



**GALAPAGOS**  
**CONSERVANCY**

*Saving one of the world's great treasures*



**ANNUAL REPORT 2010**



## COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION

Galapagos conservation is fortunate to have a committed cadre of scientists, conservation managers, and natural resource professionals from around the world whose insight and experience shape our response to the growing challenges that confront this once isolated archipelago. We regularly call on this network of individuals and institutions to help community groups, local non-profit organizations, municipal governments, and the dedicated staffs at the Galapagos National Park (GNP) and the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) to confront the biophysical degradation and socioeconomic pressures that, if left unchecked, will significantly alter the biological integrity that defines Galapagos.

In 2010, Galapagos Conservancy (GC) strengthened its attention to three priority program areas: Ecosystem Restoration, Sustainable Society, and Knowledge Management. In each of these areas, GC has identified needed technical expertise and financial resources and is building new alliances that will enhance our ongoing work with the CDF, the GNP, and a growing number of local partners.

Working with Dr. James Gibbs at the State University of New York–Syracuse, we continued our collaboration with the Galapagos National Park to return tortoises to Pinta Island, the original home of Lonesome George. Dr. Gibbs' complementary work on Española has provided insight into long-term changes resulting from the combined effects of the introduced goat population (eradicated in 1978) and the decades of few giant tortoises prior to the successful repatriation program. The Española work is helping to determine the most suitable tortoises to form a reproductive population for eventual relocation to Pinta.

Our partnership with Celebrity Cruises has launched several new initiatives with local actors, ranging from environmental education projects to municipal environmental planning. We recognize that at the heart of a strong civil society is an engaged and educated citizenry. Our work with the local Tomás de Berlanga School to create an effective educational model for Galapagos has the potential to be replicated in other World Heritage sites around the world.

In the area of Knowledge Management, our work responds to the challenge of gathering and utilizing the thousands of data sets gathered in and about Galapagos over the last hundred or more years. These data, whether biophysical or socio-economic, are critical to decision-making and policy-formation in response to the growing conservation challenges in the islands, but most are not readily accessible. Working with the Governing Council of Galapagos, local municipalities, US universities, and our partners at the GNP and CDF, we are embarking on the development of a long-term information management system to provide decision-makers in Galapagos with a ready stream of information for policy-making.

The work described in the following pages reflects the value of collaboration. None of this could be accomplished by a single organization. Galapagos is well served by the many institutions and individuals working together to ensure its future. We are pleased to share these important conservation initiatives with our extended family of friends and supporters.

Johannah E. Barry  
President of Galapagos Conservancy

Richard S. Wood  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

# 2010 Accomplishments

Galapagos Conservancy's programs fall into three distinct areas focused on protecting biodiversity in the islands. With local partners, we are moving forward in the following areas:

## ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

During 2010, in collaboration with our partners in Galapagos and scientists from the United States, we supported several key restoration projects. Much of this work was made possible thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Schaffner Family Foundation:

- **Project Floreana**, aimed at the restoration of the smallest of the four inhabited islands, continued to be an important focus of our work. The local community and the science team of the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) initiated a biodiversity assessment of the entire island, a key initial step to provide a baseline for restoration. The project leader for the Floreana Mockingbird Project began work in the second half of 2010 and completed censuses on the two islets of Gardner and Champion, and participated in the biodiversity survey on Floreana.
- With support from our members, our partners at CDF continued research on current and potential effects of **Global Climate Change** in Galapagos, with an emphasis on mitigation measures to ensure that no species are lost. Scientists continue to focus on future scenarios regarding potential introductions of alien marine species in Galapagos due to temperature changes and potential impacts on vulnerable species (penguins, flightless cormorants) that depend on colder water for food and reproduction.
- **Project Pinta** continued with 39 tortoises released on Pinta Island in May 2010. A follow-up monitoring trip is planned for Summer 2011, one year post release, as a prelude to any future release of additional tortoises. *(See green box, next page.)*
- With the expertise of the Galapagos National Park (GNP), the CDF, and others, preparations began for **rat eradication** on several small islets around Santiago, and on the larger islands of Rábida and Pinzón. Eradications on the islets and Rábida were scheduled for January 2011, while the work on Pinzón will be completed in 2012. Successful rodent eradication will have major positive impacts on native bird and reptile populations. In the case of Pinzón, successful rat eradication should allow the tortoise population to recover naturally, no longer requiring intervention via the captive rearing program.



## SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Working closely with local NGOs, Celebrity Cruises, and colleagues in the United States, GC made progress in several areas:

- In the area of education, GC funded research conducted by Stanford University's School of Education on **best practices in Education for Sustainability** with relevance to Galapagos. Their findings were shared with Ecuador's Ministry of Education and educators in Galapagos and will help all involved to learn as much as possible from experiences in other World Heritage Sites and environmentally vulnerable areas of the world.
- Together with an experienced team of educators from the US and Latin America, GC began to work with the **Fundación Scalesia and Tomás de Berlanga School** in Santa Cruz to implement best educational practices that will serve as a model for educational improvements throughout the archipelago. Simultaneously, GC began discussing with the Ministry of Education ways in which to support the implementation of a new Galapagos-specific curriculum in the public schools. A generous multi-year challenge grant from the October Hill Foundation has played an important role in kick-starting this work.
- Through the **Galapagos Fund Small Grants Program**, carried out in conjunction with Celebrity Cruises, we supported large-scale solid waste recycling activities on the island of San Cristóbal, building



## TORTOISES ROAMING PINTA ISLAND ONCE AGAIN

In May 2010, thirty-nine tortoises were released on Pinta as part of island restoration following goat eradication. During much of the past century, Pinta tortoises were believed to be extinct until the discovery and subsequent removal of Lonesome George in 1972. Today the only known Pinta tortoise in the world is Lonesome George, who lives at the Tortoise Center on Santa Cruz, and attempts to find a mate for him have been unsuccessful.

Pinta is undergoing rapid restoration following the goat eradication in 2003. Three goats, released onto Pinta in 1959, ultimately resulted in a population of over 40,000, destroying the native vegetation. After removing the final goats in 2003, full island restoration was possible. It was time to repopulate the island with tortoises, the natural ecosystem engineers of Galapagos.

It took three days to get 39 tortoises, ranging in weight from 30 to 100 kg (70-220 pounds), up to the release site, some 4 km (2.5 miles) inland. Everyone was surprised at how easily the tortoises settled in. As they smashed their way through the vegetation, finches, mockingbirds, and lava lizards quickly followed, taking advantage of the disturbed pathways to look for food. "It was incredible to experience the return of tortoises to Pinta — watching them move through their new environment as if they had always lived there," said GC's Linda Cayot.

While ongoing genetics studies have yet to determine the best tortoises to create a reproductive population on Pinta, tortoises were needed during this initial phase of vegetative recovery. It was decided to use the captive hybrid tortoises of the GNP on Santa Cruz and Floreana. These tortoises resulted from breeding

*Two tortoises take their first steps on the beach of Pinta, before being carried up to their release site in the highlands. The tortoises are fitted with radio tags — visit the Project Pinta page at [www.galapagos.org](http://www.galapagos.org) to view a satellite tracking map of the tortoises' movements in the first two months upon release. (Photo by Francisco Laso, who spent two months on Pinta monitoring the tortoises' behavior.)*

capacity to carry out environmental management planning in the Municipality of Santa Cruz, enabling a local NGO (FUNDAR Galapagos) to construct an interpretive trail and learning center in the Pájaro Brujo Reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz, and providing technical assistance to low-input farmers producing vegetables for local consumption.

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

After much discussion among a growing number of users, we are supporting an effort to develop a unifying, accessible knowledge management system for better public policy, research, and management in Galapagos. Specifically:

- With funds from the Tinker Foundation, an international workshop will gather together knowledge management experts and Galapagos decision-makers to develop a multi-year work plan for implementing a system for Galapagos. This event will be convened by the President of the Governing Council of Galapagos. With the help of one of our supporters, Dr. Dan Sherman, and collaborators at SUNY-ESF and Cornell University's Department of Ornithology, we have now amassed an impressive bibliography on best practices in inter-institutional knowledge management as part of the material for workshop participants.



*Left: Galapagos National Park rangers carry one of the 39 tortoises up to the highlands of Pinta. Right: Elizabeth Hunter and her team in the highlands at the start of their 2 month research adventure. (Photos by Francisco Laso, pictured far right)*

of captive tortoises in the early years of the GNP and were destined to spend their lives, some 150 years or more, in captivity. Their sterilization allowed them to be released onto Pinta to act as ecosystem engineers.

A large group of park rangers led by Washington Tapia carried out the tortoise release, along with Dr. James Gibbs of SUNY-ESF Syracuse, Dr. Linda Cayot (Science Advisor of GC), and Dr. Joe Flanagan of the Houston Zoo. Elizabeth Hunter, a Masters student at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, and three assistants, also present for the release, then spent the following two months on Pinta to monitor tortoise movements and activity. Funded by Galapagos Conservancy, Elizabeth and a new team of assistants will be doing additional monitoring one year post-release in 2011.



# GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2010 (with comparative totals for 2009)

	2010	2009
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Contributions & Membership	\$2,125,533	\$1,915,356
Sales	\$12,865	\$15,781
Investment Income	\$463,855	\$835,616
<b>Total Revenue and Support:</b>	<b>\$2,602,253</b>	<b>\$2,766,753</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<i>Grants Out:</i>		
Local Capacity Building	\$166,824	\$21,260
Marine Policy	\$162,730	\$52,306
Key Species	\$70,825	\$90,709
Restoring Native Ecosystems	\$63,508	\$160,000
Public Policy	\$0	\$198,122
Galapagos National Park	\$100,933	\$135,000
Core Funding of Charles Darwin Foundation	\$617,305	\$535,940
Allocated Program Costs	\$653,987	\$521,700
<b>TOTAL Grants Out:</b>	<b>\$1,836,112</b>	<b>\$1,715,037</b>
Costs of Goods Sold	\$7,774	\$4,827
<i>Support Services:</i>		
Management and General	\$192,078	\$165,563
Fundraising	\$360,707	\$299,240
<b>TOTAL Support Expenses:</b>	<b>\$552,785</b>	<b>\$464,803</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,396,671</b>	<b>\$2,184,667</b>
Operating (loss) Income	\$205,582	(\$115,811)
Endowment Income	\$100,000	\$150,000
<b>Adjusted Operating (loss) Income</b>	<b>\$305,582</b>	<b>\$34,189</b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$1,734,161	\$1,574,478
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$222,454	\$177,055
Permanently restricted net assets	\$2,433,188	\$2,432,688
<b>Total Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$4,389,803</b>	<b>\$4,184,221</b>

*Note: The presentation of the financial statements in the online version of this 2010 Annual Report includes Ending Net Assets and program terminology used prior to the launch of our new program areas in 2011.*

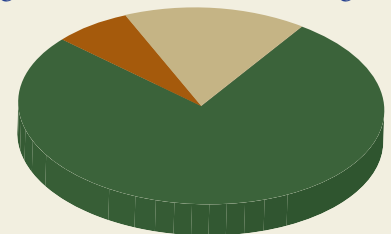
## MISSION

*To advance and support the conservation of the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of Galapagos*

## VISION

*Galapagos Conservancy works to ensure a balance between human society and nature that will protect and enhance the unique ecosystems of the Galapagos Archipelago. We value innovative science and conservation management that seeks to protect and conserve the unique flora and fauna of Galapagos and which constantly strives to add knowledge and context to the world's understanding of biodiversity conservation. We envision a healthy and engaged society within Galapagos that actively cares for and respects the sustainable and thoughtful use of local resources.*

Management: 8% Fundraising: 15%



Grants and Conservation Investments: 77%

## 2010 CONTRIBUTORS

*We are grateful for the financial support provided by our 11,000 members whose generosity is at the core of our conservation investments. Here we recognize our Galapagos Ambassadors, who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Legacy gifts are marked by (L).*

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Alan and Irene Wurtzel  
Aitzol Zunzunegi

## Continental Airlines

*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

Celebrity Xpedition  
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## 2010 BOARD MEETINGS

Washington, DC on April 16  
New York, NY on October 29

## GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY STAFF

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Rebecca Fuhrken, Administrative Coordinator

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Julian Fitter, Chairman

## DARWIN SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

This council is an informal group 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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Wake Forest University

Dr. Joseph Flanagan  
Houston Zoo

Dr. James Gibbs  
State University of New York – ESF, Syracuse

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## PHOTOS

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Cover background: Lava flow by Deborah Palmisano

Page 2: Green Sea Turtle and Steel Pompano fish by Matthew Meier

Page 3: Sally Lightfoot Crabs by Andy Teucher

Back Cover: Sea Lions basking by Joe Italiano and Lava Lizard by Renee Capouya

## GC ONLINE

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