



Galapagos Conservancy Fact Sheet

What is the mission of Galapagos Conservancy?

The mission of Galapagos Conservancy is to protect the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of the Galapagos Islands by supporting research and conservation management, helping to inform public policy, and building a sustainable society.

What is the Galapagos Archipelago? Where is it located?

The Galapagos Archipelago is a collection of volcanic islands located about 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. The archipelago is home to many endemic and rare species and is one of the most pristine and well-protected ecosystems in the world.

The Galapagos Islands are a province of the Republic of Ecuador.

What is the history of Galapagos Conservancy?

Galapagos Conservancy's roots stem from two organizations. The first was created in 1985 under the original name of the Darwin Scientific Foundation in a cooperative agreement among The Nature Conservancy, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Charles Darwin Foundation. In 1992 under the new leadership of Johannah Barry, the Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc. was created as a fundraising and advocacy organization focused specifically on biodiversity conservation in the Galapagos Islands. Then, in 2000, the two organizations merged under the CDF, Inc. name, and in 2006, changed their name to Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.

Why is conserving the Galapagos Archipelago important?

Galapagos has been described as one of the most unique, scientifically important, and biologically outstanding areas on earth (UNESCO 2001). Charles Darwin's observations on the wildlife and geology of these islands played a key role in his development of the theory of evolution by natural selection. They remain a popular and breathtaking vacation destination.

However, as a result of ecological damage, human population increases, and aggressive invasive species, the many unique wildlife and plant species — both on land and in the ocean — are now threatened, and in some cases are critically endangered. Galapagos Conservancy is committed to conserving the biodiversity of this extraordinary world treasure.



What makes Galapagos Conservancy different from other conservation organizations?

Galapagos Conservancy is the only U.S.-based nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to preserving the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands. We believe in the power of collaboration, and we're committed to investing in local and national organizations that have the ability and autonomy to protect this natural wonder.

For more than three decades, our team of conservation experts have worked intimately with leadership at the Galapagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Research Station, local municipalities in Galapagos, and other NGOs. Other characteristics that set us apart include:

- Galapagos Conservancy staff has **extensive experience in Galapagos**.
- Galapagos Conservancy **partners with key organizations in the Islands** that work in both conservation and development of a sustainable society.
- Galapagos Conservancy's work is **focused and agile**, and we're able to target financial support immediately to an issue and provide technical backup where needed.

What are some of the most well-known endemic and/or native species of the Galapagos Islands?

- Galapagos Tortoises
- Marine Iguanas, Land Iguanas, and Lava Lizards
- Galapagos Finches and Mockingbirds
- Blue-footed Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, and Nazca Boobies
- Galapagos Penguins and Flightless Cormorants
- Galapagos Sea Lions and Fur Seals
- Waved Albatross

Can you tell me more about the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative?

The Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative (GTRI) is a collaborative effort led by Galapagos Conservancy and the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD). The long-term goal of the initiative is to restore tortoise populations impacted by human activity to their historical distribution and numbers across Galapagos, including on islands where tortoises went extinct. This monumental effort is composed of four main components:



1. Research and conservation on tortoises, vegetation, ecosystems, etc., on targeted islands.
2. Breeding and rearing tortoises of threatened species.
3. Repopulating islands where tortoises went extinct or their numbers have been significantly depleted as a result of human activity.
4. Research and management of modern-day tortoise-human interactions and conflicts.

You can learn more about the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative and our other core projects [here](#).

What is your non-profit status?

We are an accredited 501(c)3 non-profit.

Where can I find your latest Annual Report?

You can view and download all of our Annual Reports, 990s and financial statements [here](#).

Who are your main partners and collaborators?

The Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD), established in 1959, is our primary partner. We also collaborate closely with the Charles Darwin Foundation, Fundacion Scalesia, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Education, the Galapagos Biosecurity Agency, and Galapagos Governing Council. You can find all of our NGO, university, government and travel partners [here](#).

Who is on your Board of Directors?

You can view the full list of our Board of Directors [here](#).

I am a member of the press. Who do I contact with an inquiry?

Please email media@galapagos.org and provide us as much detail as possible.

How can I learn more about your work?

You can learn more about the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative, the Education for Sustainability program, and our other core projects [here](#).

In addition, our [GC Online Library](#) has numerous resources about the Galapagos, including scientific research and issues of our [Galapagos Report](#) and our biannual newsletter, [Galapagos News](#).



Do you have a blog?

Yes. Our [blog](#) is full of incredible stories from Galapagos staff, partners, and supporters about the archipelago and our ongoing efforts to preserve it.

How can I donate to Galapagos Conservancy?

You can donate to Galapagos Conservancy by clicking on the orange [DONATE](#) button on any page of our website, and using the secure donation form. We do offer a variety of other ways to donate, including becoming a sustaining monthly member, adopting a species, giving a gift membership or a gift in Honor or Remembrance, becoming an elite Galapagos Ambassador Society member, and more.

To learn more about all the ways you can give, visit [this page](#).