



Galapagos
Conservancy

Saving One of the World's Great Treasures

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

www.galapagos.org





Conservation work requires a long-term view, both intellectual and financial. Galapagos Conservancy supporters know this well, and we remain grateful to both our new friends, and our core supporters, many of whom have been with us for more than thirty years. They, and we, have watched as our programs have matured, expanded, and delivered conservation successes — none of which would be possible without a deep appreciation for the decades that are often involved in achieving success. This annual report reflects the impact of several of our key, long-standing programs, and relationships built over many years. We continue to be humbled by the collaboration and collegiality of the many institutions and individuals who have come together to make this work a success and to protect this extraordinary place.

For Galapagos,

Johannah E. Barry, President

Who make up our Galapagos Conservancy Donor Community?

13,875 Total Members

FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, ADVOCATES
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12,809 give \$25-\$999 annually

AMBASSADOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

528 give \$1,000+ annually

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538 give \$10+ monthly

GALAPAGOS LEGACY SOCIETY

55 have committed to making planned gifts



PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2018

GIANT TORTOISE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

The Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative (GTRI), now in year 5, continues to rebuild tortoise populations to their historical distribution and numbers, including on Santa Fe and Floreana Islands, where tortoises went extinct. Through a combination of *in situ* management, breeding and repatriation, evaluating and restoring habitat conditions, and improving education and outreach in service of giant tortoise conservation, we hope to see transformational change in damaged ecosystems throughout the Archipelago.

Floreana Breeding Program

The GTRI team established corrals at the Tortoise Center on Santa Cruz to house the breeding groups that have Floreana DNA. The Floreana tortoises have been extinct for more than 150 years. It is thrilling to see the captive-bred hatchlings thriving. Once they reach five or six years old, they will be released onto Floreana Island as part of a long-term program to restore the natural ecosystem.

Tortoise Repopulation on Santa Fe

A total of 396 juvenile Española tortoises have been released on Santa Fe Island since 2015. Tortoises went extinct on Santa Fe, but the island needed an herbivore to help maintain the natural balance among species. In June 2018, the GTRI team carried out the annual monitoring of the tortoises and the vegetation quadrats that were established in 2014 to study the impact of tortoises on the environment. The larger tortoises from the first release appear to be dispersing farther from the release site, with some now located outside the 5 km² census area.

We anticipate continuing to release tortoises for the next several years. The oldest cohort of tortoises should be reproductively active by the mid-to-late 2020s.



Galapagos Conservancy staff and GNPD rangers release young tortoises on Santa Fe Island in 2018. © GTRI



The tiny hatchlings of our GTRI breeding program are the hope and future of several endangered Galapagos tortoise species. © Lahni Allen

The GTRI team is focused on ensuring that tortoises in the highland farms are healthy and that their migration routes remain clear. © Angela Messmer



Tortoise Work on Santiago Island

In June 2018, the GTRI team made its first field trip to Santiago Island. The goal was to open a seven-mile trail, observe the current nesting of tortoises, and transport a water collection tank to the site for use on future trips. A tortoise egg collection trip took place a few months later during the nesting season, and the eggs were transferred to the Santa Cruz Tortoise Center to complete the incubation period. The young will be reared at the center until they are old enough (5-6 years) to be returned to their home island.

Tortoises in Farmlands (Santa Cruz)

Tourism on farms in the Santa Cruz highlands has increased, and the subdivision of large properties and stronger fences are affecting the migration of giant tortoises through private property. The GTRI team has initiated weekly visits to the farms to check on the tortoises' health and general conditions on the farms.

Eastern Santa Cruz Tortoise Census

During July and early August 2018, the GTRI team made several one-day excursions to open the trails necessary to conduct a population census and explored new areas for inclusion. The census took place in September and October with the purpose of determining population size, distribution, nesting areas, and threats to this small, lesser-known species of tortoise.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The ESG Program completed its third year of implementation in 2018 and continues to increase the capacity of teachers, peer mentors, and school principals in Galapagos to expand student learning and, in turn, the contributions of young people towards building a more sustainable society in the Islands. The program works directly with each of the 370+ K-12 teachers in the 20 schools on the Islands. Ecuador's Ministry of Education and the Galapagos-based Fundación Sclesia continue to be close partners in this work.

Redoubled Emphasis on Education for Sustainability

During the first 2 years of the ESG Program, we focused on improving the pedagogical skills and content knowledge of all teachers and introduced basic concepts of Education for Sustainability by teaching educators the needed skills to plan effective lessons connected with real-life Galapagos topics. As educators have developed a stronger understanding of the national curriculum and have cultivated new student-centered teaching strategies, we are helping them to create high-quality lessons and instructional units based on local realities, sustainability principles, and standards in the Ecuadorian national curriculum. We are working closely with curriculum specialists at the Ministry of Education and international specialists in Education for Sustainability to develop a first-of-its-kind "Education for Sustainability Teacher's Guide" for use by educators throughout Ecuador and beyond.



Above: Teachers have developed hands-on elementary science units focused on native and invasive species, the life cycle of plants, and creating and maintaining nature journals.

Right: Dr. Diego Román, Assistant Professor in Teaching and Learning at Southern Methodist University, is a native of Quito and volunteered in Galapagos before pursuing a career in education. Here he models an experiment through which students extract DNA from fruit.

Both photos: © Jonathan Drake/T2TGlobal



Teacher Institute on the island of Santa Cruz
© Buró Comunicación Integral

Launch of Education Leadership Training

In June we launched a parallel program (80 hours/year) in Education Leadership to equip 30 school principals and vice principals, as well as a team of 40 coaches-in-training, with the skills they need to support education quality improvements within their schools. All school leaders and coaches-in-training will continue to participate in the biannual Teacher Institutes in addition to this specialized training. This cadre of 70 local education leaders will be key to the long-term impact of the program.

Launch of English Teacher Training

In partnership with the US Department of State, we have initiated training of all 35 English Language educators in Galapagos to strengthen their ability to teach Galapagos youth essential language skills.

Continued Monitoring and Evaluation

Program monitoring and evaluation continue through the Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE) at Southern Methodist University. June 2018 satisfaction surveys reveal sustained enthusiasm among participants. With regards to the Teacher Institutes, more than 97% of participants responded as extremely satisfied, very satisfied, or satisfied with the training offered by the program. More than 87% were satisfied with regards to coaching, and 85% with the learning circles. Analysis of data collected on educator performance will begin later this year and will help us measure changes in educator practices resulting from the professional development.





Dead chicks and *Philornis downsi* found inside a collected nest.
© Celina Leuba



Dr. Inti Keith records her findings on the sea floor in the Galapagos Marine Reserve.
© Lorea Cardas

CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive insects (parasitic fly *Philornis downsi* and ants), plants (blackberry and the quinine tree), and marine species (sea grapes) are among the greatest threats to the native and endemic flora and fauna in Galapagos. Solutions to these challenges are, by nature, protracted, requiring the long-term commitment of experienced researchers and funders. We continue to support key science staff at the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), the Galapagos National Park Directorate, and the Galapagos Biosecurity Agency on these priority projects that represent the most urgent environmental challenges.

Threats to Land Birds

Over the past year, scientists continued to study the impact of the invasive parasitic fly *Philornis downsi* on various bird species. The fly, first discovered in Galapagos in 1997, is causing substantial mortality of nestlings of several endemic birds, including the *critically endangered* Medium Ground Finch and Mangrove Finch. We supported research focused on understanding the rapid decline of the Vermilion Flycatcher, which has gone extinct on Floreana and San Cristóbal Islands and is rapidly declining on Santa Cruz. CDF scientists and visiting researchers are monitoring the breeding success of the Vermilion Flycatcher in three different study areas, as well as observing foraging flycatchers to better understand their diet.

Invasive Plants

For more than 30 years, the Galapagos National Park Directorate has implemented programs to control blackberry (*Rubus niveus*) and the quinine tree (*Cinchona pubescens*). These are considered the most invasive plants in Galapagos and threaten large tracts of native and endemic forest.

New research shows some promise, including a biological control agent, a Chinese rust fungus, to combat blackberry. Research into what appears to be a natural die-back of quinine may also shed light on a possible biological control agent for the quinine tree.

Marine Invasives

The global marine science community is directing more attention to the significant threat posed by marine invasive species, especially with regards to the role that floating plastic debris may play in their arrival and changes resulting from global climate change. The five main ports of Galapagos, visited by an increasing number of vessels each year, and the 75 marine visitor sites in the Galapagos National Park are extremely susceptible to invasive marine species. Scientists confirm there are at now more than 50 non-nativemarine species in the Galapagos Marine Reserve today and at least two globally-known invertebrate invaders have been recorded.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

For well over a decade, Galapagos Conservancy has partnered with Celebrity Cruise lines in a collaborative program to fund sustainability projects by Galapagos residents. Such investments in civil society and civic leadership will have long-term benefits to conservation.

In 2018, we supported an innovative effort by the Santa Cruz municipality to build environmentally conscious businesses through a contest open to all senior high school students who were challenged to develop real-life, Galapagos-based entrepreneurship projects.

The program also funded several projects aimed at reducing plastic waste, including a deposit-based system for limiting the use of disposable plastic cups and initiatives by San Cristóbal youth to provide alternatives to single-use plastics in their community. The Galapagos National Park Directorate Junior Rangers project took local youth on the job with rangers restoring damaged forest, monitoring invasive species, and conducting coastal cleanups. We know that investing in youth will help create a strong island-centric, conservation consciousness that will be the key to long-term protection of the archipelago.

MISSION

To advance and support the conservation of the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of Galapagos through directed research, conservation management, informed public policy, and building a sustainable society

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 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 resources.

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Washington, DC, May 18-19 and Nov. 9-10 2018

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Galapagos Conservancy Financial Statements

Fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018

Revenue and Other Support

Contributions & Membership	\$3,261,953
Sales	10,569
Investment Income	(352,204)
Total Revenue and Support:	\$2,920,318

Expenses

Program Services:	
Education for Sustainability	1,199,503
Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative	316,368
Science for Conservation	<u>1,047,088</u>
TOTAL Program Expenses:	2,562,959

Costs of Goods Sold	2,370
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Support Services:	
Management and General	301,024
Fundraising	<u>546,186</u>
TOTAL Support Expenses:	847,210

Total Operating Expenses:	\$3,140,169
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<i>Operating (loss) Income</i>	<i>(\$219,851)</i>
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Total Net Assets	\$6,225,215
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Operating Expenses

Fundraising: 17.39%

Management: 9.58%

Grants and Conservation
Investments: 73.03%

We are grateful for the financial support provided by our 12,000+ members whose generosity is at the core of our conservation investments. Below, we recognize our Ambassadors, who made annual gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2018.

Legacy gifts are marked (L). Travel Partners are marked (TP). Corporate matching gift programs are indicated by (MGP).

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