



GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures



ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



Recently, a question was posed to us about aspects of Galapagos Conservancy's work of which we are particularly proud. What activities or accomplishments best signify what is different or special about the work we do?

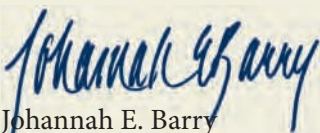
Galapagos Conservancy consistently acts as a catalyst for changing ideas into actions. More than two decades of experience in Galapagos has allowed us to identify key conservation issues, to seek out critical expertise that is missing in the islands, and to bring this expertise together with partner institutions on the ground in Galapagos and funders who can help bring this work to completion.

Two years ago, Galapagos Conservancy moved forward with several new program areas. Thanks to the increased investments from several individual donors and foundations and the continued support of our members, we are making significant progress in our priority areas of ecosystem restoration, knowledge management for decision making, and the strengthening of civil society. In these efforts, our staff is working closely with local civil society organizations (such as FUNDAR Galapagos and the Scalesia Foundation), national and local management authorities (such as the Ministry of Education, the Galapagos National Park, and the Governing Council of Galapagos), and an array of Ecuadorian and international experts. Together, these partnerships are contributing to solutions that the individual participating institutions would be unable to solve on their own.

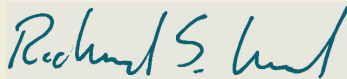
Support from key donors has also helped us to develop a new program area called *Emerging Issues*, which aims to provide a funding mechanism for scientists and conservation managers in Galapagos to step back from their work and reflect on observations or anecdotal information that may hold the keys to shifts and changes in the state of Galapagos biodiversity (think of the canary in the coal mine). Through this program, we support the Galapagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Foundation, and other experts in determining whether certain observations and concerns merit concentrated action *before* crises develop. For example, a recent GC-funded investigation into the perceived decrease in the number of Blue-footed Boobies spotted around Galapagos has suggested that their populations are declining, perhaps due to reduced food sources. Similarly, a rapid study on Vermilion Flycatchers in response to anecdotal observations did confirm that they are also in decline, if not completely disappearing, on Galapagos' inhabited islands.

Many challenges remain, but we see positive change in Galapagos. We are gratified to see strong engagement and leadership in public institutions as well as in new non-governmental organizations, working on a suite of issues ranging from social justice to water quality and leadership development. The government of Ecuador is making significant investments in education and science and technology training, and many young Galapagueños are earning advanced degrees throughout the world and will return to Galapagos as high-level, strategic thinkers who will be prepared to help solve the complex problems of the islands. GC's role in providing funding and technical advice and building local capacity has complemented these public efforts, and we will continue to see growth in the numbers of young engaged conservation leaders.

We are always mindful of the central role of our members and donors. Over the last two decades, your understanding of what is at stake in Galapagos and the value of the work we do has been essential to the creation of real and lasting conservation. We will continue to need your encouragement and support, and we are confident that the work described on the following pages plays a unique and important role in Galapagos.



Johannah E. Barry
President of Galapagos Conservancy



Richard S. Wood
Chairman of the Board of Directors

2011-2012 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:



Tourists and residents of Galapagos can play a crucial role in conservation by sharing their observations about the health of native species. Such observations have led to recent in-depth investigations of both Vermilion Flycatchers and Galapagos Sea Lions to determine whether their populations are truly declining and why.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Knowledge Management in Galapagos.

In 2011, Galapagos Conservancy continued to work with institutions and individuals within and beyond Galapagos to bring together data collection mechanisms and protocols, data sets, anecdotal data, and published materials in an easily-accessed system that will serve both as a destination for new information and observations and as an accessible source for information needed for sound public policy, research, and management. In September 2011, with funding from the Tinker Foundation, we conducted an international planning workshop involving international experts and representatives of local and national organizations, which examined existing data and information resources, local information needs, infrastructure, and best practices in knowledge management around the globe. The event resulted in a five-year work plan to be implemented under the coordination of the

Governing Council of Galapagos. Partners include the Governing Council of Galapagos, Galapagos National Park Service, the Charles Darwin Foundation, and the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC).

Knowledge Management at the Charles Darwin Foundation. Complementing the broader, multi-institutional Knowledge Management Initiative, GC supported the development of the Charles Darwin Foundation's Galapagos Science Commons, a web portal that gives access to both local and worldwide audiences to the CDF's Checklists Database (a comprehensive taxonomic register of all species reported in Galapagos), natural history collections, meteorological data, and all editions of *Galapagos Research*. The project also improved the CDF library's visitor computer and scanning facilities and made the library catalog available online.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Tsunami Response. On Friday, March 11th, 2011, the Galapagos coastal areas were subjected to the largest tsunami event in their recorded history — a consequence of the 8.9 magnitude earthquake originating off the coast of Japan. The resulting waves caused unprecedented levels of coastal flooding and current surge across the archipelago. GC supported the assessments of impacts to coastal ecosystems (e.g. corals, mangroves, lagoons), and to nesting endemic and IUCN red-listed species (e.g. marine iguanas, Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, and green sea turtles) and repairs to CDF's Marine Laboratory, which suffered severe flooding.

Project Pinta: Post-release monitoring. Following the 2010 release of 39 adult tortoises on Pinta, research focused on recommendations for the long term management of Pinta in relation to: 1) the likely carrying capacity of tortoises on Pinta and best strategies for future reintroductions (preferred habitats, numbers, seasons for release, etc.) and 2) how tortoises are likely to alter habitats on Pinta and whether an introduced tortoise population can reverse woody plant succession and over what time frame. The information gathered from this monitoring program will be used for the eventual release of a reproductive tortoise population on Pinta. Our partners in this work were the Galapagos National Park Service and State University of New York – Syracuse (SUNY-Syracuse).



Elizabeth Hunter (below) of SUNY-Syracuse poses with “Wilman” in the summer of 2011 on Pinta Island (above) during a 2-month field study to conduct tortoise monitoring and data collection. Wilman was one of 39 tortoises released on Pinta in 2010.



The Charles Darwin Research Station's pump house and marine laboratory were severely damaged by flooding caused by the March 2011 Tsunami originating in Japan. Galapagos Conservancy raised more than \$100,000 to help with repairs and conduct impact assessments.



Galapagos Hawks and Blue-footed boobies are both subjects of ongoing projects to determine the health of their populations.



Population declines of Blue-footed boobies. Blue-footed boobies are iconic Galapagos species and well-studied in some respects, but we lack even the beginning of an understanding of population size and trends, dispersal biology, foraging characteristics, and sex ratios needed to investigate recent concerns that the population is declining and experiencing unsustainable reproductive failure. This two-year project is: 1) estimating the sizes of the breeding and non-breeding components of the population, sex ratios, and annual adult survival rates; 2) monitoring reproductive success at major colonies at four-month intervals; and 3) using bird-mounted GPS units and diet samples to evaluate dependence on sardines and possible limitation by this preferred food. Partners include Wake Forest University and the Galapagos National Park Service.

Feeding ecology of the Galapagos hawk after the eradication of goats. The removal of invasive species is presumed to have a positive impact on the recovery of biological communities, and there are good examples of native species recoveries in Galapagos in the wake of large-scale goat eradication. However, there are often unforeseen negative consequences, particularly when the eradicated exotic had replaced the function of an extinct or diminished component of the ecosystem (in this case, the giant tortoise). Santiago Island is now largely without vertebrate herbivory after the successful eradication of goats in 2006, at which time it became the largest island in the world ever cleared of exotic ungulates.

Native herbivores had been driven extinct (Land iguanas), or nearly so (Giant tortoises). A population of the Galapagos hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) resides on Santiago as the apex terrestrial predator. This study is monitoring this population and its prey populations to test several hypothetical consequences of the eradication of ungulates and the subsequent recovery of the ecosystem. Partners include the Peregrine Fund and the Galapagos National Park Service.

Project Española: The impact of reducing woody vegetation. Española Island is home to three globally endangered, interacting species: the Waved albatross (the world's only tropical albatross), the Española giant tortoise, and a large-seeded, arboreal prickly pear cactus. Results of a 2010 study funded by GC show that the native woody vegetation on Española has reached extremely dense levels, likely the legacy of 73 years (1905 to 1978) of excessive goat densities. While it is clear that there is an ecological imbalance on Española, how to proceed with conservation management is less clear. This study of small-scale manipulations of woody plant cover seeks to clarify two important remaining “unknowns”: 1) the likely response of Española's three flagship species to the removal of woody plants, and 2) the costs and logistics associated with a large-scale manipulation of the woody cover on Española (a possible future course of action). This effort will generate critical information the Park Service needs to make final decisions about how best to proceed with island-wide conservation management, and will result in

substantial training opportunities for GNPS rangers (e.g., unmanned aerial vehicle or UAV operation). Partners include SUNY-Syracuse and the Galapagos National Park Service.

Chemical attractants of *Philornis downsi*.

Philornis downsi is a blood-feeding, parasitic fly that has been introduced to Galapagos (first discovered in the islands in 1997) and is causing substantial levels of mortality in several species of endemic birds, including the critically endangered Medium Ground finch, Mangrove finch, and Floreana mockingbird. This study will identify chemical attractants that can serve as the cornerstone of a future management effort. Researchers at SUNY used established methods of field observation, trapping, chemical sampling, and analysis to identify the most effective combination of chemical attractants for *P. downsi*. Partners included SUNY-Syracuse and the Galapagos National Park Service.

Workshop: *Philornis downsi* and its threat to Darwin's finches. Research on *P. downsi* and potential control methods is being conducted by scientists around the world with little communication occurring between research teams. Because of this, there is unnecessary duplication of effort. An international workshop on *Philornis* conducted in Galapagos in February 2012 helped to raise awareness about this pest and provided the opportunity to exchange information and formulate shared research

and management strategies. Our partner in this work was Dr. Charlotte Causton, CDF adjunct scientist.

Managing invasive ants. Invasive ants are considered serious threats to the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands. They can also affect agricultural activities, domestic animals, and can produce allergic reactions in humans. The Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) with the support of the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and AGROCALIDAD-Galapagos are currently running 12 programs to control or eradicate four species of invasive ants. These programs are costly in terms of resources and effort, and it is calculated that local organizations, principally GNPS, spend nearly a quarter of a million dollars annually on invasive ant control. Regular evaluation of invasive species management programs is essential in order to build on knowledge obtained at the target site and to tailor management to that site. However, only two of the 12 programs had been evaluated. This project evaluated management objectives, ecological principles and processes, and assessment techniques to develop and prioritize strategies for these programs. In addition, the project will develop a five-year strategy for reducing the negative impact of invasive ants in the Galapagos Islands. Our partner in this work is Dr. Charlotte Causton, CDF adjunct scientist.



Waved Albatrosses nesting on Española Island (above) will benefit from possible future reductions in woody vegetation on that island. Scientists prepare peanut butter bait sticks (left) to attract invasive ants on Floreana Island.

Growing produce locally, as opposed to shipping it in from the mainland, is just one of many ways Galapagos residential development can become more sustainable. These tomatoes were grown in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island.



SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Education for a sustainable society.

The local population in Galapagos is increasing rapidly and existing education opportunities don't match the Islands' realities and professional needs. The Galapagos-based Scalesia Foundation currently manages a pilot school (the Tomás de Berlanga School) where traditional learning structures are being questioned in order to give birth to an educational model designed to provide youths with the skills and mindset they need to become champions of conservation. This project provided technical support from a team of educators to help the school to develop a new strategic plan and business plan to ensure educational quality and financial sustainability and to enable it to achieve its goal of serving as a model for Galapagos and a training ground for Galapagos teachers.

Local participation in sustainable development. This project established a Citizen Watchdog Group (CWG) focused on the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations and the provision of public services. The CWG will also work to increase the participation of local citizens in political processes and to identify and strengthen the capacity of local leaders to foster constructive and synergetic interactions between the public sector and civil society in Galapagos. The project involved the implementation of an SMS-based system (cell phone texting) through which

residents are able to report inefficiencies, corruption, or other problems related to the provision of public services or the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. It also funded a series of training events for public servants and private citizens to increase awareness of the legal tools that exist to ensure public sector accountability. Our partner in this initiative was FUNDAR Galapagos.

Community planning. Regional and municipal governments in Galapagos are struggling to cope with the demands of an economy that is growing at an unprecedented 10% per year and a local population that is pressuring for greater economic opportunity and affordable housing. Local municipal planning departments lack the experience to guide the development of communities that take into account ecological impacts, rising automobile dependency, and ecologically-friendly architecture and building techniques. GC is providing partial funding of a collaborative planning methodology known as a *Charrette*, through which residents, local officials, non-profits, external technical experts, and universities establish a Rural Code for Santa Cruz Island, and a Land Use Plan, Sustainability Strategy, and Village Master Plan for Floreana Island. Our partner in this work is the Prince's Foundation for Building Community.



Puerto Ayora is the commercial center and tourism hub of Galapagos. Here is a view of Puerto Ayora (above) from the lower boundary of El Mirador, the city's next area to be developed with sustainable building methods.

Improving education for Galapagos children will help develop the next generation of conservation leaders (right).



Priority social science research. We continue to invest in the development of three areas of social science research at the CDF. The first is the “**Galapagos Geographic Index**” that aims to measure the environmental, cultural, and spatial impacts of the human presence in the islands. This project is examining the use of smartphones and other technologies for geographic and spatial analysis.

The second area of investment involves **research on cultural groups** in Galapagos, which we hope will help us to understand the relationships between distinct groups and their positive and negative impacts on the

environment. The first study focused on the Salasaca population, which originates from the Tungurahua region of the Ecuadorian highlands.

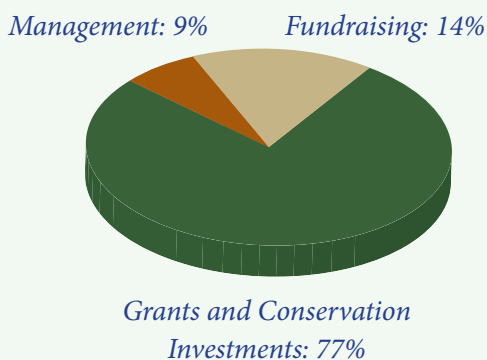
The third area of this investment involves a **study of the local food production sector** that should help to improve market connections between local suppliers, consumers, and the tourism sector, to consolidate the value chain, help producers to improve processes and product quality standards to make local production competitive, and to encourage the development of new business ideas.



GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fiscal year beginning April 1, 2011 and ending March 31, 2012 (with comparative totals for 2010)*

	4/1/2011 to 3/31/2012	1/1/2010 to 12/31/2010
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Contributions & Membership	\$1,648,652	\$2,125,533
Sales	\$17,909	\$12,865
Investment Income	\$173,413	\$463,855
Total Revenue and Support:	\$1,839,974	\$2,602,253
EXPENSES		
<i>Grants Out:</i>		
Ecosystem Restoration	\$404,003	\$518,063
Sustainable Society	\$164,909	\$223,599
Knowledge Management	\$82,629	\$156,794
Galapagos National Park	\$106,123	\$100,933
Charles Darwin Foundation	\$279,264	\$449,243
Allocated Program Costs	\$489,025	\$387,570
TOTAL Grants Out:	\$1,525,953	\$1,836,202
Costs of Goods Sold	\$9,089	\$7,774
<i>Support Services:</i>		
Management and General	\$191,804	\$192,078
Fundraising	\$271,694	\$360,707
TOTAL Support Expenses:	\$463,498	\$552,785
Total Operating Expenses:	\$1,998,537	\$2,396,671
Operating (loss) Income	(\$158,563)	\$205,582
Endowment Income	\$100,000	\$100,000
Adjusted Operating (loss) Income	(\$58,563)	\$305,582
Total Net Assets:	\$4,362,439	\$4,389,803



*In 2010, Galapagos Conservancy's Board of Directors approved a change in the organization's fiscal year from January 1 – December 31 to April 1 – March 31. This change to the calendar-year reporting cycle began on January 1, 2011 resulting in a short, 3-month FY11. In this transitional annual report, the most recent financial information covers the 12-month period of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. If you would like a financial report for the 3-month period of 1/1/2011 to 3/31/2011, please contact Galapagos Conservancy.

2011-2012 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 made annual gifts of \$1,000 or more during the period January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

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January 12, 2011 (Washington, DC)
 March 16, 2011 (Washington, DC)
 July 20, 2011 (Washington, DC)
 November 8, 2011 (Princeton, NJ)
 January 31, 2012 (Washington, DC)
 March 27, 2012 (Washington, DC)

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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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Cover: Sally Lightfoot Crabs by
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Page 3: Vermilion Flycatcher by Judy
 Molinaro; Sea Lion by Rich
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Page 4: View of Pinta Island by James
 Gibbs; Tsunami Damage
 to CDRS by Volker Koch;
 Elizabeth Hunter with Wilman
 by Claire Phillips

Page 5: Galapagos Hawk by Bill Davis;
 Blue-footed Boobies by Mark
 Wilson

Page 6: Painting bait sticks by
 Galapagos National Park
 Service; Waved Albatrosses by
 James Gibbs

Page 7: Locally grown tomatoes by
 Celebrity Xpedition

Page 8: View of Puerto Ayora by
 Peter Quintanilla; Educating
 Galapagos schoolchildren by
 Jason Sharrett

Back Cover: Beach on Isabela Island
 by Bill Gozansky; Blue-footed
 Boobies by Robert Gollance;
 Tortoise by Kim Kittilson



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