















# *Letter from the Chairman of the Board*

The letter from the President highlights the important role that people have played in protecting Galapagos, and salutes the efforts of a relatively small group of individuals taking on a very large task. Fifty years ago, the UNESCO/IUCN mission to Galapagos gave birth to an unusual partnership through which international scientific institutions and a sovereign country came together to save one of the world's very special places. UNESCO continues to play an important role in Galapagos conservation, as does the Government of Ecuador.

We must, however, acknowledge that recent developments in Ecuador and the global economy have created new challenges for Galapagos conservation. Private investors are in active discussions about sea cucumber aquaculture in Galapagos. New sport fishing boats arrive regularly. The resident population in the archipelago has doubled in the last 10 years, and the pressures to open the islands to new tourism activities are significant. The challenges Galapagos faces today are many measures more devastating than those of a half century ago, and not likely to go away.

Galapagos is home to one of the world's true conservation success stories: Project Isabela, the largest ecosystem restoration project in a protected area. Felipe Cruz, the Project's Technical Director and native Galapagueño, wrote recently, "Proudly we can report that we have gone beyond what was planned and expected! I would like to say that we have done what the World believed was impossible! Pigs, goats and donkeys are part of Santiago's and northern Isabela's past!" Felipe and his team have every reason to be jubilant. They are among the visionary, hard-working people who have made an unmistakable difference in the course of Galapagos history.

But as we complete Project Isabela, we are reminded that Galapagos is no longer isolated. Airlines loaded with residents and tourists fly daily to two islands. Park boundaries are challenged by construction up to (and sometimes in) protected areas. Divers report that the ocean floor, once a tapestry of different species, is now replaced with a carpet of sea urchins, whose natural predator, the spiny lobster, has been over harvested.

These events force us to confront the questions of what the Galapagos Islands will be like 100 years from now, and what we can do to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the natural treasures that we have enjoyed.

In seeking answers to these questions, Galapagos Conservancy and its key partners in the archipelago are pushing forward with a vision and conservation agenda which recognizes that people are part of the Galapagos ecosystem. We believe that adaptive management and ecosystem restoration are critical components for effective and equitable management in the islands. A local culture must be built on cooperation, understanding of the local ecology, recognition of limits, and an understanding of the major threats to island ecosystems. Through long-term education, training, introduced species monitoring, prevention and control, we hope to bring Galapagos back into balance and to show the world that it is possible for this extraordinary and unique ecosystem to be respected by its residents and visitors, and protected for centuries to come.

On behalf of the Board of Galapagos Conservancy and our partner organizations, I thank you for your interest in and support of this important work.

Sincerely,

William A. Nitze Chairman



The Galapagos Archipelago has felt man's harsh impact, and conversely, the benefit of human interventions over the last 500 years. This annual report highlights the various projects and programs supported by Galapagos Conservancy being successfully executed to restore and protect the native biodiversity of these islands. You will also read about campaigns to bring local residents together with the international community to save this extraordinary place.

People coming together to make a difference has a long history in Galapagos. In 1906, visiting scientists from the California Academy of Sciences were dismayed at what they found in Galapagos: dwindling populations of fur seals and whales, and whole populations of tortoises gone from islands where they once thrived. The thinking at that time was to take as many biological samples as possible to laboratories and museums because Galapagos wildlife wouldn't survive another 50 years.

Almost 50 years later, UNESCO's mission to Galapagos brought together a group of scientists and conservationists from around the world to take on the challenges identified in the early 1900s. That mission brought forth the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, and almost 10 years later, the Galapagos National Park Service. It provided the foundation for decades of innovative conservation work which has included the crafting of the Special Law for Galapagos, the implementation of an effective participatory decision-making process, and the successful completion of the largest island restoration initiative ever attempted in a protected area.

These accomplishments are even more remarkable given the events over the last two decades. Galapagos is experiencing rapid population growth tied to market-driven investments in fisheries and increased levels of tourism. Local public and private institutions are simply unprepared to handle these challenges. Dr. Graham Watkins, Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation, recently wrote, "These challenges must be taken seriously for what they are—insatiable international markets being fed by powerful investment interests that are not going to go away but are going to grow."

If Galapagos is going to be healthy 100 years from now, decisive, thoughtful action has to be taken immediately to address these critical challenges. Galapagos Conservancy has joined with the Charles Darwin Foundation and Galapagos National Park in a strategic alliance to provide the financial resources to secure technical expertise in socio-economic planning, the development of sustainable island-based industries, educational reform, and ecologically-sound tourism. To protect the extraordinary biodiversity of these islands, we must address the social and economic landscape in which this conservation takes place. People live in Galapagos, and they will remain an important part of the fabric of these islands.

Despite the challenges, one hundred years after the California Academy of Sciences Expedition, we see a Galapagos with thriving whale and fur seal populations, native plants on the rebound, and tortoises roaming in landscapes previously made bare and inhospitable by invasive goats. In many respects, Galapagos biodiversity is stronger and more stable than ever. Man has certainly been the direct cause of many conservation problems in Galapagos, but man has also been at the heart of a conservation ethic which, increasingly, defines Galapagos.

In the following pages, we share with you the fruits of your investments in our programs and we will begin to outline our strategic objectives for the next several years. Galapagos deserves our best efforts and I am delighted to have your good help in this work.

Letter from the President

Johannah E. Barry President

## **Our New Identity**

Galapagos Conservancy, formerly known as Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., assumed its new identity on January 1, 2006. We are pleased to be able to reintroduce our organization with a name that better reflects our core mission to save one of the world's great treasures. Galapagos Conservancy will continue to focus its efforts on funding its key conservation partners in Ecuador—the Charles Darwin Foundation and Research Station and the Galapagos National Park.





## Who We Are

Galapagos Conservancy, formerly Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., focuses all day, every day, on Galapagos. We are a membership-based organization and the largest source of private support for conservation efforts for the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1986 to create a North American support base for Galapagos, our 11,000 Friends of Galapagos are individuals and institutions who care deeply about the archipelago and understand the importance of preserving this one-of-a-kind ecosystem.

Galapagos Conservancy mobilizes financial and intellectual resources for the lasting protection of the Galapagos Islands through constituency building, education, and fundraising. Our grants support key research for conservation as well as core operations of the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galapagos and the Galapagos National Park Service. Together, we strive to maintain a healthy and sustainable coexistence between people and the endemic wildlife of this extraordinary place.

## How We Work

Galapagos Conservancy seeks support primarily from North American sources—the majority of our funding is provided by individual members through various avenues of generosity, including gifts of cash, automatic recurring contributions, stock gifts, and estate planning. Private foundations contribute additional resources. We also partner with travel companies who are committed to protecting Galapagos by educating island visitors about conservation efforts and encouraging them to support the islands' preservation.

Funds raised by Galapagos Conservancy support the core operations of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS). Both organizations are located on the island of Santa Cruz in Galapagos and work together to implement the majority of science, research, and conservation projects on the ground in Galapagos. Our grants also play an important role in funding specific projects carried out by other small local organizations in areas such as education, monitoring and control of invasive species, ecological restoration, and conservation management.

We are fortunate to have other allies in conservation, including scientists from U.S. universities, international non-governmental organizations with an interest in protecting Galapagos, and an array of multilateral institutions that channel support to Galapagos.

Over the years, our members have contributed to many successful conservation initiatives, including:

- Project Isabela—the largest and most ambitious ecosystem restoration effort in the world—and other control and eradication programs
- Effective management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, including monitoring and interdiction efforts of the Galapagos National Park Service
- Establishment of the Galapagos Quarantine and Inspection Service, which prevents foreign species from arriving in Galapagos
- Educating local residents, tourists, and Galapagos decision makers on the benefits and importance of sound conservation practices, policy, and sustainable economic activities
- Baseline studies and monitoring of native and endemic marine and terrestrial species

## Progress and Success in 2005

2005 was a year of milestone achievements on the ground, in the sea, and in the political and legislative arenas that protect this extraordinary place. Galapagos Conservancy has worked in strong partnership with the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and the Galapagos National Park (GNP) toward long-lasting solutions to threats facing the Galapagos Archipelago. The achievements below represent a snapshot of major victories for Galapagos during 2005. We look forward to continuing this work and are grateful to the Galapagos Conservancy members and donors whose support makes all of these successes possible.

## On the Ground

## **Restoration of an Island: Project Isabela**

Project Isabela officially began in 2000 as a joint effort between the GNP and the CDF to reestablish the original ecology and pre-human condition of northern Isabela, the largest contiguous landmass in the Galapagos Archipelago. A population explosion of introduced goats over the last twenty years had transformed much of the northern part of the island into a desert-like wasteland devoid of trees and much of its vegetation. As a result, native vertebrates such as tortoises and many species of birds found their natural habitat destroyed and were facing starvation.

In 1997, the CDF, the GNP, Galapagos Conservancy, and a number of eradication and control experts from around the world participated in an international workshop to design a large-scale project to return all of northern Isabela to as near pristine conditions as possible. Hunter training began in 1998, field trials were begun on the small island of Pinta in 1999, and pilot projects that tested new eradication techniques were conducted on Santiago in 2002. Project Isabela entered the most-publicized phase—large-scale feral goat eradication—in 2003.

By the end of the four-year-long eradication phase of Project Isabela, thousands of goats were removed from several islands in Galapagos and many new and welcome inhabitants have taken their place. Rapid regrowth of many native plant species is underway, including *Scalesia* seedlings, *Tournefortia* shrubs, tree ferns, and passionvines. A variety of bird species, including petrels and rails, have rebounded, and young tortoises have been spotted ambling among the new vegetation.

Galapagos Conservancy donors contributed more than \$1.3 million towards the successful ecological restoration of Isabela and nearby islands. The effective results of Project Isabela demonstrate what thoughtful and bold conservation work can accomplish—and we are pleased that the lessons learned and information gathered from Project Isabela are setting worldwide standards and serving as a model for ecosystem restoration efforts throughout the world.





## Continental Airlines: The Official Airlines of Galapagos Conservancy

We are delighted to recognize our very important corporate partner, Continental Airlines, which has generously provided airfare to staff at Galapagos Conservancy and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Beginning in 2006, Continental will underwrite the travel costs associated with our Darwin Lecture Series both within the U.S. and to and from Ecuador. This extraordinary gesture of good corporate citizenship and strong conservation ethics will allow us to forward the maximum support possible to our colleagues at the **Research Station and** Galapagos National Park. We are extremely grateful for this measure of trust and support.





## Nature Photographer: Ronald Gard

Ronald Gard, an award-winning photographer and conservationist, traveled the US in 2005 and early 2006 inspiring lucky viewers with his spectacular collection of photographs entitled *Darwin's Enchanted Islands*. His stunning photographs showcase Galapagos' lush vegetation, breathtaking scenery, and unusual animal life.

Wildlife photographers often face the challenge of snapping clear close-up shots of animals, but in the Galapagos Islands, animals are very curious and occasionally get a little too close to photograph. "I was trying to photograph a bird and it momentarily disappeared, then I noticed it was sitting on my lens," said Gard, "One of the rules in Galapagos is to never touch the animals. This rule is difficult to follow when some of the animals want to see how you smell and taste."

To date, Gard's photographs have been displayed at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, and at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. Check our website for the next location of his traveling exhibit.

## Conservation through Enlightened Tourism

## **Galapagos Conservation Fund**

Lindblad Expeditions developed the Galapagos Conservation Fund (GCF) in 1997 to link Galapagos visitors directly to on-the-ground conservation action. Since that time, Lindblad has taken this model of visitor engagement to many of the extraordinary places visited by the company's guests. The GCF, funded by the generous clients of Lindblad Expeditions, has provided more than \$3 million for Galapagos conservation since its inception, and was a significant source of funding for many conservation activities in 2005, such as the protection and restoration of giant tortoises on Southern Isabela, the reestablishment of land iguanas on Baltra, the investigation and data collection of Galapagos terrestrial invertebrates, and the promotion of community education and participation. Galapagos Conservancy is proud of its role as GCF fund administrator, ensuring that 100% of the support from Lindblad passengers goes directly to key conservation projects in Galapagos.

## **Galapagos Fund/Ocean Fund**

Celebrity Expeditions began an on-board fundraising program in Galapagos in 2005 and has quickly become an important supporter of key Galapagos conservation projects. Guests aboard the Xpedition, Celebrity's ship serving the Galapagos, have provided significant support to the marine programs in Galapagos, and Celebrity's own Ocean Fund is supporting important research on sea cucumber viability in Galapagos.

## **Galapagos Scholarship Program**

Galapagos Travel began its on-board fundraising program in 1992, one of the earliest such programs in Galapagos, and has provided scholarship funding to a number of Galapagos students over the last decade.

In 2005, Galapagos Conservancy also administered funding from GAP Adventures in Canada in support of sea lion research.

## Galapagos Conservancy donors also funded the following National Park activities in 2005...

- Monitoring of sea cucumber populations in the Galapagos Marine Reserve
- Research on lobster reproduction methods and testing options for rearing lobsters in the sea
- Hiring of a Galapagos National Park employee whose primary focus is to coordinate invasive species control and eradication programs
- Development of a processing and storage center for local fishermen that processes sustainably-harvested whitefish and aims to help fishermen create an enterprise that encourages the local tourism industry to buy locally rather than from the mainland

## In the Sea

2005 yielded some important conservation victories in the sea—minimizing the impact of harmful fishing practices in the waters surrounding Galapagos and investigating alternative economic opportunities for local fishermen.

## Protecting Galapagos Marine Species: A Moratorium on Sport Fishing

Galapagos Conservancy was a vocal advocate in ensuring that the laws protecting endangered pelagic species are respected. In March of 2005, the Minister of the Environment officially prohibited all recreational and sport fishing in the Galapagos Marine Reserve until proper regulations are established and effective enforcement and monitoring of the Reserve are available. As expected, there are many perspectives on this controversial and complicated issue, but as presently proposed, sport fishing requires significant initial investment in the boats and equipment and will necessitate bringing in professionals from outside the islands. The potential end result is a business that is bankrolled and managed by wealthy investors foreign to the Galapagos Islands. Under these circumstances, sport fishing will provide minimal local benefits to islanders until the practice can be managed and enforced effectively.

Galapagos Conservancy supported a study led by the CDF that examined sport fishing programs around the world in places similar to the GMR and studied ways of regulating the activity such that the economy and the environment would both benefit. Supporting equitable and sustainable local enterprises and local community organizations will form a central piece of the work to be done by the Park and Station in Galapagos, and we are pleased to support these efforts to ensure the waters surrounding Galapagos remain healthy.

### Habitat and Marine Species Protected: A Ban on Long-Lining

Long-lining is a fishing technique that uses hundreds or even thousands of baited hooks hanging along the length of a single line. The number one problem with this technique is by-

catch—creatures such as birds, turtles, sharks, seals, and other fish that are attracted by the bait, caught by the hooks, and die an unintentional death. By-catch rates have been recorded as high as 80% in Galapagos, causing conservationists to voice repeatedly their opposition to this fishing practice. In an effort at compromise, the fishing industry proposed a regulation that would allow long-lining at depths of 60 meters or deeper, where they expected less by-catch to be caught and, hence, less of a negative ecological impact to result. Strong and consistent data gathering and analysis, supported by Galapagos Conservancy, led to the decision by the Galapagos Inter-Institutional Management Authority (AIM) to reject this proposal and pass a resolution that effectively prohibited long-line fishing at any depth in the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

## Local Governance

### Working with Local and National Actors: Ensuring Strong and Stable Leadership

The Galapagos National Park Service has been victimized by short term political interests and caught in a battle between economic and political forces that ignore the importance of a professionally managed and apolitical park service. Continuous turnover in the position of Park Director created an environment of permanent instability that park employees found unacceptable—so much that they chose to strike, leaving the Park in a vulnerable situation. Galapagos Conservancy has consistently expressed its deep concern to decision makers in Quito regarding the dangerous precedent of politicizing a technical position.

In 2005, the Minister of the Environment signed an agreement that created a "technical and transparent" recruitment process for nominating and selecting future directors of the Galapagos National Park. The anticipated results of this agreement are that park employees will once again have trust and confidence in their director, conservation efforts can continue without interruption, and the Park will prosper and thrive under the leadership of a director with Galapagos' best interests in mind.

















## **Membership Levels and Benefits**

## **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

- ESPAÑOLA 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
- All of the above benefits, plus ... ✤ Insider briefings from senior members
  - of the Galapagos Conservancy staff

#### **ISABELA SOCIETY: \$25,000 or more**

All of the above benefits, plus ...

FERNANDINA SOCIETY: \$10,000 to \$24,999

> Personal invitation to the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Reception

## **Other 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. Gift Membership recipients receive a one-year Friend of Galapagos membership.

**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** There are many mechanisms such as bequests, trusts, and gifts of life insurance or retirement plans, through which donors can have a lasting impact on Galapagos conservation. Call or

write legacy@galapagos.org 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.

Many private companies and government agencies also make it possible to support Galapagos conservation through payroll gifts and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or Earth Share. For more information on these programs, 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.

## Galapagos Conservancy Financial Statements

**Statement of Activities** 

Year Ended December 31, 2005 (with comparative totals for 2004)

#### **Revenue and Other Support**

Contributions and membership Sales Investment income Net assets released from restrictions Miscellaneous Total revenue and support:

#### Expenses

Grants: **Key Species** Grants through Travel Partnerships Strengthening Local Partners Project Isabela Galapagos National Park Marine Policy **Conservation Investments:** Program Support Advocacy Darwin Network

**Support Services:** Management and general Membership development and fundraising

**Total Expenses:** 

**Change in Net Assets:** 

### Galapagos Conservancy FY 2005 Expenses:



Management & General: 12%

2005	2004
\$2,314,793	\$1,887,097
8,561	5,065
211,725	324,430
—	—
	276
2,535,079	2,216,868
479,250	348,723
440,740	300,841
82,000	138,314
183,155	114,685
113,000	100,000
134,799	82,218
	,
256,718	304,945
37,617	31,282
20,290	12,455
,	,
1,747,569	1,433,463
000.000	010 000
293,832	218,298
334,308	280,784
2,375,709	1,932,545
159,370	284,323



### **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.

We would like to give special recognition to the following Galapagos Ambassadors who provided support of \$1,000 or more during 2005. In addition, we would like to thank the many members who contributed at the Ambassador level, but wish to remain anonymous.

### Galapagos Ambassadors 2005

#### Isabela Society (\$25,000+)

Steven Merrill The Morgan Family Fund Frances Velay

#### Fernandina Society (\$10.000 – \$24.999)

Anonymous Michael and Sara Abraham Maxine Beige The Krushel Family Henry Kirke Lathrop Leslie Lenny John and Adrienne Mars William A. Nitze Doug Ring and Cindy Miscikowski The Saladin Family The Schaffner Family Foundation Frederick and Kathleen Stark Hans Wachtmeister

#### Santiago Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous Mark Altman The Benson Foundation Arielle Brodkey Ann Bruning Carolyn Byers Charlotte Catalfo David Challinor June Clemens The Crown Family Bernard and Lisa David Jim and Martha Foght James Gallagher Urs Hoelzle and Geeske Joel Chris and Janet Ingram Ana Cristina Kapetanis Daniel Mahoney Joseph Messler, Jr. Gordon and Betty Moore Signa Read Nan Schaffer Pamela Smith Peter and Debbie Thomas

## Española Society (\$1,000 – \$4,999)

Anonymous Doug and Margaret Abrams Sylvia Addison Julius and Dianna Adorjan

Anne and Ramon Alonso Brent Anderson Edith Andrew Richard and Nancy Arnoldy Iose and Lourdes Arriola Victor Ashe Preston and Nancy Athey Pamela Atkins-Francisco and Edgar Francisco Sue and John Ballard Mary Bane Maurice and Lillian Barbash William Barnett Anthony and Susan Barre S. Robert Bean Michele Becker Barbara Belknap Anne Bennett Ken Bentham and Cynthia Roy John and Ruth Bergerson J. R. Bertelli Edward Bessev Sharla Boehm Curtis Bohlen Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bontecou Brian Borders and Grace Morgan Frank Bossen Paula Botstein and Robert Usadi Helen Bowen Keith and Gerlene Bowman George Bradham Robert Brand Karen Brett Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brown, Jr. Robert and Linda Bruce C. Austin Buck Clifford Burnstein and Sabra Turnbull Anita Busquets Mrs. Richard Canterbury James Carpenter William Cassidy Ramon and Hazel Cayot William Chadwick C. Brandon and Emilie Chenault Edward and Mark Chernoff Judith Chiara The Chrysalis Foundation Andrew Clarkson William Coit Charles Cole and Carol Townsend John and Tammie Collins Katharine Cornelius David and Dorothy Courtis Joy Covey and Lee Gerstein The Cox Family Fund David and Judith Craver William and Maria Luisa Crawford Mary Sharp Cronson Elizabeth Culhane Jerry and Diane Cunningham Elizabeth Dapson

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Lindblad Expeditions Celebrity Cruises Galapagos Travel GAP Adventures International Galapagos Tour Operators Association (IGTOA)

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The Estate of Raymond Vawter

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March 11 and October 17 Galapagos Conservancy Falls Church, VA

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## Darwin Scientific Advisory Council

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.

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