ANNUAL REPORT 2007







# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This annual report reflects the very real changes experienced in Galapagos in the year 2007 and the conservation community's critical reactions to these dynamic challenges. Over the last several years, we have seen rapid shifts in the Galapagos political, social, economic, and environmental landscape. On balance, these shifts have been detrimental to Galapagos biodiversity. In spite of the extraordinary success of conservation initiatives such as Project Isabela, the Special Law for Galapagos, the creation of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, and the launching of SICGAL—the archipelago-wide quarantine and inspection system—Galapagos still suffers at the hand of man.

To understand why Galapagos has arrived at this point, we need to understand motive, opportunity, and alternatives. Why are people moving to Galapagos? Why are residents and external investors alike compromising the very resources that brought them to Galapagos? Why is a shared sense of conservation so elusive in Galapagos and where is the political will to save this extraordinary place?

As a science-based organization, the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) relies on hard data to provide the Government of Ecuador with technical advice on the management of the Galapagos Islands. A concerted effort began in 2007 to amass the data necessary to begin to effect positive change in Galapagos in the complex matter of human behavior. In partnership with a number of academic institutions, NGO partners, and local government agencies, Galapagos Conservancy funding helped to showcase these analyses in the *Galapagos Report 2006-2007*.

During 2007, Ecuador's President Rapael Correa elevated the conservation crisis in Galapagos to a matter of national priority. With his strong direction and the empowerment of local institutions such as the Galapagos National Institute (INGALA), the CDF and Galapagos National Park (GNP) soon found intellectual allies in this new socio-economic endeavor. "Galapagos at Risk" and "Tourism in Galapagos" were powerful statements of fact, and began a new, rich dialogue with local and national decision makers.

Galapagos Conservancy's investment in these key policy documents, core science, and technical assistance is described in this 2007 Annual Report. We recognize that, while important, this is only a start. Enlightened public policy that protects and preserves Galapagos biodiversity should continue to be the shared goal of all thoughtful conservationists. Galapagos is too significant a biological refuge, a scientific touchstone, and world treasure to fall victim to short-sighted economic gain and political maneuvering.

We are grateful, as always, to the international network of friends and supporters who make this work possible. We acknowledge this important partnership in the following pages.

Sincerely,

MUNUL GS MY Johannah E. Barry



# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you some personal reflections on Galapagos conservation and its impact on the larger global conservation dialogue.

Since my first visit more than ten years ago, I have witnessed rapid changes in the Galapagos Islands. Political and economic developments in Ecuador and, indeed, in the global community have had a profound effect on the flora and fauna of Galapagos. These are very challenging times for environments around the globe, and Galapagos is both a beacon of hope and an example of the growing impact of people on wild places.

Galapagos Conservancy remains the largest private funder of Galapagos conservation, with its direct support to on-the-ground research and management more than doubling in the last four years. Despite the difficult world economy, Galapagos Conservancy's supporters continue to value our focus on the Galapagos ecosystem, our ability to achieve concrete results with limited resources, and our close working relationship with the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and key Ecuadorian institutions.

These strengths have enabled us to reach out in non-traditional ways to our colleagues in Ecuador. Our financial support and technical advice have allowed the CDF to realign its programs under the leadership of Dr. Graham Watkins. Concentrating on the broader human impacts on the Galapagos ecosystem, Dr. Watkins and his Board of Directors have taken on the extremely difficult task of refocusing staff and other institutional resources to respond to these new priorities.

We appreciate the commitment of President Correa, to make Galapagos conservation a priority. Without this commitment, our work in the islands would be far more difficult. We remain optimistic that the challenges described in our President's letter can be overcome with hard work and good will on all sides.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as Chair of Galapagos Conservancy for five years, and to participate in the important initiatives taken by the conservation community in support of this extraordinary place. In the coming years, Galapagos will encounter a fateful choice between being a model of enlightened ecological management or becoming a tragic example of irrevocable ecological loss. I am hopeful that, with strong leadership, Galapagos will choose the former.

Sincerely,

William A. Nitze Chairman





# 2007 IN REVIEW

Despite the conflict and troublesome news that marked its first six months, 2007 was a year of dramatic conservation success in Galapagos and growing political will on the part of the Ecuadorian Government to support lasting preservation of the Islands.

Perhaps the most promising advances had to do with our investments, initiated several years ago, in the area of socioeconomic research. A central theme of Galapagos Conservancy's 2006–2010 Strategic Plan was increased emphasis on filling information gaps needed for sound policy and planning related to the growing human presence in Galapagos.

The importance of this work became very clear as events unfolded throughout the year. In March, the director and wardens of the Galapagos National Park Service clashed with Ecuadorian military personnel over unregulated tourism activities on the island of Baltra. In April, an IUCN-UNESCO delegation visited Galapagos to examine conservation concerns and to consider placing the Archipelago on the list of UNESCO Sites in Danger. Immediately after this visit, President Correa's Decree 279 declared Galapagos at risk and its conservation a national priority. Then in June, UNESCO announced that it had placed Galapagos on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger. It became increasingly clear that the situation in Galapagos was at a tipping point and that immediate and difficult decisions related to tourism, migration, and economic growth were needed.

Concerns about the rapid, erratic growth in the economic sector and its impact on the social, cultural, and ecological landscape were thoughtfully explored at this same time by Dr. Graham Watkins and Felipe Cruz in their report, "Galapagos at Risk." This work contained some of the first hard data on the impact of industry growth—especially tourism—on money flows, social dynamics, political influence, and biodiversity management. The report asked provocative questions about the links between economic growth and biodiversity degradation and questioned the fundamental assumptions about tourism as a benign economic opportunity in a protected area.

It was within this setting of hard questions and even harder answers that Galapagos Conservancy made investments in additional socioeconomic research. Fortunately, this body





of work was completed just as the Correa administration and decision makers in Galapagos began the difficult task of crafting solid, long-term solutions to what had been characterized as intractable problems. This research included:

- "Tourism, the Economy, Population Growth, and Conservation in Galapagos" by Bruce Epler. This study provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date look at tourism and resource flows in Galapagos. Epler's work, which builds on his seminal 1980 publication by the same name, challenges many commonly-held assumptions regarding the relative impact and roles of tourism, fishing, and other economic activities in Galapagos, and poses important research questions for future study.
- "Galapagos Report 2006–2007" continues an annual compilation of social, economic, political, and biological analyses critical to long term decision making in Galapagos. The 24 studies contained in this report were developed jointly by the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Galapagos National Park Service, the National Galapagos Institute and respected international researchers. The *Report* provides important information about Galapagos fisheries, trends in tourism, threats posed by current and proposed air routes to the islands, energy consumption, vehicle use, and public perceptions of the performance of local institutions.

Much of the information contained in these publications was put to use by the Ecuadorian Government and local organizations during the second half of 2007, which was marked by growing commitment and political will among decision makers to ensure long-term conservation of Galapagos. Some examples of positive decisions include:

- President Correa named a well-known Galapagos-born conservationist,
   Eliecer Cruz, to the position of Governor.
- The President streamlined decision making by giving the National Galapagos Institute (INGALA) clearer authority and mandate for solving problems in the Archipelago.



- The President, Governor, and INGALA Council approved the Plan for Total Control of Invasive Species.
- Government officials implemented improved migration controls and began discussing the possibility of returning non-residents to the mainland.
- The President called for a new business model for tourism in Galapagos. The Governor, INGALA, GNPS, CDF, and representatives from the tourism industry began developing a model that is consistent with the long-term preservation of the islands.

Important advances were also made in the area of island restoration. The goat eradication techniques developed on Isabela Island were transferred to other islands, such as Floreana, with rapid success. Rat eradication took place on North Seymour, fire ant eradication on Champion and Marchena, and blackberry eradication on Santiago and Floreana. Leading researchers from around the world participated in workshops and planning sessions in Galapagos to identify strategies to eradicate rats and restore populations of the highly-threatened mangrove finch and Floreana mockingbird. Galapagos Conservancy staff moderated this workshop and produced the post-workshop documents, proposals, and action plans. We are particularly excited about Project Pinta, launched by the GNPS and the CDF, which will restore the giant tortoise population on Lonesome George's birthplace.

In the area of species protection, scientists monitored populations of the Galapagos penguin and the flightless cormorant, whose sensitivity to the rise in ocean temperatures makes them the "canaries in the coalmine" in terms of El Niño impacts. With the results of a study supported by Galapagos Conservancy members, the CDF, GNPS, and the Ecuadorian ministries of the Environment and Foreign Affairs worked to ensure controls on albatross harvests in Peru.

# TWO DEAR FRIENDS OF GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION

alapagos Conservancy lost two important and irreplaceable friends over the last year with the deaths of Frances Velay and David Challinor. Both were dear friends and conservationists of note, and both will be deeply missed.

Frances Velay's lifelong love of turtles and tortoises brought her close to Galapagos, where her support of core science and management programs resulted in key conservation successes. Projects such as ecosystem restoration on Isabela and Santiago Islands moved forward year after year with her enthusiastic and generous participation. Frances also understood the complex nature of political and economic effects on long-term conservation and was an ardent student of these necessary, but difficult, interactions.

David Challinor spent a lifetime dedicated to domestic and international conservation as a researcher, an administrator, and a prolific writer. David was one of the founding members of Galapagos Conservancy, served on the Board of Directors, and provided important service as Chair. David's infectious enthusiasm for the natural world brought him in contact with many conservation organizations which were privileged to count him as Board member and mentor. David's wit and diplomacy were hallmarks of his service in conservation. His generosity, patience, and kindness will long be remembered.



## A NEW BEGINNING: THE RESTORATION OF PINTA ISLAND

Pinta, one of the northernmost islands in the Galapagos Archipelago, is the birthplace of Lonesome George, the sole known surviving Pinta tortoise. After almost 200 years of ecological decline, caused first by whalers who decimated Pinta's giant tortoise population, and then by introduced goats that devoured its native and endemic vegetation, scientists and conservationists are returning the sixty-square-mile island to near pre-human condition.

In 1999, Pinta Island was used as a training ground for new methods of goat eradication that later would be put to use on a much larger scale on Isabela and Santiago Islands. After almost three decades of unsuccessful eradication attempts, goats were finally eliminated from Pinta. Fortunately, it appears that the grazing pressure by goats was stopped before any of Pinta's plant species went extinct. Moreover, an intensive coast-to-summit monitoring project carried out in 2000 and repeated in 2004 shows that vegetation recovered rapidly in the absence of goats.

There are indications, however, that some of the endemic plant species that require substantial light could be negatively affected by the unchecked regeneration of Pinta's vegetation. There is also concern that some species may decline due to the absence of large-seed dispersers. Prior to their elimination, Pinta tortoises played important roles as herbivores by eating and later dispersing seeds from a number of plants.

In late 2007, after carefully weighing possible paths of action, the Galapagos National Park decided that repopulating Pinta with Española tortoises would provide the best possible means of restoring balance to Pinta's ecosystem. The Española tortoise comprises the taxon most closely related to the Pinta tortoise. It is also currently available through the successful breeding and rearing program of the CDF and the GNPS.

A project is now underway to release between 50–65 young tortoises (approximately four years old) every year. Natural reproduction on the island will begin in approximately 15–20 years.



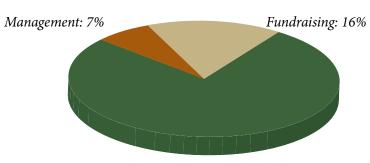


# GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2007 (with comparative totals for 2006)

	2007	2006
Revenue and Other Support		
Contributions and membership	\$2,818,745	\$2,598,044
Sales	\$11,273	\$18,660
Investment income	\$585,184	\$251,487
Total revenue and support:	\$3,415,202	\$2,868,191
EXPENSES		
Grants:		
Key Species Protection	\$472,303	\$353,256
Grants through Travel Partnerships	\$571,145	\$616,051
Local Partners	\$184,714	\$128,156
Galapagos National Park	\$130,000	\$100,000
Marine Policy	\$61,059	\$326,184
Public Policy	\$53,125	\$52,500
Restoring Native Ecosystems	\$25,850	\$22,757
Governance	\$200,861	\$100,000
Allocated Program Costs	\$318,309	\$383,535
Costs of Goods Sold	\$8,279	\$17,028
Subtotals	\$2,025,645	\$2,099,467
Support Services:		
Management and general	\$189,700	\$156,109
Fundraising	\$439,745	\$357,573
Name Change	0	\$17,126
Total Expenses:	\$2,655,099	\$2,630,275
Change in Net Assets:	\$791,512	\$690,857



Grants and Conservation Investments: 76%





#### 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 period.

#### **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 <code>legacy@galapagos.org</code> 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*.

#### SHOP AMAZON.COM

When you enter Amazon.com from specific links on our website, a portion of your purchases will be donated to Galapagos Conservancy.

#### 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 members who give \$100 or more

#### GALAPAGOS AMBASSADORS

Annual Contribution \$1,000 or more

#### ESPANOLA 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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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: Great Blue Heron, Satish Nair; Albatross Dance, Michael Lambie; Land Iguana, Norine Audette

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Page 3: Darwin's Cotton, Gerald Corsi

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Page 5: Ghost Crab, Tanja Semen Sea Lions, Richard Hallman

Page 6: Marine Iguana, Zorica Kovacevic

Page 8: Hammerhead Shark, Alex Hearn; Nazca Booby, Scott Bowler

Page 9: Galapagos Penguins, Gerald Corsi; Galapagos Barnacle Blenny, Josser Delgado

Back Cover: Sea Lion, C.F. Riggs-Bergesen





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