

IMPACT REPORT 2021

A NEW ERA OF GALÁPAGOS CONSERVATION

A LETTER FROM
GALÁPAGOS CONSERVANCY
PRESIDENT DR. PAUL SALAMAN



Dr. Paul Salaman
President

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galapagos.org/impactvideo2021

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Cover Photo: Sunset Above Clouds on Wolf Volcano
© Joshua Vela/Galapagos Conservancy

Dearest Galápagos Conservancy Community,

Powered by your passion for the extraordinary wildlife and ecosystems in the Galápagos Islands, our scientists, field staff, and partners made an important impact in 2021 restoring endangered wildlife, eradicating invasive species, protecting the Galápagos Marine Reserve, and building a culture of sustainability in the Islands. The outpouring of support from more than 12,300 Galápagos Conservancy members, and the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved, surpass anything we have seen in the organization’s 36-year history.

Thanks to you, we partnered with Yale University to confirm the genetic identity of the last-known surviving Fernandina Giant Tortoise. We led expeditions across the Archipelago to continue our work restoring Giant Tortoises. We strengthened our ties with the Galápagos National Park Directorate by launching Iniciativa Galápagos, a major expansion of the world-renowned Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative which reaffirms and strengthens Galápagos Conservancy’s leadership role in rewilding the endangered species of the Archipelago. And we led the world’s first two expeditions to Wolf Volcano on Isabela Island to assess the population and conservation imperatives of the critically endangered Pink Iguana.

Further, in the last year we supported more community-led sustainability initiatives than ever before. Even through the challenges of the pandemic, our innovative Education for Sustainability program trained 430 Galápagueño educators to bring conservation into the classroom. We launched a visionary new program, Women in Sustainable Entrepreneurship (WISE), to invest in women-led, sustainability-focused small businesses and programs in Galápagos. We supported more broad-ranging conservation programs than ever before with our new Impact Grants. These targeted grants support conservation and research initiatives for species such as Galápagos Penguins, Whale Sharks, Sea Lions, and Mangrove Finches; and protect precious Galápagos ecosystems from the destructive force of non-native invasive species.

These conservation victories are yours to share. A record number of members — including thousands of first-time donors — showed their dedication and concern for these remarkable islands by generously supporting Galápagos Conservancy’s indispensable conservation work. I am humbled and immensely grateful for the support of such a dedicated global community that cares so deeply for this special place.

Together, we advanced our ambitious conservation goals for Galápagos and achieved so many victories for which we can be incredibly proud. Galápagos Conservancy board, staff, and I are honored to continue this journey in the company of friends like you as we launch a new era of Galápagos conservation.

With my sincerest gratitude,

Paul Salaman



Galapagos Conservancy and Galapagos National Park Directorate joint team setting off for a June 2021 expedition to Española Island © Joshua Vela/Galapagos Conservancy

GALÁPAGOS CONSERVANCY BY THE NUMBERS



7

MAJOR EXPEDITIONS IN 2021 TO ESPAÑOLA, FERNANDINA, SANTA FE, PINZÓN, ALCEDO VOLCANO, AND WOLF VOLCANO (2X)

2,107

TORTOISES UNDER OUR CARE AT THE SANTA CRUZ AND ISABELA BREEDING CENTERS

6,807

WILD TORTOISES LOCATED, STUDIED, MARKED, AND RELEASED

3,000

ESIMATED ESPAÑOLA TORTOISE POPULATION UP FROM ONLY 15 IN THE 1960s

191

TORTOISES RELEASED ON SANTA FE TO REWILD THE ECOSYSTEM

25,000

ESTIMATED NESTING POPULATION OF WAVED ALBATROSS ON ESPAÑOLA COUNTED IN FIRST-EVER ISLAND-WIDE SURVEY

100%

PROPORTION OF ALL PINK IGUANAS ON THE PLANET WE ARE WORKING TO SAVE

211

CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PINK IGUANA

53

PINK IGUANAS LOCATED, STUDIED, MARKED, AND RELEASED

50

WILDLIFE CAMERAS DEPLOYED ON WOLF VOLCANO

500,000+

PHOTOS TAKEN BY WILDLIFE CAMERAS FOR ANALYSIS

26

CONSERVATION IMPACT GRANTS AWARDED



7,300

STUDENTS IN GALÁPAGOS PARTICIPATED

430

TEACHERS TRAINED IN SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

55,900

TOTAL HOURS OF TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

40

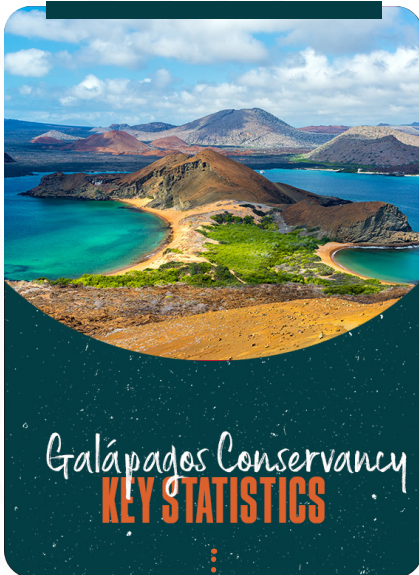
TEACHER-LEADERS TRAINED TO TAKE ON PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

88%

OF TEACHERS BELIEVE THAT OUR CURRICULUM WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS WHO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF GALÁPAGOS

27

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS AWARDED



36

YEARS OF PRESERVING, PROTECTING, AND RESTORING GALÁPAGOS

12,322

GALÁPAGOS CONSERVANCY MEMBERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

857

GALÁPAGOS GUARDIAN SUSTAINING MONTHLY MEMBERS

\$5.76M

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2021

#1

NONPROFIT SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION IN GALÁPAGOS

100%

CHARITY NAVIGATOR RATING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, LEADERSHIP, AND ADAPTABILITY

SAVING THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PINK IGUANA

The Pink Iguana is a unique and precious species that is **FOUND NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH**. Galápagos Conservancy is taking a stand to save it.

A Pink Iguana on Wolf Volcano © Joshua Vela/Galápagos Conservancy

A NEW PRIORITY SPECIES FOR GALÁPAGOS CONSERVATION

In August, Galápagos Conservancy launched a new rewilding program to save one of the most elusive animals in the world: the Pink Iguana. The first expedition to Wolf Volcano on Isabela Island, which included the first-ever comprehensive census of this geographically isolated species, revealed a population on the precipice of extinction. Galápagos Conservancy scientists, using a mark-recapture method, estimated the total number of Pink Iguanas at 211, making it one of the most critically endangered animals on Earth.

The science team, led by Galápagos Conservancy Director of Conservation Dr. Jorge Carrión, returned to Wolf Volcano twice more in 2021—once to begin construction on a small hut that will serve as the permanent base for future conservation work on Wolf, and a second time to download wildlife camera footage and install more essential data collection tools across the volcano. The footage recorded an abundance of feral cats and non-native rodents that we believe prey on iguana eggs and hatchlings. We hope additional footage will help us identify what time of year Pink Iguanas breed and pinpoint where they nest even more precisely.

Our top priority is to continue evaluation of the threats that non-native predators pose to the Pink Iguana, and to implement measures to reduce and counteract this unnatural pressure.

Galápagos Conservancy, with the Galápagos National Park Directorate, is leading on-the-ground scientific research for Pink Iguana conservation, which includes multi-institutional collaboration.



Our donors supported the construction of a small hut on Wolf Volcano that will allow researchers to spend more time on conservation instead of setting up temporary tent encampments such as the one pictured. © Jorge Carrión/Galápagos Conservancy

WILDLIFE CAMERAS REVEAL THE SECRET LIVES OF IGUANAS ON WOLF VOLCANO



- 1) This composite image (two pictures taken at different times, then merged) shows Pink and Yellow Iguanas live together in the same areas on Wolf Volcano.
- 2) Finches feed on parasites on the Pink Iguana's skin, offering a never-before-seen perspective on species symbiosis.
- 3) Feral cats are hunting around Pink Iguana nests for eggs and young hatchlings.
- 4) Introduced rats also prey on Pink Iguana eggs and hatchlings.

A tent on Wolf Volcano © Jorge Carrión, Galápagos Conservancy



A baby Giant Tortoise begins emerging from its shell © Pete Oxford



New corrals at the Santa Cruz Breeding Center © Paul Salaman/Galápagos Conservancy



Diego, the famous Española Tortoise, is now part of a thriving population © Andrés Cruz



Pinzón Giant Tortoises like this one are living to adulthood for the first time in more than a century © Lucas Bustamante

FROM THE DESK OF DR. JAMES GIBBS



2021 was an incredible year for Galápagos Conservancy’s Giant Tortoise conservation work. We launched Iniciativa Galápagos as a joint effort with Galápagos National Park Directorate to expand our Giant Tortoise programs across the Archipelago and to begin a new focus on the critically endangered Pink Iguana. Our team, along with scientists and Park Rangers, completed seven major expeditions to different islands and volcanoes to conduct investigations and health checks of tortoise and iguana populations. Field work provides key data to guide our conservation management efforts that will ensure a bright future for Giant Tortoises and Pink Iguanas. Our fieldwork also helped us understand the fascinating and important contributions of tortoises as “ecosystem engineers,” revealing that they reduce woody vegetation, disperse seeds, and shape and influence their environment for their own benefit and that of many other species.

Modernization of the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centers, also part of Iniciativa Galápagos, produced great success in 2021. Major improvements were made to the breeding centers on Santa Cruz and Isabela, including installation of **STATE-OF-THE-ART TORTOISE EGG INCUBATORS** to replace the hair dryers formerly used to maintain a consistent temperature.

NEW CORRALS HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSTRUCTED to host many more young tortoises for both ongoing and future breeding programs, thereby greatly expanding the scope of Giant Tortoise rewilding throughout the Archipelago.

AN EXPEDITION TO ESPAÑOLA ISLAND in June and July 2021 confirmed that head-starting juvenile tortoises has produced a tortoise population on Española Island now large enough to breed successfully on its own in the wild and no longer in need of a captive breeding program.

SIMILARLY, AN EXPEDITION TO PINZÓN ISLAND in December recorded a huge number of native-born juveniles — the first such cohort in over 100 years — thanks to a successful rat eradication. These are true accomplishments in rewilding Galápagos!

All of these achievements were possible because of you. You were alongside us on our expeditions trekking across the rocky terrain, observing how Giant Tortoises interact with the ecosystems in which they live, and monitoring the young tortoises growing up at the breeding centers. We are so grateful for your dedicated support, and together, we will continue to restore and protect the Galápagos Islands.



James Gibbs

Dr. James Gibbs
Vice President of Science and Conservation



Baby Giant Tortoises at the Santa Cruz Breeding Center © Joshua Vela/Galápagos Conservancy



ISABELA ISLAND, ALCEDO VOLCANO

Alcedo Volcano supports the healthiest population of Giant Tortoises in Galápagos.

- First range-wide survey of the Alcedo Volcano Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis vandenburghi*).
- 4,723 tortoises marked; population size estimated at 8,000-12,000 individuals.
- One-third of the population were juveniles, indicating strong recent population growth due to goat eradication and habitat recovery.



FERNANDINA ISLAND

The fate of the Fernandina Giant Tortoise hangs in the balance.

- DNA analysis confirmed an individual tortoise found in 2019, is indeed a Fernandina Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis phantasticus*), a species believed extinct for more than 100 years.
- Sadly, an extensive March 2022 expedition found no more tortoises on Fernandina. We will return in summer 2022 to continue the search.
- Fernanda, the last-known survivor of her species, is thriving at the Santa Cruz Breeding Center.



PINZÓN ISLAND

The Pinzón Giant Tortoise population is growing from natural reproduction for the first time in more than a century.

- A 24-person team carried out a 10-day census of the Pinzón Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis duncanensis*).
- A healthy population of 156 juvenile Giant Tortoises between the ages of 5 and 10 years old now thrives.
- The Black Rat eradication 10 years ago was a huge success.

INICIATIVA GALÁPAGOS 2021

Galápagos Conservancy, together with the Galápagos National Park Directorate, is leading the fight to save Giant Tortoises across the Archipelago.



SANTE FE ISLAND

Española Giant Tortoises rewild Santa Fe.

- Analysis of early-twentieth-century bones from Santa Fe shows that the Española Giant Tortoise is the closest genetic relative to the extinct native Santa Fe species.
- 191 Española Giant Tortoises were released on Santa Fe to rewild the island.



ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Giant Tortoise census reveals thriving population of "ecosystem engineers" on Española.

- 1,237 Española Giant Tortoises (*Chelonoidis hoodensis*) counted on Española, including many natural offspring of reintroduced tortoises.
- Research explains the role of Giant Tortoises as "ecosystem engineers" in shaping and maintaining the native plant communities of Galápagos.



SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Galápagos Conservancy manages the most important Giant Tortoise Breeding Centers in the world.

- Doubled capacity of the breeding centers on Santa Cruz and Isabela. This will allow us to breed and rear up to 3,000 tortoises annually.
- Massive expansion of the scope for Galápagos Giant Tortoise restoration.

Top left: Giant Tortoises on Alcedo Volcano © Joshua Vela/Galápagos Conservancy; Middle left: Fernanda © Lucas Bustamante; Bottom left: Pinzón Giant Tortoise © Amy Doherty, Galápagos Conservancy; Top right: Baby Giant Tortoises are released on Santa Fe Island © Diego Andino; Middle right: Española Giant Tortoises are released into the wild © Andrés Cruz; Bottom right: A juvenile tortoise at the Santa Cruz Breeding Center © Joshua Vela/Galápagos Conservancy

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



by Miriam Chacón
Galápagos Leader of the
Education for Sustainability Program

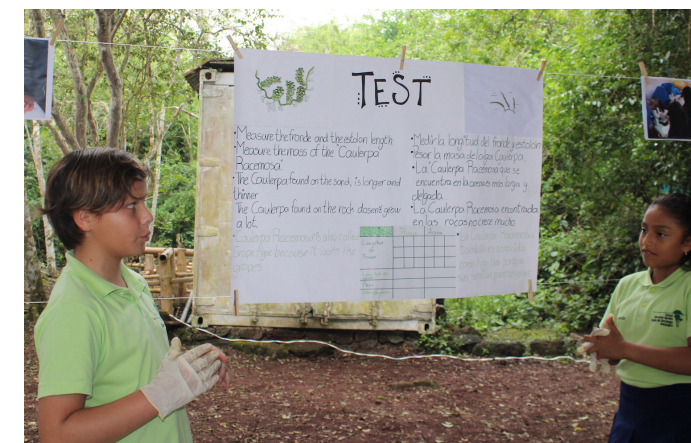
INSPIRING YOUTH THROUGH CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Long-term protection of Galápagos requires that those living in the Islands have a deep understanding of the delicate interconnectedness of nature, economy, and society. Galápagos Conservancy and its partners work closely with over 400 teachers to instill this mindset in all 7,300 school-age children in Galápagos, from early childhood education through high school.

In 2021, the Education for Sustainability Program continued to empower educators to teach all subjects — from math and science to English language and even art — through month-long interdisciplinary projects that explored climate change, invasive species, food security, and sustainable waste management. In November, for example, kindergarten students and their teachers developed stories about invasive species and shared them with parents and other community members through a series of literary gatherings. Eighth-grade students studied the list of prohibited products in Galápagos and developed social media campaigns to educate the community about the importance of respecting these restrictions. Meanwhile, high school students mounted a series of community events designed to educate residents about the dangers posed to native and endemic bird species by the invasive fly, *Philornis downsi*.

This year, teachers took big steps forward in engaging local experts — scientists, naturalist guides, community leaders and business owners — in the design and implementation of their curricula. And for the first time, Teacher-Leaders trained by the program helped design and present our two week-long Teacher Institutes.

In its first six years, the Education for Sustainability Program has had a profoundly positive impact on teaching and learning in the Islands. The program has proved the commitment of Galápagos educators to ensure all young people graduate from high school prepared to take conservation action and build a sustainable future for this remarkable place. We can't wait to see what the next few years will bring.



Galápagos students at all grade levels are participating in experiential learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, led by 430 teachers (top right) trained by our Education for Sustainability Program © BURÓ Comunicación Integral (left, top right); Fundación Scalesia (middle, middle bottom, right)

"THIS HAS BEEN A DEMANDING BUT REWARDING YEAR FOR ME AS AN EDUCATOR. OUR INCREASED FOCUS ON CONTEXTUALIZING EDUCATION HAS REQUIRED ME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TOPICS SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE SPECIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHEN MY ABILITY TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS FOR MY STUDENTS. WE ARE GETTING OUR KIDS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, ENGAGING THEM IN PROJECTS CONNECTED TO REAL-LIFE ISSUES IN GALÁPAGOS, AND CONNECTING THEM WITH LOCAL EXPERTS IN THE PROCESS."

- Mirla Cabezas, Vice Principal, Stella Maris School, Isabela Island



It has been so rewarding for me to be involved in the Education for Sustainability Program since its infancy. I feel as though I am on the frontlines, doing what I can to support a program I am passionate about, helping to protect one of the most special places on Earth.

- Gretchen Bauta



Since my first visit to Galápagos in 1974 and the beginning of my marine research in the 1980s, I have been helping expand the knowledge of marine life with the view to guide conservation in this unique region. During these four decades of research, I have been so impressed with all that Galápagos Conservancy has been able to achieve and what they are working towards. I support Galápagos Conservancy because their team of passionate professionals is working so hard to protect and restore this treasured Archipelago.

- Dr. Cleve Hickman



EXPANDING MARINE CONSERVATION

The Hermandad Marine Reserve expands the Galápagos Marine Reserve by 23,166 square miles through a **CONNECTIVE MIGRATORY CORRIDOR** to Costa Rica. Its creation will act as a catalyst for bold marine conservation action in one of the most **BIODIVERSITY-RICH SEASCAPES** on Earth.

The rocky shores of Española Island © Joshua Vela/ Galápagos Conservancy

Galápagos National Park Rangers measure a Green Sea Turtle © GNPD



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY IN THE GALÁPAGOS MARINE RESERVE

The newly created Hermandad Marine Reserve, a protected swimway for migratory species, bridges the gap between the waters of the Galápagos Marine Reserve and Costa Rica's Cocos Island National Park. This biodiversity-rich space between the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites was a haven for industrial fishing and shark finning, but now, this major vulnerability for resident and migratory marine wildlife has been eliminated. In 2021, we continued to provide financial support for the Galápagos National Park's marine patrol operations to combat illegal fishing that threatens all marine life in the Islands. Galápagos is also an important nesting and feeding zone for the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), so we supported the Park's annual monitoring efforts that provide data on the threats turtles face and helps evaluate long-term population trends in order to define protection methods.

25 NEW MARINE SPONGES DESCRIBED FOR GALÁPAGOS

Marine biologist and avid Galápagos Conservancy supporter Dr. Cleve Hickman discovered and described 25 new species of shallow-water sea sponges in Galápagos and donated the naming rights to Galápagos Conservancy for three of the new species. We would like to thank Ken and Diane Saladin, our longtime supporters, who not only participated in our first-ever charity auction to name three new-to-science sea sponge species discovered in Galápagos, but won the rights to name all three! The funds raised from the auction will go directly toward conservation efforts to protect the Galápagos Marine Reserve.

SAFEGUARDING GALÁPAGOS PENGUINS FROM THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Galápagos Penguins are in rapid decline due to their small population, restricted range, climate change, introduced predators, and loss of nesting sites. In 2010, Dr. Dee Boersma of the University of Washington and her research team built 120 shady nests in primary nesting areas to replace nests lost to extreme weather caused by El Niño. Initial observations show artificial nests to be highly effective. Nearly a quarter of all penguin breeding activity observed has been in constructed nests, and in 2021, even more new breeding pairs were found using these nests, an excellent sign of their continued success. The penguins were in excellent condition, appearing well-fed. Many had recently molted so they gained enough weight to grow shiny, new feathers. With our support, the team will carry out further monitoring to evaluate the impact of the artificial nests on penguin breeding.



A Galápagos Penguin protects eggs in an artificial nest © Dr. Dee Boersma



Higginia Sea Sponge, Marietas, Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island © Dr. Cleve Hickman and Angel Chiriboga



REDUCING HATCHLING MORTALITY OF SMALL LANDBIRDS

The biggest threat to Galápagos landbirds is the Avian Vampire Fly (*Philornis downsi*) that preys on hatchlings, often causing all of the chicks in a nest to die. In recent years, populations of several bird species have declined, including the rare Mangrove Finch and Darwin's Flycatcher. Our support enabled the first Archipelago-wide bird census to determine the current status of small landbirds, including population size, health, and breeding success. We previously invested in studying the biology and ecology of this little-known fly and a multi-institutional collaborative effort to find effective and environmentally friendly control methods. Biological control (introducing another species to hunt the Vampire Fly) is the current best option to eradicate this insidious pest. In 2021, research was undertaken to determine whether a parasitic wasp, *Conura annulifera*, can be used against the fly. Next steps are to ensure that introducing this natural enemy poses no risks to the ecosystems and food chains of Galápagos.

SAVING GALÁPAGOS WILDLIFE BY SPAYING AND NEUTERING PETS

Pets pose a serious risk to native Galápagos wildlife. Stray dogs are known to eat young tortoises before their shells harden as they mature. Stray cats hunt birds, reptiles, and anything small they can catch. We support free, high-quality, high volume spay/neuter clinics. This collaborative community-based program will limit reproduction of pet species, protect wildlife, and change the culture of pet ownership in Galápagos. In 2021, over 1,000 cats and dogs were sterilized on Santa Cruz, San Cristóbal, and Isabela Islands.



A young Galápagos resident and her dog wait in line for a free spay/neuter clinic in October. © Animal Balance Galápagos

PIONEERING TECHNIQUES TO SAVE DARWIN'S FLYCATCHER

The Darwin's Flycatcher is disappearing from several islands in Galápagos. We have invested in a novel habitat management experiment designed to head-start the recovery of this bird's population in the Santa Cruz highlands by restoring their food sources and nesting grounds. In addition to keeping key nesting and feeding areas free of invasive plants, nests were fumigated with insecticide that will interrupt the life cycle of the fly larvae without harming birds. This significantly increased breeding success. Scientists also developed a novel dispenser that provided birds with nesting material treated with insecticide to test if self-fumigation was effective in nests out of human reach.



Philornis downsi © Charles Darwin Foundation

PROTECTING THE ENDEMIC BIRDS OF GALÁPAGOS



Darwin's Flycatcher © Paul Salaman, Galápagos Conservancy



Jenny Macías of Pasitos de Gigantes holds a student's hand as she guides a group during an outdoor education trip. © Xavier Castro/Galápagos Conservancy

19 WOMEN-LED PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANT SUPPORT

Research shows that women are powerful drivers of sustainable economies and societies. In 2021, in partnership with Goldman Sachs, Galápagos Conservancy launched an innovative initiative called Women in Sustainable Entrepreneurship (WISE). Through investing in women-owned small businesses focused on sustainability, Galápagos Conservancy aims to lay the foundation for a cultural shift toward women's empowerment and leadership in Galápagos conservation. Galápagos Conservancy works closely with awardees as they develop and execute their ventures, providing operational support where needed to maximize each project's chance of success. Recipients include Tierra Madre (Mother Earth), a nursery and seed vault for endemic Galápagos plants; Más Arte, Menos Basura (More Art, Less Trash), a studio of recycled and upcycled art taken from trash found on the islands; Café Embrujo, a coffee shop that produces and exports sustainably-grown Galápagos coffee; The Book Shop, a cultural center and library in Santa Cruz; Alas de Luna (Wings of the Moon), a women's collective using art as a catalyst to end domestic violence; and Pasitos de Gigantes (Giant Little Steps), an educational space using experiential learning to teach young children about Galápagos culture and conservation.



WATCH

Scan the QR code to watch a video to learn more about our Women in Sustainable Entrepreneurship program.

galapagos.org/wisevideo2021



Mirian Silva of Tierra Madre (top left); Lisseth Valdiviezo of Alas de Luna (top right); Alice Bartlett of The Book Shop (bottom left); and Mayra Hernandez of Más Arte, Menos Basura (bottom right) are four recipients of our inaugural WISE grants. © Xavier Castro/Galápagos Conservancy (1-3) and Galápagos National Park Directorate (4)

IMPACT PROJECTS IN 2021

In 2021, Galápagos Conservancy launched our first-ever grant program to award direct support to conservation and community-based projects that protect imperiled species and promote sustainability across the Islands. These are some of the projects that received support from Galápagos Conservancy, thanks to our members, last year.



DEVELOP A CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN TO STUDY THE NESTING BIOLOGY OF **PINK AND YELLOW IGUANAS**, AS WELL AS THREATS FROM INVASIVE CATS AND RATS



DEVELOPMENT OF A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT FOR **INVASIVE BLACKBERRY** — AN INSIDIOUS BIOLOGICAL THREAT TO ENDEMIC PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES OF GALÁPAGOS



RESEARCH MOVEMENTS AND REPRODUCTION OF **WHALE SHARKS** IN THE GALÁPAGOS MARINE RESERVE FOR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF **LANTANA CAMARA**, AN INVASIVE SHRUB THAT CAN DESTROY NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS



STUDY REPRODUCTION HABITS OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED **SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK** AND THE VULNERABLE **BLACKTIP SHARK**



CONSERVATION OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED **MANGROVE FINCH** WITH A FOCUS ON THE PARASITIC LARVAE OF THE INTRODUCED AVIAN VAMPIRE FLY



INCREASE THE **GALÁPAGOS PENGUIN** POPULATION BY BUILDING AND MAINTAINING HUMAN-MADE NESTS, AND ASSESSING CONSERVATION NEEDS



ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION AND THREATS TO THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED **MEDIUM TREE FINCH** ON FLOREANA ISLAND



STUDY THE THREATS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE TO POPULATIONS OF **GALÁPAGOS SEA LIONS AND FUR SEALS**



REMOTE SURVEY OF GALÁPAGOS ENDEMIC **NAESIOTUS LAND SNAILS** TO INCREASE THE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PRIME EXAMPLE OF ADAPTIVE EVOLUTION AND SPECIES RADIATION



SURVEY THE POPULATION OF **BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES** IN GALÁPAGOS TO GUIDE CONSERVATION ACTIONS



INTEGRATIVE REVIEW OF THE ECOLOGY, GENETIC DIVERSITY, AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF **GALÁPAGOS ENDEMIC GECKOS**



PILOT PROGRAM TO RESTORE THE DEGRADED **CORAL REEFS** OF PUNTA ESTRADA OFF SANTA CRUZ ISLAND



EDUCATING **STUDENTS** DAILY ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN GALÁPAGOS AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL TEACHER-LEADERS



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF GALÁPAGOS IN 2022 AND BEYOND



To all of you who love Galápagos as I do,

We know that the challenges in Galápagos are great. Invasive species are beginning to dominate, more endemic species have gone extinct in Galápagos than the rest of South America combined, and marine species are particularly in harm's way as the effects of climate change bear down on the Archipelago.

But please, do not lose heart!

The time to act and save the precious biodiversity of this magnificent place is now. We must — and we will — double our efforts immediately while there's a chance to save species. This is why the Galápagos Conservancy Board of Directors has just approved a new strategic plan that you will hear more about in the coming months. I am excited by the bold new initiatives we have laid out and eager to continue the urgent work to protect Galápagos for wildlife, for my community, and for the world.

In 2022, we will retain our focus on efficiency so that more funding will directly support local, on the ground initiatives and increase our capacity to implement real and lasting projects with tangible outcomes. We are ramping up our efforts to save marine species and expanding our reach on the rocky shores, lush highlands, and harsh lavascapes across these rich islands. Our collaboration with the Galápagos National

Park Directorate, local partners, and international scientists is unparalleled and is the foundation that makes us the most effective conservation organization in the world for Galápagos.

This impact report demonstrates our ability to target resources and make a genuine impact to save the unique wildlife of Galápagos. But there are many species waiting for attention that are in dire need. We feel confident that we can save all the unique biodiversity of Galápagos, rewild its habitats, all while adapting to an uncertain future.

It is an absolute understatement to say that our achievements are thanks to YOU. Your support is the only way we can do what we do for Galápagos. On behalf of the board, staff, and our community of Galápagos conservationists, thank you for joining us on this journey to save Galápagos.

For the future of Galápagos,

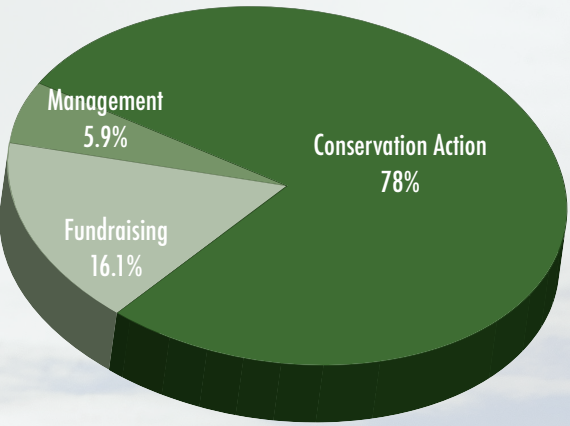


Washington Tapia
General Director



Washington Tapia (above) near an Española Giant Tortoise during a June 2021 expedition; Dr. Jorge Carrión and Galápagos National Park Rangers (left, top) observe a Pink Iguana in a tree on Wolf Volcano © Joshua Vela/Galápagos Conservancy

2021 FINANCIALS



In 2021:

- Our donations and revenue totaled \$5,764,423.
- Our expenditures totaled \$4,102,306.
- 78% of our funding directly supports conservation action.

Galápagos Conservancy continues to maximize conservation action and minimize administration costs. And we are proud to earn Charity Navigator’s highest rating for financial efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Conservation is a team effort and we are grateful for the collaboration of our many partners who help us achieve our mission of a healthy future for Galápagos.

Galápagos National Park Directorate

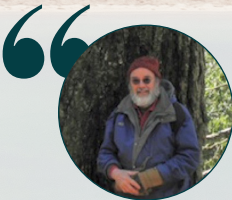
- Animal Balance Galápagos
- Celebrity Cruises
- Charles Darwin Research Station
- Fundación Scalesia
- Fundación Un Cambio por la Vida
- Galápagos Biosecurity & Quarantine Regulation & Control Agency
- Galápagos Whale Shark Project
- Goldman Sachs
- Houston Zoo
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Island Conservation
- Ministry of Education, Ecuador
- Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador

- Newcastle University
- San Diego Zoo
- Silversea Cruises
- Universidad de Málaga
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- University of Vienna
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I especially appreciate Galápagos Conservancy’s “holistic” approach to ecological restoration. Instead of just highlighting the many wonderful creatures and special places of Galápagos, the focus is on trying to understand the ecological relationships among the parts and to restore the natural order that human depredations have put at risk.

- Galápagos Conservancy Member Patrick Horan

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As a part of the Galápagos Conservancy community, you are a keystone member of the conservation ecosystem.

When you visited Galápagos or read about its wonders in school — however you came to adore this magnificent place — a seed of conservation action was planted in you that continues to grow.

Hardworking scientists, generous donors, and optimistic young Galápagos students striving for a more sustainable future all play a vital role in the network of victories that make change possible.

Every step we take to preserve, protect, and restore Galápagos is essential and monumental. Our impact is only possible due to the boundless generosity of our supporters. From everyone at Galápagos Conservancy, thank you for an incredible year.



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