



Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc.

2004 Annual Report

Chairman's Message

Each time that I visit Galapagos, I am astounded by the beauty of this remote wilderness. But increasingly, the riches of Galapagos and the waters around it are under pressure from people who place more value on short-term economic gain than on protecting the unique biodiversity of the islands for future generations. The world has found Galapagos, and economic forces within and outside of the archipelago threaten its delicate marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The Galapagos population has reached 27,000, and if current trends continue, will double in five years. Driven by an unstable economy, Galapagos is a magnet for citizens seeking employment afforded by fishing and tourism. With this flood of migration come hundreds of introduced plants and animals, which out-compete and often overwhelm native wildlife.

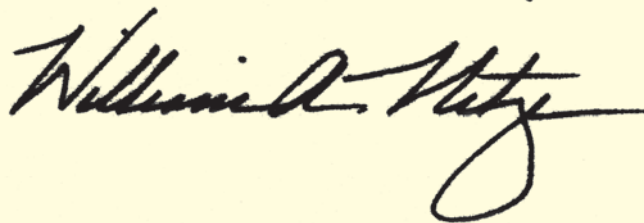
Therefore, we can point with great pride to the remarkable work of the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Foundation in controlling, and in some cases, eradicating introduced species. The government of Ecuador and its global partners must now build on this progress and move decisively to reduce the pressure on Galapagos by curbing migration, educating local populations and creating a sustainable conservation-based economy.

A similar commitment must be made to protect the health and integrity of the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Illegal harvesting of sharks and sea cucumbers for Asian markets have devastated these populations, and acceding to pressure from local fishermen in Galapagos to permit long lining in the Marine Reserve would have the same unhappy consequences.

While serious efforts have been made to engage local fishermen in marine management issues, more must be done. The ultimate responsibility for sustainable management of marine resources lies with government of Ecuador. But the international community and organizations such as CDF, Inc. have an obligation to assist in achieving this goal with technical advice, funding, and support for infrastructure development.

In this regard, the CDF, Inc. remains committed to our alliance with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Service. We also value the work of local governance structures and emerging non-governmental organizations to address the wide spectrum of education, advocacy, legal, and social issues which have arisen in recent years.

We hope that the many international organizations interested in the future of Galapagos will join us in supporting and strengthening current and proposed local organizations and conservation initiatives. The survival of an almost pristine, wild Galapagos depends on our joining together to create and implement a shared vision which has at its core a deep appreciation of the unique biodiversity of Galapagos – and a commitment to live in harmony with it.



President's Message

Island ecosystems worldwide face the threat of introduced species. With the arrival of people, come alien plants and animals, which – finding no natural predators – become established and in many cases dominate the landscape. History has shown repeatedly and inexorably, that with the arrival of exotic species, native systems suffer grave and sometimes irreversible damage.

In 2004, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park made extraordinary gains in the control and eradication of plant and animal species, and can soon lay claim to having completed the largest and most ambitious ecosystem restoration initiative in the world, Project Isabela. With less than a year left in this six-year project, goats and wild pigs have been removed from Santiago and northern Isabela, and the project has reached the final stage of aerial and ground hunting and monitoring. This unprecedented, bi-institutional project will have application throughout the world's protected areas. Galapagos has established itself unquestionably at the leading edge of conservation biology and management.

Watching the landscape change so visibly from my seat in the helicopter flying over Isabela, I was struck by the island's resilience. Native plants were growing in abundance in areas where they had been reduced to near extinction. Ground crews reported that with these regenerated landscapes came sightings of rare Galapagos rails and ground nesting petrels. While humans had set in motion the destruction of this landscape, we have been instrumental in its rebirth. This is not always the case, and the lessons we have learned and continue to learn in Galapagos speak to this very fragile relationship between people and wild places.

In Chairman Bill Nitze's letter, he speaks about the impact of world economics on the choices made in the management and protection of wild places. Nowhere is this balance so tenuously struck as in Galapagos. Achieving a balance between human presence and wilderness will demand of us far reaching and ingenious solutions. Those solutions will come at a price. Livelihoods will have to change and extractive industries cannot be sustained. The resident population of Galapagos will be in the forefront of creating models for balanced living with nature. This will not be easy, and will require the combined talents of our colleagues in Ecuador and around the world. But we believe that Galapagos is worthy of our best efforts.

This Annual Report reflects the important work of our colleagues at the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation. It also reflects some of the new directions in which the CDF, Inc. will be moving over the next several years, taking on a more visible role in policy, advocacy, and outreach. We, as an institution, are stretching in response to the changing world of Galapagos. We hope you find the enclosed materials compelling, and we value the trust you have placed in us.



Working with Travel Partners

We are pleased to report another successful year of collaboration with Lindblad Expeditions, a leading travel company offering eco-friendly expeditions to Galapagos. Lindblad believes that travel to a destination should help to conserve – and even restore – an area’s ecological and cultural integrity. Through a shipboard fundraising program, Lindblad guests have contributed more than \$2.5 million to on-the-ground conservation projects in Galapagos since 1997. Other important travel partners include Galapagos Travel and GAP Adventures.

Who We Are

The Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc. (CDF, Inc.) was formed in 1986 to create a base of North American support for Galapagos conservation. Working initially through a small endowment, CDF, Inc. focused its efforts on funding science and research to strengthen conservation in the archipelago. From those beginnings, CDF, Inc. has grown to over 11,000 members and has become a more vocal advocate for Galapagos. Today, CDF, Inc. members represent the largest source of private funding for Galapagos conservation.

We are one of eight international “Friends of Galapagos” organizations in the United States and Europe. The purpose of this global network is to raise awareness and financial resources for conservation of the archipelago. Guided by this mandate, our conservation agenda focuses exclusively on Galapagos. Our approach is based on a vision in which a healthy, stable human population coexists harmoniously with nature, uses resources in a sustainable manner, and acts as a responsible steward for one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

How We Work

CDF, Inc. seeks support primarily from North American sources. Individual members provide the majority of our funding, with private foundations contributing additional resources. We also collaborate closely with travel companies who are committed to protecting Galapagos. These partners work with us to educate visitors about local conservation efforts, and to encourage them to get involved in supporting preservation of the islands.

CDF, Inc. acts as a link between these different streams of funding and the organizations that implement science and conservation projects on the ground in Galapagos. The Charles Darwin Foundation’s Research Station has undertaken science and education work in Galapagos for over forty years, and is our major collaborator in the archipelago. Another important partner is the Galapagos National Park Service, which – as an agency of the government of Ecuador – is responsible for managing and protecting the Park and Marine Reserve.

CDF, Inc. supports the salaries of key staff at the Research Station and the operation of its administrative and physical infrastructure. We assist the Galapagos National Park in its migration control and census work, and provide funding for the ongoing legal work associated with quarantine system interdictions and seizures.

Our support also extends to building capacity in Galapagos through support of local NGOs whose agendas are aligned closely with our conservation priorities. In 2004, these initiatives included small grants to retro-fit fishing boats to assist in Park surveillance, and spay and neuter clinics in Puerto Ayora and San Cristobal.

Other important conservation allies include scientists from U.S. universities, international non-governmental organizations active in Galapagos, and an array of multilateral institutions that channel support to Galapagos.



A Year of Accomplishment and Success

The past year was one of great conservation success for the Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., with a number of notable accomplishments being achieved on land, and at sea. In all of our work, we partnered with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park, Darwin Network members around the world, and local NGOs in the islands. The support and advice of our donors remains at the core of our ability to protect this extraordinary archipelago.

A Strong Advocate for Galapagos

2004 was a challenging year in Galapagos. The position of Galapagos National Park Director was repeatedly re-assigned for political purposes. In response, frustrated and demoralized staff at the Galapagos National Park Service went on strike. The fishing community, supported by industrial interests on the mainland, become more vocal and the tension in Galapagos was heightened by a series of protests and takeovers of Park facilities. Despite this difficult environment, CDF, Inc. remained a strong advocate for Galapagos during 2004:

- ◆ CDF, Inc. staff was active throughout the year communicating with Ecuadorian President Lucio Gutierrez and his Minister of Environment, calling for the de-politicization of the management of Galapagos National Park.

- ◆ CDF, Inc. Board members met with the Ecuadorian Minister of Environment in Washington, D.C., and impressed upon him their concerns about events in Galapagos.
- ◆ In October, President Gutierrez removed a controversial Park Director, named an interim Director, and agreed to develop a more transparent, merit-based process for selecting future Park Directors. This process is still underway, and CDF, Inc. will work with the government to ensure greater stability and credibility in Park management.

In addition to these efforts, CDF, Inc. Board and staff, Research Station scientists, and funding organizations participated in an international conference to discuss the role of science in Galapagos conservation and priorities for the next decade. The conference, held at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey, went beyond the scientific agenda to include a strong statement of concern about the future of Galapagos.

Two resolutions were drafted and signed by the more than sixty participants and forwarded to the President of Ecuador and the United Nations. The resolutions reflected the scientific community's hope that the government of Ecuador would restore internal order so Galapagos would continue to serve as an example of people and nature living in balance.



Conservation on Land and at Sea

Protecting Vital Terrestrial Habitats

One of the most striking features of Galapagos is its high level of endemism – of biological uniqueness – particularly in terrestrial ecosystems. The islands are irreplaceable because they contain so many species found nowhere else. Introduced species continue to be the major threat to terrestrial wildlife in Galapagos. So on land, our efforts in 2004 focused on supporting the control of invasive species and the restoration of degraded habitats and populations.



Through the 1980s, the native habitats and species of northern Isabela remained largely intact. By the 1990s, feral goats were significantly altering the landscape.

These animals competed with native species for habitat and food, and caused serious soil erosion. Giant tortoises and dozens of plant species were threatened. Project Isabela responded to the problem through systematic removal of goats and donkeys.

Project Isabela is a complex, multi-year joint undertaking of the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Service. The Global Environment Facility (a joint initiative of the United Nations and World Bank) agreed to invest \$8.3 million in the project, contingent upon counterpart funding raised by CDF, Inc. and others.

Recovery in the absence of invasive competitors has been spectacular: Galapagos rails are thriving, petrels are nesting in previously degraded areas, and native vegetation including tree ferns and the endemic *Scalesia* are becoming re-established. Seven introduced plants have been eradicated. The project has also developed innovative techniques that will be used

elsewhere in similar projects.

Household animals have also created a difficult and potentially dangerous situation on the inhabited islands. When their populations grow unchecked, domestic dogs and cats can create serious problems for fragile ecosystems by preying on endemic birds and reptiles, and by providing the potential to spread viral diseases to native mammals such as sea lions. In Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, many dogs and cats roam the streets and are often viewed as “pests” instead of pets. CDF, Inc. helped fund a population control program, which employed a series of spay/neuter clinics to sterilize over 850 dogs and cats. The program also includes a community education component, including obedience training to foster responsible pet ownership.

Elsewhere, CDF, Inc. members helped us respond to a challenge grant by the United Nations Foundation for additional work on invasive species. This raised an extra \$220,000 which was matched by UNF in the final months of 2004. This funding is enabling scientists at CDF to focus on a broad range of projects.

For example, black rats are by far the most widespread introduced vertebrate pest in Galapagos, and are a major threat to many endemic mammal, reptile, and bird species. Improving rat control methods used in urban areas and removing black rats from smaller islands is a key priority. Invertebrate invaders are also a problem. Two priority projects are post-eradication monitoring of little fire ants on Marchena Island, and developing a control strategy for introduced black flies whose larvae are parasites of bird nestlings.

An important component in controlling introduced species is the quarantine system that prevents foreign species from arriving in Galapagos. That is why 2004 brought the formation of Inter-institutional





Committees for Introduced Species (IMCIS) in the three main Galapagos municipalities: Puerto Ayora, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, and Puerto Villamil. These committees work to devise ways of educating communities and involving them in invasive species control efforts.

Safeguarding the Galapagos Marine Reserve

To date, the bulk of scientific study and conservation in Galapagos has focused on terrestrial ecosystems, where important advances continue to be made. However, we still know far too little about the much larger, complex marine ecosystem, where studies show dramatic declines in recent years of hammerhead sharks, sea cucumbers, spiny lobsters and other species.

While the Special Law for Galapagos, passed in 1998, provides a broad legal framework for the sustainable management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, much needs to be done to learn more about this ecosystem and the impact of different activities within its boundaries. As part of these efforts, CDF, Inc. is committed to helping develop sound regulations, increased awareness among marine reserve users, and effective enforcement capabilities that will better protect the waters surrounding Galapagos.

Engaging Local Fishing Communities

Identifying real economic alternatives for local fishermen is critical to achieving successful long-term management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve. So in 2004, CDF, Inc. funded a study to look at the implementation of a sport fishing industry within the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

Catch-and-release sport fishing is permitted by the Special Law for Galapagos, once formal regulations are approved and pilot studies are conducted. In recent years, sport fishermen from mainland Ecuador and other countries have pushed for establishment of the necessary regulations, arguing that the activity will have a minimal impact on the Reserve, and that it will provide a lucrative and more sustainable economic alternative for local fishermen.

Others argue that the high initial financial investment required will preclude local fishermen from truly benefiting from the activity, and that at present Galapagos does not have the on-land infrastructure, surveillance and enforcement capability to ensure the activity is carried out in a sustainable manner. The study, which launched in 2004 and will be completed in July 2005, will examine these opposing views and make recommendations for future action.

Working with Private Foundations

The **Stewart Foundation** of California joined with us in a very welcome and generous collaboration on Project Isabela. Support from the Foundation helped ground operations on Isabela, such as veterinary care for the Project's dogs, and the purchase of field equipment associated with helicopter overflights and data recording. The complexity of this project and its vision for a restored ecosystem are well understood by the Trustees of the Stewart Foundation, and we are grateful for their leadership role this year.

Feodor Pitcairn is widely recognized as a photographer and film maker with a string of impressive awards and citations in the world of nature photography. Through his leadership, funds from the **Beneficia Foundation** have helped to establish an endowment for the Galapagos Marine Reserve. The endowment will provide ongoing support for marine protection, including infrastructure, research, policy analysis, population studies and legal action critical to the long-term protection of the waters surrounding Galapagos.



Membership Levels and Benefits

FRIENDS OF GALAPAGOS

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION \$25 TO \$999

Benefits include:

- ◆ A one year subscription to our membership newsletter, “Galapagos News.”
- ◆ ENews, our monthly electronic bulletin with updates on Galapagos conservation.
- ◆ A full-color Galapagos photograph for members who give \$100 or more.

GALAPAGOS AMBASSADORS

ESPAÑOLA SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION \$1,000 TO \$4,999

All of the above benefits, plus ...

- ◆ Exclusive updates and reports on Galapagos conservation efforts.
- ◆ Invitations to special Ambassadors-only events in your region.
- ◆ Individual recognition in the CDF, Inc. Annual Report.

SANTIAGO SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION \$5,000 TO \$9,999

All of the above benefits, plus ...

- ◆ A commemorative Galapagos book signed by the author.

FERNANDINA SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION \$10,000 TO \$24,999

All of the above benefits, plus ...

- ◆ Insider briefings from senior members of the CDF, Inc. staff.

ISABELA SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION \$25,000 OR MORE

All of the above benefits, plus ...

- ◆ Personal invitation to the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Reception.

Ways to Give

In addition to gifts of cash, there are a number of ways that individuals can support CDF, Inc. and our ongoing Galapagos conservation efforts:

Gifts of stock Donors can transfer gifts of stock to support our conservation programs. In many cases, a tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock is applicable.

Matching gifts Many workplaces support charitable efforts through matching gift programs that increase the total amount of your donation. Please contact your human resources department to find out if your employer has a matching gift program.

Galapagos Legacy Society Individuals who make a commitment to support Galapagos conservation over the long-term are included in this very special group. By pledging their support through bequests, trusts or other planned gifts, members of the Galapagos Legacy Society ensure the archipelago is preserved for future generations.

Financial Statements

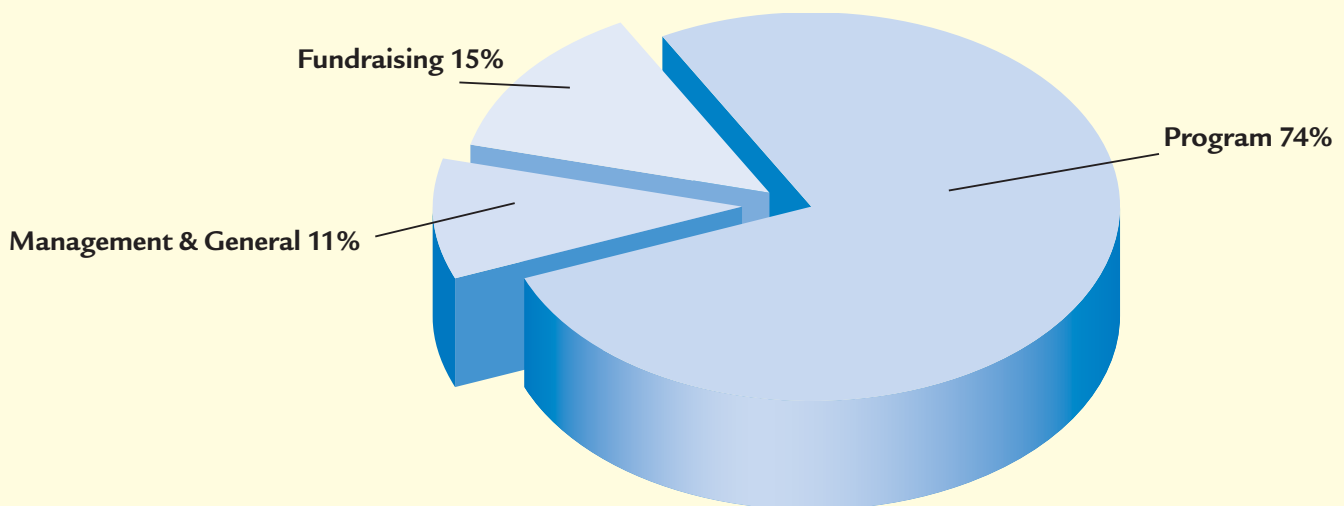
Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc.

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2004 (With Comparative Totals for 2003)

	2004 Total	2003 Total
Revenue and other support:		
Contributions and membership	\$1,887,097	\$1,994,217
Sales	5,065	12,733
Investment income	324,430	459,011
Net assets released from restrictions	—	—
Miscellaneous	276	—
Total revenue and support	2,216,868	2,465,961
Expenses:		
Grants:		
Key Species	348,723	498,712
Grants through Travel Partnerships	300,841	300,424
Strengthening Local Partners	138,314	93,500
Project Isabela	114,685	61,426
Galapagos National Park	100,000	100,260
Marine Policy	82,218	17,663
Conservation Investments:		
Program Support	304,945	306,062
Advocacy	31,282	24,170
Darwin Network	12,455	10,761
	1,433,463	1,412,978
Support services:		
Management and general	218,298	238,044
Membership development and fundraising	280,784	189,002
Total expenses	1,932,545	1,840,024
Change in net assets	284,323	625,937

CDF, Inc. FY 2004 Expenses



Galapagos Ambassadors

CDF, Inc is especially grateful to the following Galapagos Ambassadors who provided support of \$1,000 or more in 2004. In addition to these individuals, we would like to thank those who contributed at the Ambassadors level but wish to remain anonymous.

Nancy Abraham
Walter and Irma Allen
Ann and Ramon Alonso
Gayle Anderson
Brent Anderson
Edith Andrew
Richard and Nancy Arnoldy
Jose and Lourdes Arriola
Mary Bane
Maurice and Lillian Barbash
William Barnett
Michael Baxter
S. Robert Beane
Maxine Beige
Barbara Belknap
Peter and Wendy Benchley
The Benson Foundation
John and Ruth Bergerson
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J.R. Bertelli
Edward Bessey
Sharla Boehm
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bontecou
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Keith and Gerlene Bowman
Charles and Jane Boyer
Shirley and G. Dana Brabson
Robert Brand
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Karen and Steve Bristing
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brown
William Brown
Clifford Burnstein and Sabra Turnbull
Anita Busquets
Carolyn Byers
In memory of Richard M. Canterbury
James Carpenter
Ramon and Hazel Cayot
William Chadwick
The Chrysalis Foundation
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Prentice and Patty Clafin
Andrew Clarkson
Charles Cole and Carol Townsend
Andy Corrigan and Laura Loveday
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Foundation Partners

Beneficia Foundation
Mars Foundation
Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
Stewart Foundation

Travel Partners

Galapagos Travel
GAP Adventures
Lindblad Expeditions

Corporate Partners

Continental Airlines has generously underwritten travel costs for CDF, Inc. by providing complimentary air transport for our staff from the United States to Ecuador, allowing more membership dollars to go directly to conservation programs in Galapagos.

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March 29 and October 15
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Falls Church, VA

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Darwin Scientific Advisory Council

CDF, Inc. appreciates the collaboration of a number of scientists in the U.S. who have a unique understanding of Galapagos. These scientists provide valuable knowledge and insights, and our is enriched by their participation.

Dr. David Anderson, Wake Forest University

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Galapagos.org

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