



Natural Connections

Making A Difference Together



ESCAPING the PLASTIC TRAP

Local women and youth are leading the transition to a plastic-free culture in schools and local businesses through activities that share positive examples of people who are acting to eliminate the negative effects of plastic. To reduce the social acceptance of single use plastics, consumers need practical and accessible alternatives such as reusable cloth bags and water bottles. Our Fund's support has resulted in programs to reduce single use plastics (cups, bottles, bags) and stronger public policy to eliminate the entry of plastic products to the Islands. These women and young people are powerful



Our local community is important to us, and we are making a real impact in the Islands. THANK YOU!



proof that local communities can promote cultural change to protect their fragile home. ■

Young people are learning about recycling plastic into useful items.

A SHARED VISION

In Galapagos we strive to unify diverse perspectives under a shared vision so that people can live in balance with nature and ecosystems and human society are conceptualized and managed as one integrated entity.



It is evident in the Islands that man and nature are interconnected and interdependent with each other. The community live and work surrounded by nature, and many livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean and the unique animals, plants and landscapes that are the reason visitors come to experience the Islands.

Since 2006, Celebrity Cruises has invested in almost 60 projects that link the security of the local economy with the protection of the Islands. Our fund has supported local people, including teachers, farmers, surfers, and fishermen, who have spearheaded innovative initiatives to understand and protect their unique home; projects that have led efforts to promote responsible pet management; and the fight against plastics. The projects we support are making an impact inside and outside

the classroom to empower young people to be informed and proactive citizens. Many current local leaders were influenced as children by our outreach programs to be the future stewards of their home. Diverse groups such as local farmers and artisanal fishermen have also received aid to improve production and resource management.

Sometimes a great project just needs a boost to get going or to fill critical funding gaps. We are very proud to work so closely with the Galapagos community, but the biggest thanks of all goes to the people who make these projects possible — our generous guests. ■

Celebrity Cruises Galapagos Fund



Join other Celebrity guests in supporting sustainability in Galapagos!

The Celebrity Cruises-Galapagos Conservancy partnership, formed more than fifteen years ago, is a natural connection that is contributing to the long-term protection of this world treasure. The generosity of our guests makes these projects possible, and we are making a positive difference in the local Galapagos community.

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Top, left: Surplus fruit provides an income all year long.
Top, right: Local organic produce
Middle: Hospitality school prepares students to enter the workforce.
Bottom, left: Junior park rangers analyzing beach refuse
Bottom, right: Young entrepreneur competition winner

Celebrity Cruises Galapagos Fund:

Celebrity Cruises created the **Celebrity Cruises Galapagos Fund** in 2006 to support initiatives by the people who call Galapagos home. We are proud to partner with Galapagos Conservancy who has invested more than 35 years in protecting Galapagos. **Our guests have contributed more than \$1,000,000 to date.** For more information, please contact: celebrityfund@galapagos.org

BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTNER.
galapagos.org/celebrity or scan the QR code



To support the **Celebrity Cruises Galapagos Fund**, please visit: www.galapagos.org/celebrity

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Making A Difference Together



Top: Children learn what it means to be a responsible pet owner. Bottom: These teachers are learning techniques to empower students to become the future caretakers of Galapagos.

INTO the FOREST I GO

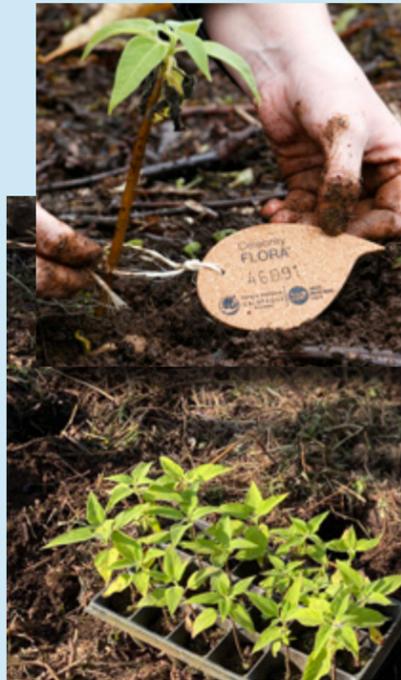
Planting endemic trees is a great way to help protect the forest and the diverse world that lives within them.

Celebrity Cruises is the Galapagos National Park's partner in protecting the last remnant of a once common forest, dominated by the endemic giant daisy tree, *Scalesia pedunculata*. The future of this unique forest depends on the combined passion and insistence of inspired travelers with the commitment from those who live and work in Galapagos.

Since 2014, our guests and crew have planted 49,500 trees, helping to reverse the damage caused by past agricultural activities and to restore areas overtaken by weeds, such as the highly invasive blackberry. Home to an abundance of spiders, beetles, butterflies, and moths, which all serve as food for endemic birds, the *Scalesia* forest is an excellent place to observe the rare Darwin's Flycatcher (known for its vivid red feathers) and several species of Darwin's finches.

To celebrate International Women's Day 2021, female park rangers and Celebrity Cruises' staff members were joined by two young **EarthEcho Ambassadors** to plant 200 trees in honor of the enormous efforts of women and girls around the world to build a future based on equality. Celebrity Cruises is leading the maritime industry toward a more diverse future; the first female captain to navigate the Galapagos Archipelago is our own Nathaly Albán at the helm of *Celebrity Expedition*. ■

Right:
Celebrity
Cruises
Ecuadorian
Master,
Nathaly Albán



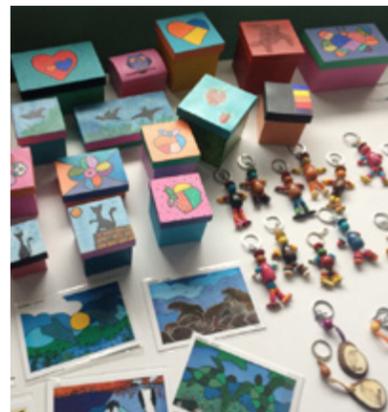
Below: EarthEcho Youth Council Galapagos volunteer, Priscila Bonilla, helps plant young *Scalesia* trees.

Left: A forest starts with a seedling.



A FUTURE AFTER SCHOOL

The **Special Education Center** on Santa Cruz Island opened a new art gallery to showcase former and current students' artwork and provide an opportunity for visitors to purchase unique items. The Center currently caters to more than 30 children with special needs. Graduates often find it challenging to secure employment, and the Center now enables former students to continue occupational therapy and enhance their social skills with teachers, students, and visitors. Income generated from the gallery will be used for materials and school improvements, with a view towards a potential income for graduates. We are very proud to support a better future for these young people. Jeremy, a current student said, "I can invite my friends and family to see what I do at my school. I'm very happy, thank you!". ■



Left: A selection of items sold at the gallery.



Right: Jeremy shows the gallery to Celebrity Cruises staff.

Steps in the Right Direction



SURPLUS BECOMES a PLUS

In partnership with the local municipality we equipped a community kitchen for women from the rural community of Santa Rosa in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. In recent years, these women have received training in making jam and dehydrating fruit in order to use the surplus from locally grown products to earn an income throughout the year. The kitchen will enable them to develop new products in a hygienic environment, giving this small business initiative a chance to grow. The new brand of jams is called "**Flavors from the Country.**" These industrious women are learning new techniques and testing new flavors with ingredients from the highland farms. Their delicious products can be purchased at the local Farmers' Market. ■



The launch of "Flavors from the Country" jams

ENVIRONMENTALLY LITERATE CAMPERS

Ecology Project International (EPI) empowers local youth to play an active role in Galapagos conservation. Our Fund enables local children with special needs to participate in **EPI's Environmental Literacy camps**, in which participants learn to understand the fragility of Galapagos and the planet through activities that connect them to conservation efforts. This learn-by-doing approach demonstrates the impact of decisions made by individuals and governments. The campers learn about the connections between humans and the environment, including topics such as invasive species, ecological footprint, and consumer habits. For example, our environmentally literate youth understand the single-use plastic issue and choose to use reusable water bottles. ■

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Art inspired by nature and wildlife helps develop a lifetime connection to protecting our world. On Santa Cruz Island, we supported **Biblioarte Galapagos 2021**, a four-week program organized by the local **Library for Galapagos and the World**. Children from age 3 and up expressed their creativity through painting, theater, and storytelling, plus there were also daily afternoon workshops for young people and adults. All activities were carried out under strict biosecurity measures, providing participants with a safe space to explore in a playful way their own relationships with the islands that inspire and sustain them. ■



Local children work on visual art projects as part of the program, Biblioarte Galapagos 2021.



EPI campers become conservationists as they learn how to protect the special environment in which they live.



Connecting people to nature and to each other

Leaving the world a better place

