimenting and reducing *Philornis downsi* in nests.

Researching Bird Mortality on Santa Cruz Island Highway

This bi-institutional project between CDF and GNPD is examining automotive impact on wild birds of the Puerto Ayora – Itabaca Canal highway. During this research, eight monitorings monthly of automotive-landbird collision incidents have taken place on this route.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

RECOVERING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Contributing to the Recovering of the Mangrove Finch in Galapagos

CDF's Mangrove Finch project is a highly significant initiative to conserve this species and prevent it from disappearing. After four seasons of successful breeding in captivity, to promote reproduction of the remnant Mangrove Finch population, 39 chicks have been released into their natural habitat.

Finding Alternatives to Control the Invasive fly Philornis downsi

To reduce the impact of *Philornis downsi* on landbirds, CDF and GNPD are making a multi-institutional collaboration effort (currently including 22 institutions from 10 countries) to research this little-known fly's biology and ecology. At the same time, researchers are seeking effective, environmentally friendly control methods.

Invasive Wasps: Using Lures to Attract Them

The GNPD and the CDF have identified the need to manage the paper wasp (*Polistes versicolor*) as a high priority, due to the possible negative impact that this wasp species could have on biodiversity in Galapagos. The purpose of this research is to develop a bait with insecticide, that will appeal to wasps, which will eat it and then take part of the bait back to their nest. Growing wasps and the queen will then feed on the bait, destroying the nest and successfully control this introduced pest.

Restoring the Ecosystem of Los Gemelos

Over the last 20 years, large areas of Los Gemelos have been invaded by a very aggressive terrestrial invasive species: blackberry (*Rubus niveus*). CDF, in collaboration with the International Agriculture and Bioscience Center (CABI), is studying the use of biological control agents for blackberry, as an alternative to the techniques currently used to control this highly invasive species.

Analysis of Satellite Imagery to Map the Expansion of Invasive Species

CDF is identifying the locations of invasive species using an innovative methodology, with drone photographs and analyzing high-resolution satellite imagery. This information is used to prepare maps showing the distribution and the abundance of the humid zone's most dominant invasive species in the Galapagos Islands.

Invasion and Control of the Quinine Tree

The Charles Darwin Foundation, and the Galapagos National Park Directorate, are studying the impacts of Cinchona pubescens and working to improve the control measures currently used. This includes assessing a possible alternative control.

Study of the Distribution of Introduced Tree Frog Scinax quinquefasciatus

This project aims to study the population status, invasive potential, and impact of the tree frog (*Scinax quinquefasciatus*) on native species by combining field evaluations, laboratory diet analyses and ecological models, and in the long term, with genetic population analyses.

Galapagos Verde 2050

Galapagos Verde 2050 is a long-term project implemented by CDF with the GNPD's support. This project is contributing to conserving Galapagos' natural capital and its human population's well-being. This initiative uses water-saving technologies as tools to develop a successful model to achieve this project's two goals: the ecological restoration of affected vegetation zones, and development of sustainable agricultural practices.

OUTREACH AND EXTENSION WORK

NO MAS BASURA N NUESTRO MAR!

Sharks and the Local Community

Our Marine Environmental Education Project **Shark-Ambassadors** started in 2017. This project teaches secondary-school students in the community of Puerto Ayora about conserving marine environments and the ocean, with a special focus on sharks. It teaches through science, experience, exploration and fun.

The Charles Darwin Foundation, Working on Isabela Island

In 2016, our institutional presence on Isabela resumed. This reactivation was made possible thanks to the activities and institutional presence, technical and scientific assistance provided by CDF since January 2017, facilitated by a liaison coordinator in Puerto Villamil. This liaison is the primary contact between CDF in Santa Cruz, with different local institutions, community and tourists from Isabela Island who need to liaise with the Foundation.

The Charles Darwin Foundation is Working on San Cristobal Island

In October 2017, CDF re-opened on San Cristobal, with the name of Jacinto Gordillo Environmental Education Center, in honor of our colleague and friend who passed away on October 25th, 2016. The CDF signed a Cooperation Agreement with the San Cristobal Public High School, on San Cristobal Island. This agreement promotes secondary students' participation in research projects and other specific activities. Another Cooperation Agreement was signed with the University of Pennsylvania, to establish joint collaboration in environmental education activities and research actions on San Cristobal Island.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Natural History Collections

For decades now, CDF and the GNPD, by the Ecuadorian Government's mandate, have custody of Galapagos' Natural History Collections. This invaluable heritage is housed in the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) facilities in Puerto Ayora. These collections have four sections, divided according to the main taxonomic groups of Galapagos flora and fauna: Herbarium, Land Invertebrates Collection, Marine Invertebrates Collection and Vertebrates Collection.



Collections' DataBases and dataBoard

In 2018, the dataBoard was implemented, a new application to access the Collection's information. Our scientists and other organizations can access information with a friendly interface. dataBoard enables taxonomy searches, searching through samples, images in the digitization system, collaborators and searches in meteorological data. The portal can consult the number of species known in Galapagos, disaggregated by taxonomic levels; we can examine collections' physical status, make precise taxononomic reports, and much more.

Digital Biodiversity

The "Biodiversity Digital" pilot project aims to use modern technologies to generate high-resolution digital imagery of the specimens in our collections and to make them accessible through a digital platform. These images will provide supporting material for taxonomic identifications and instructional use.

Library and Historical Memory in Galapagos

The Charles Darwin Foundation library manages the academic knowledge necessary to keep the institution's scientific projects operating and is the main knowledge repository in the Galapagos. Its two archives (institutional and audiovisual) organize and manage the graphic, sound, and documentary memory of the Charles Darwin Research Station

Geoportal

Darwin

Wolf

The geographical Information (GIS) Management area concentrates on assisting scientific production from a spatial perspective, which highlights and strengthens the work of our scientists. This approach enhances the quality of the information and knowledge that our institution generates.







Latest News



Science and tourism joining forces for the conservation of Galapagos

The Galapages Bothersty and Education for Sustainability Fund (GBES/1 was presided in 2017) by the in the Kan Strapton Interpretation Contor has been re-



Marine World Exhibit Opens in Celebration of World Oceans Day in Galapagos

14 Secondary 2018 Corners Stores A new exhibit at the Charles Danuin Research Station



First Atlas of the Native and Invasive Species of the Galapagos Islands

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The Charles Darwin Psundation (CDF) and World wildle Fund me. (WWF) with to recognize the

Institutional Website

In 2018, we uploaded an entirely renewed version of our Website. At this time, we are working to provide multi-language contents for our diverse users and target audience. It has also been restructured to improve navigation, making the simple page convenient and intuitive.

DiveStat Project

The DiveStat project monitors divers coming to Galapagos, helps tourism operators, and helps authorities understand who divers are and how they behave underwater. This program aims to improve decision-making to assure conservation of the marine ecosystem while promoting an optimal diving experience for visitors. The Divestat project also promotes responsible diving practices, to minimize the impacts that visiting divers may generate in the Reserve's fragile marine ecosystem.

Conserving Mangroves and Beaches using GIS Mangroves in Galapagos: distribution, dynamics, Ecosystem Services and their value

The Charles Darwin Foundation carried out the first economic valuation of mangroves' multiple Ecosystem Services (ESs) for Ecuador and for the ETP region. We focused on three high-value and politically significant ESs (carbon storage in mangroves, the mangroves' role for artisanal fisheries, and mangrove-based tourism).

GMaRE Program of Marine Research and Exploration

CDF and the ESPOL signed, on November 28th, 2016, a Cooperation Agreement creating the Galapagos Marine Research and Exploration Program, GMaRE. This Program's goals are to work together to reinforce research, conservation and management of the ecosystems and production systems in the Galapagos Islands; and build capacities for research, management, education and decisionmaking about ecosystems and the services they provide, considering the different stakeholders in the Galapagos Archipelago.

CMAR - Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor

CDF has been designated as the liaison within the technical group coordinating science for the CMAR initiative in coordination with the Pro Tempore Secretariat, represented by the GNPD. Under the initiative, there are five technical working groups, which are tourism, marine protected areas, science, communications and the group on fishing. These groups comprise experts from the public and private sectors in the thematic areas defined by CMAR, providing scientific and technical inputs and proposals for CMAR's actions. Their action plan is in accordance with CMAR's regional plan, and the national commissions of each country.

Our Weather Station - 54 Years and Counting

The weather station managed by the Charles Darwin Research Station was installed by the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) in 1964. It collects meteorological information (i.e., ambient temperature, rainfall, and sunshine) three times a day, 365 days a year. This provides long-term time series data, systematically recorded, which can be used on comparative time scales over different periods of time.



Galapagos Atlas: Native and Invasive Species



We worked together with WWF-Ecuador in producing the firstever Galapagos Atlas. It presents socio-economic aspects and geographical information about the species illustrated in this book, which were selected by applying diverse criteria (i.e., their biological, cultural, ecological and conservation importance for the Archipelago). The publication contains information about the knowledge generated through decades of research initiatives in Galapagos.

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OPENING HOURS

The Charles Darwin Exhibition Hall is open Monday through Sunday:

08h00 to 12h30 14h30 to 17h30

OPENING HOURS MARINE WORLD EXHIBIT

The new Marine World exhibit in the Van Straelen Building is open Monday through Friday:

07h30 to 17h00







PLEASE DONATE

The Foundation also accepts donations by check, direct transfer, planned donations and donations of shares. If you would like to donate using one of these methods, please contact our Fundraising area by writing to: cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec

If you reside in the United States, leave your legacy in Galapagos and consider the Charles Darwin Foundation in your estate planning. For more information about the legacy, contact cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec



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Acronyms and abbreviations

CABI	International Center for Agriculture and Biosciences
CI	Conservation International
CMAR	Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor
DPNG	Galapagos National Park Directorate
ECCD	Charles Darwin Research Station
ESPOL	Polytechnic Institute of the Coast
CDF	Charles Darwin Foundation
GMaRE	Galapagos Marine Research and Exploration
NAMHI	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology - Ecuador
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
ETP	Eastern Tropical Pacific
GMR	Galapagos Marine Reserve
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

For Felipe.



Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (AISBL) Fundación Charles Darwin para las Islas Galápagos (AISBL)

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The "Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands", In French "Fondation Charles Darwin pour les ïles Galapagos", Association International sans but lucratif, has its registered office located at Drève du Prieuré 19, 1160 Brussels, and is registered under the trade registry al Brussels under the number 0409.339.103, (the "AUSBL").