



GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures

GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY
ANNUAL REPORT 2008



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

In 2007, President Rafael Correa expressed his deep concern about the placement of Galapagos on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger by issuing an Executive Order making Galapagos conservation a national priority. As a result of his action, public and private organizations have dug deeply into the causes and the possible solutions to the rise in resident population, untrammled economic growth and tourism, and introductions of disease and alien plant and animal life which threaten the extraordinary Galapagos archipelago.

This work has been informed by a growing recognition that people are part of the Galapagos ecosystem and that it will be impossible to protect Galapagos biodiversity without significantly changing their social and economic systems. The need to include social science in the spectrum of conservation management disciplines became evident as managers and science staff wrestled with questions of motivation, culture, needs, and behavior of a growing resident population. Dr. Graham Watkins, CDF's executive director, along with other noted scientists, responded to this need by applying the human ecosystem model to Galapagos. As a result, a number of important analyses focused on human behavior and scenario-based planning were presented to decision makers as part of the CDF's ongoing dialogue with the Ecuadorian government. The scenarios for the Galapagos of 2020 are easy to predict; what will be difficult to achieve is a scenario that is consistent with the long term conservation of the Galapagos ecosystems.

Also in 2008, the Ecuadorian public approved a new constitution that contained language giving Ecuador's natural communities and ecosystems similar legal rights to those normally granted to humans. The legal status of nature has now been changed from simple property to an entity with constitutionally-protected rights, and the people of Ecuador are empowered to take action to enforce nature rights if the government does not do so.

Ecuador's grant of constitutional protection to its extraordinary natural resources should give those who care deeply about our planet's future great reason for hope. Although these rights have not yet been translated into the type of integrated conservation management necessary to protect Galapagos ecosystems, the explicit recognition of the danger posed by current social and economic trends in the President's action give us a sense of optimism that Galapagos will be brought back from the tipping point. We thank the men and women working in, and for, Galapagos for their efforts to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

William A. Nitze
Chairman of the Board of Directors



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Over the last several years, Galapagos Conservancy has made a significant investment in expanding the capacity of institutions within Galapagos to address social and economic policy issues. In 2007 and again in 2008, several key documents were published collectively in a CD called "Critical Issues in Galapagos," which reflected recent research on tourism growth and biological risk factors alongside reports on the changing role of civil society in Galapagos biodiversity conservation.

The advent of social science research in Galapagos has been met with some skepticism by those who feel that Galapagos is first and foremost a site of high biological interest and investigation. The placement of Galapagos on the roster of World Heritage Sites in Danger in 2007, however, has brought to the forefront the impact of residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs on what was once an isolated outpost. In a recent interview, Raymond Lévêque, the first director of the Charles Darwin Research Station in 1960, reported that when he arrived in Puerto Ayora there was "nothing, simply nothing." In 50 years, the tiny village that Dr. Lévêque described has grown to more than 12,000 residents.

Dr. Christophe Grenier, a geographer now working at the Charles Darwin Research Station, describes this phenomenon as the "continentalization" of Galapagos. Rapid population growth and the associated development and resource use are inconsistent with the distinct nature and character of the archipelago and are of great concern to scientists and resource managers alike. Clearly delineating the most probable alternative futures for Galapagos based on current and projected trends will give policy makers a powerful tool for conservation planning.

Galapagos Conservancy has been working with local institutions and cooperatives to infuse both funding and technical expertise into small businesses that seek to link local enterprise and biodiversity conservation. New enterprises include greenhouses supplying organic produce to local towns, villages, and the tourism trade; shade-grown coffee plantations, and local plant nurseries and landscaping companies using native plants.

In his chairman's letter, William Nitze refers to the powerful directive given by Ecuador's President to elevate Galapagos conservation to a national priority. It is imperative for the future of Galapagos that we build an alliance with civil society in Galapagos, the national government, and the international community. We believe the tools are at hand and we thank our donors and supporters who are working with us to create this future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Johannah E. Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Johannah E. Barry
President of Galapagos Conservancy



2008 Programs in Review

Galapagos Conservancy staff and board have been working directly with key allies in Galapagos to address a range of critical conservation issues. As the largest private funder of Galapagos conservation and with over twenty years of experience in Galapagos, GC's alliance with the international scientific community, local enterprise, and the government of Ecuador forms a powerful partnership for conservation. Our program's focus and key grants are highlighted in the following pages.

CRITICAL CONSERVATION ISSUES IN GALAPAGOS

Project Floreana:

Floreana was the first island in Galapagos to be inhabited and is also one of the most altered. Now, through a new holistic approach to Galapagos conservation, Floreana will be the site of an island-wide ecosystem restoration effort, linking biodiversity protection with the lives and aspirations of local residents. A key component of this far-reaching project will be the re-introduction of the Floreana mockingbird, one of the locally extinct species.



With an estimated population of as few as 300 individuals in 2007, the Floreana mockingbird (pictured, left) is one of the rarest bird species in the world. While it has been extinct on Floreana for nearly 140 years, two small populations remain on islets off the coast of Floreana. In 2008, with funding from Galapagos Conservancy, CDRS staff determined that domestic fowl on Floreana had been exposed to a number of avian pathogens that could potentially move on to mockingbirds when they are re-introduced to the island. Plans for the mockingbird re-introduction to Floreana will now include strict bio-security controls to ensure that the re-introduced birds will not be exposed. Improved quarantine and inspection standards will be implemented and local citizens will form a central part

of the conservation effort to maintain a habitat in which these highly vulnerable endemic creatures can thrive once again.

Galapagos Report 2007-2008:

In 2006, Galapagos Conservancy revitalized The Galapagos Report, an annual “state of the Galapagos Islands” compilation of social, economic, political, and biological analyses critical to long-term decision-making in Galapagos. In addition to funding the analyses and production, GC staff edits and translates the papers and forms part of the multi-institutional editorial board responsible for its content. Presented by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS), the National Institute of Galapagos (INGALA), and Galapagos Conservancy, the 2007–2008 edition contains 25 articles related to socioeconomic issues and issues associated with the biodiversity and biophysical resources of the archipelago. Examples include studies on the public acceptance of environmental issues, the installed capacity of the tourism industry in Galapagos, water use and watershed protection in the inhabited islands, and risks associated with maritime routes to and within Galapagos. Work on the 2008–2009 edition is well underway.

Geographic Index Initiative:

In 2008, CDF and Galapagos Conservancy initiated a multi-year investigation on the “human footprint” in Galapagos, hiring geographer Dr. Christophe Grenier to bring the social science discipline to CDF’s already strong biodiversity conservation expertise. Dr. Grenier is launching a multi-year initiative to look at the impact of social processes (migration, economic development, social stratification) on Galapagos ecosystems and determine levels of increased biodiversity vulnerability due to those impacts. Through the matrices of political, cultural, and biological data, the Geographic Index Initiative will measure the impacts produced by residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs working in Galapagos.

Island Restoration:

With a shift in science and management in Galapagos from a focus on species, both endangered and introduced, to an ecosystem approach, the CDF and the GNPS initiated large-scale island restoration projects. Dr. Linda Cayot, Galapagos Conservancy’s Science Advisor and Liaison, collaborated on the development of the Pinzón Project, which is aimed at restoring that ecosystem primarily through the eradication of black rats, the island’s only introduced mammal, which has been present there for more than a century. Prior to attempting an eradication on an island the size of Pinzón, a trial eradication was carried out on North Seymour in 2007. During 2008, regular monitoring trips to North Seymour ensured timely detection of any remaining rats. None have been observed since the eradication. CDF staff will continue to monitor the project closely, as they move forward with the GNPS on the implementation of a two-year action plan for Pinzón.

The Pinta Project, another of the island restoration projects, continues after the successful eradication of goats in 1999, with plans for restoring the ecosystem through the re-introduction of giant tortoises, absent from Pinta since 1972. Following the announcement by the GNPS to re-introduce giant tortoises to Pinta in November 2007, the initial release of tortoises was delayed due to the possibility of locating tortoises with Pinta ancestry on Wolf Volcano on northern Isabela. Yale scientists studying Galapagos tortoise genetics since the early 1990s discovered a single tortoise with Pinta ancestry on Wolf Volcano. In response, the GNPS mounted a massive sampling trip to Wolf Volcano along with the Yale group and other scientists in December 2008 (top photo, right). More than 1600 blood samples were collected, many of which came from tortoises with Pinta-like morphology (bottom photo, right). With funding from GC, analysis of these samples is proceeding. In the meantime, it is critical to return giant tortoises to Pinta soon given that the vegetation is making a rapid recovery following the eradication of goats. GC staff is working directly with the Park to create a multi-year plan which will put tortoises back on Pinta and possibly develop a captive breeding program for Pinta hybrids.



Highland Restoration on Inhabited Islands:

Ongoing work with the control and eradication of invasive plant species on Santa Cruz and other islands highlighted the need for a more comprehensive program aimed at the highland areas of the inhabited islands. With funding from GC, an international workshop on restoration ecology for highland areas throughout the archipelago was held in November 2008.

Prior to the arrival of humans, native forests covered the highlands of Santa Cruz, San Cristóbal, Isabela, and Floreana. Countless organisms lived in these forested habitats. However, the fertile soils and higher precipitation in these zones made them the prime target for agricultural development, which resulted in habitat alteration and the introduction of both plants and animals. Today, much of the farmland has been abandoned due to invasion by non-productive introduced plants and decreasing revenues from farming. The agricultural area is surrounded on all sides by National Park and the abandoned farmlands represent a greater threat to the natural areas than do the areas still used for agriculture. As a result the highland forest is one of the most threatened communities in Galapagos. The workshop resulted in the following 50-year vision for the highland areas: a functional self-sustaining highland ecosystem, which retains all native Galapagos biodiversity elements and which meets the economic and leisure needs and values of the local, national and international community. In addition it laid out research goals and projects for the next five years that will jump-start the work toward the 50-year vision.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

GC has been supporting **Animal Balance (AB)**, an organization working out of San Francisco, California that provides sterilization of domestic cats and dogs throughout the islands. As of 2007, 96% of the cats and dogs living in the municipal areas of the four inhabited islands had



been sterilized. AB has outfitted the local institutions involved with animal control with anesthesia machines, autoclaves, and thousands of dollars in medicine; trained six Ecuadorian veterinarians; held dog-obedience classes; certified local residents in dog training; and created programs in the schools to help local children understand the responsibilities of pet ownership.

During 2008, GC administered 12 grants through the **Celebrity Galapagos Fund**, which is designed to strengthen local capacity and foster sustainable living in the islands. New projects involved marketing assistance to a cooperative of

artisanal fishermen, support to the solid waste recycling program in San Cristóbal, training in organic agriculture for farmers and youth, development of a pre-school program in Santa Cruz, and the construction of greenhouses for low-input agriculture for five farmers' groups on Santa Cruz, San Cristóbal, and Isabela. Since its inception in 2005, the Galapagos Fund, capitalized by the generosity of travelers aboard *Celebrity's Xpedition*, has funded a total of 24 projects.

Going Greener at GC

In an effort to conserve natural resources and money, GC has implemented several new programs to help us become as "green" as we can be.

- E-renewals and E-appeals are bringing dollars in the door faster and at virtually no cost
- Members now have the option to receive *Galapagos News* by email instead of by regular mail
- Our Monthly Supporter program is gradually increasing, meaning more guaranteed funding and lower printing and mailing costs

KEY PARTNERS IN GALAPAGOS

GC's funding strategy with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park encompasses not only key scientific projects, but initiatives that work to strengthen the internal functioning of these two important institutions.

Charles Darwin Foundation:

In 2008, GC funded the CDF's compliance with international accounting standards. In conjunction with regular audits, these norms will allow CDF to report its finances appropriately and effectively according to internationally defined standards. At the same time, GC provided funding to ensure that the CDF's human resources policies and procedures comply with Ecuadorian law and international standards and are internally coherent. This included new policies and procedures manuals, software, and management regulations.

The issue of governance is critical to efficient and effective functioning of any institution. In 2008, GC helped fund a many-month process to change the statutes of the CDF to create a more effective governance system. GC also funded the implementation of standing committees of the CDF board. The finance, governance, membership, and executive committees now meet regularly and communicate with the board, which in turn informs the larger CDF General Assembly, its highest governing body.



Galapagos National Park:

Since 1994, GC has provided the GNPS with emergency funding, ranging from fighting fires on Isabela to underwriting the medical evacuation of injured Park guards to the mainland. The largest investment has been in the tourism management system, where GC created the visitor data base, and trained staff to capture visitor data for the GNPS. These data have become increasingly critical as policy makers in Galapagos and on the mainland confront continual growth in the number of tourists and residents and respond to the increase in hotel infrastructure as well as a "shadow" industry of housing and labor that has evaded national scrutiny until now.



Parque Nacional
GALÁPAGOS
Ecuador

GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY OUTREACH AND LECTURES

Lectures and symposia are part of the work we do at GC. Several times a year, staff present talks at universities, museums, and other venues where members and the general public can keep current on Galapagos affairs.

In September 2008, GC President, Johannah Barry, presented a lecture at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Studies (pictured at right).



In November, GC staff and Board members traveled to Ecuador to discuss conservation challenges and priorities with a range of stakeholders. In Quito, they met with members of the CDF's General Assembly, which is comprised of international scientists, business leaders and others with a long-term commitment to protecting the islands. In Galapagos, meetings were held with CDF staff, the Governor of Galapagos, the Mayor of San Cristóbal, and representatives of the GNPS and INGALA, to discuss conservation challenges in the archipelago. The trip also provided the opportunity to visit various conservation projects that have been carried out with the support of GC members, including a number of the small grant projects funded through the Celebrity Galapagos Fund.

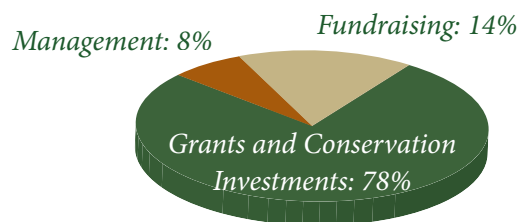


GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2008 (with comparative totals for 2007)

	2007	2008	Change
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributions and membership	\$2,818,745	\$2,295,473	-19%
Sales	\$11,273	\$18,974	68%
Investment Income	\$149,452	\$116,055	-22%
Total revenue and support:	\$2,979,470	\$2,430,502	-18%
EXPENSES			
<i>Grants Out:</i>			
Key Species	\$472,303	\$85,749	-82%
Capacity Building	\$346,422	\$539,045	56%
Galapagos National Park	\$180,000	\$194,871	8%
Marine Policy	\$121,059	\$81,214	-33%
Public Policy	\$78,125	\$305,000	290%
Restoring Native Ecosystems	\$143,350	\$249,780	74%
Core Funding of CDF	\$320,861	\$325,460	1%
Allocated Program Costs	\$355,246	\$314,317	-12%
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$2,017,366	\$2,095,436	4%
Costs of Goods Sold	\$8,279	\$8,580	4%
<i>Support Services:</i>			
Management and general	\$189,700	\$217,879	15%
Fundraising	\$439,754	\$405,115	-8%
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$629,454	\$622,994	-1%
Total Operating Expenses:	\$2,655,099	\$2,727,010	3%
Operating (loss) Income	\$324,371	(\$296,508)	
Endowment Contribution	\$200,000	\$280,323	40%
Adjusted Operating (loss) Income	\$524,371	(\$16,185)	



GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY ENDOWED ASSETS

Grants Out

Invasive Species Endowment Fund \$732,206

Investment Activity

Realized Loss Invasive Species (\$30,604)

Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments \$467,141 (\$1,682,983)

Endowment Portfolio Balance, 12/31 \$5,688,762 \$3,041,248

Cash on Hand, 12/31 \$652,669 \$530,607



WAYS TO GIVE

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

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Celebrate a special occasion in the life of a friend or family member through a Galapagos Conservancy gift membership. Visit www.galapagos.org for details.

GIFTS OF STOCK

Gifts of appreciated marketable stocks can have an immediate impact on Galapagos conservation while providing an income tax deduction for donors based on the assets' current value.

ESTATE PLANNING

Donors can have a lasting impact on Galapagos through bequests, trusts, and gifts of life insurance or retirement plans. Call or write legacy@galapagos.org for information about the Galapagos Legacy Society.

AUTOMATIC RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS

Using a credit card, automatic recurring contributions can now be arranged through www.galapagos.org. We will automatically charge your credit card for the amount and time interval you specify.

PAYROLL DONATIONS

Many private companies and government agencies make it possible to support Galapagos conservation through payroll gifts and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or Earth Share. To learn more, visit www.galapagos.org.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match contributions to Galapagos Conservancy. Consult with your human resources office to learn if your employer participates in a matching gift program.

CAR DONATIONS

Make a difference in Galapagos by donating your car, RV, or boat. For more information, contact cardonations@galapagos.org.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Through eBay.com, you can also donate a percentage (10-100%) of your own auction sales to Galapagos Conservancy. When setting up your item descriptions on eBay, select "Donate percentage of sale" and choose "Galapagos Conservancy" from the drop-down menu. It's that simple!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

FRIENDS OF GALAPAGOS

Annual Contribution \$25 to \$999

Benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to our membership newsletter, *Galapagos News*
- *Galapagos E-News*, our bimonthly email bulletin with updates on Galapagos conservation
- Invitations to private lectures and other educational events for Galapagos conservation
- A special gift for new members who give \$100 or more

GALAPAGOS AMBASSADORS

Annual Contribution \$1,000 or more

ESPAÑOLA SOCIETY: \$1,000 to \$4,999

All of the benefits of Friends of Galapagos, plus:

- Exclusive updates and reports on Galapagos conservation efforts
- Invitations to special Ambassadors-only events in your region
- Individual recognition in the Galapagos Conservancy Annual Report

SANTIAGO SOCIETY: \$5,000 to \$9,999

All of the above benefits, plus:

- A commemorative Galapagos book signed by the author

FERNANDINA SOCIETY: \$10,000 to \$24,999

All of the above benefits, plus:

- Briefings from senior members of the Galapagos Conservancy staff

ISABELA SOCIETY: \$25,000 or more

All of the above benefits, plus:

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

CONTRIBUTORS

We are grateful for the financial support provided by Galapagos Conservancy's 11,000 members whose generosity is at the core of the excellent conservation efforts underway in the archipelago.

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Continental Airlines has been an important, long-standing conservation partner to Galapagos Conservancy.

Through their generous donation of airfare to and from Ecuador and within the continental United States, Continental Airlines has allowed us to target significant funding directly to conservation priorities in the Galapagos Islands.

The ability of science and conservation staff to travel under these circumstances and to participate in a range of public meetings is critical to our ability to effect long term conservation management and policy.

GC is grateful to Continental for their thoughtful and generous assistance.

TRAVEL PARTNERS

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This council is an informal gathering of scientists and conservationists in the U.S. who bring to our work a unique understanding of Galapagos and the issues surrounding protected places. These individuals provide valuable knowledge and perspective,

and our work is enriched by their guidance. We are grateful for their willingness to share their time and expertise to help move Galapagos conservation forward.

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PHOTOS

Front Cover: Blue-footed Booby,
Joe Liftik of Brookline, MA

Page 2: Sally-lightfoot Crab, Carl Dyke
Page 3: Brown Pelican, Regina
Denhard

Page 4: Floreana Mockingbird,
Charles Darwin Research Station

Page 5: tagging tortoises on Wolf
Volcano Expedition, Galapagos
National Park; Pinta-like tortoise,
Peter Pritchard

Page 6: Dog with vets, Animal Balance
Page 7: Johannah Barry lecturing,
Washington College of Chestertown,
MD

Page 9: Sea Lion, Bob Hoffman;
Frigatebirds, Bert Forbes

Back Cover: Blue-footed Booby profile,
Richard M. Renn; Booby storm,
Torrey Trust; Blue-footed Booby feet
and eggs, Carolyn Stadler

GC ONLINE

GC has tapped into the online networking scene. Become a fan of Galapagos Conservancy on Facebook, and follow "SaveGalapagos" on Twitter!





GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures

Galapagos Conservancy

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