



GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



*Galapagos
Conservancy
remembers
Lonesome
George*

A scenic photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. In the foreground, several seals are resting on a sandy beach. One seal is sitting upright on the right side of the frame, looking towards the ocean. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

PRESERVE. PROTECT. RESTORE.

THANK YOU FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

Galapagos has long been considered an isolated, well-protected archipelago — the image portrayed by countless documentaries, photos, and articles about the unique creatures and landscapes found there. Since the 1960s this unique setting has become a highly sought-after international tourism destination and the “footprint” that is left behind, by both visitors and residents, has now prompted significant efforts by the Ecuadorian government to establish “*Buen Vivir*,” the notion of living well while living within the special context of Galapagos.

A central tenant of the concept of *Buen Vivir* is understanding and accepting that nature does not need humans, but that humans depend on ecosystems to generate environmental services for their own benefit. Ecuador’s Constitution establishes a legal and conceptual framework that mandates all planning and development will adhere strictly to the principles of conservation of Ecuador’s natural patrimony and the concept of *Buen Vivir*.

The future of Galapagos depends upon a collective and collaborative vision created and sustained by the residents of the archipelago. Galapagos Conservancy will continue to work alongside Ecuador’s government to ensure a positive future for these islands and the extraordinary wildlife that defines them, as well as the residents who are a central part of the islands’ protection. The Galapagos Islands remain a place that can inspire and transform all who visit. Science provides the key to unlocking the secrets still hidden in Galapagos, and people continue to be conservation’s most important allies and advocates.

We thank you, our donors and supporters, for the critical role that you play in protecting this extraordinary place.

For Galapagos,



Johannah E. Barry, President
Richard S. Wood, Chairman of the Board of Directors





ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



Galapagos Conservancy's **Ecosystem Restoration Program** seeks to recover plant and animal communities to as close to their pre-human condition as possible.

Giant tortoise restoration is one of GC's key areas of investment. Our long-term goal is the full recovery of all tortoise populations, including a major increase in the size of existing giant tortoise populations, the return of tortoise populations to islands where they are extinct due to humans, and the restoration of tortoise habitat.

In early 2012, GC co-funded a workshop organized by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) to develop a comprehensive research and management plan to control the introduced fly, *Philornis downsi*, which has had a major impact on the land birds of Galapagos. We are funding the lead researcher on this topic at the CDF and a research project at SUNY-ESF where they are examining pheromones as a potential deterrent for the fly. These studies are expected to lead to some level of control of the invasive fly and should have a major impact on the long-term conservation of the land bird species of Galapagos.

In another project, Dr. Charlotte Causton was able to complete an evaluation of ten ongoing invasive ant control projects, resulting in recommendations to increase the effectiveness of the projects and reduce costs where possible. Improving management projects is critical for conservation and for ensuring that the limited funding of the various institutions is applied effectively.

Our **Sustainable Society Program** supports the development of an economic system in Galapagos that is compatible with biodiversity conservation, an educational system that prepares citizens to be stewards of the archipelago, and a strong civil society dedicated to Galapagos conservation.

Galapagos Conservancy is working with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Education and an international network of educators on an intensive, multi-year effort focused on professional development of teachers and the implementation of a new Galapagos curriculum. Members of this network have already made significant contributions to strengthening the Tomás de Berlanga School on Santa Cruz Island, which aspires to be a model school of best practices and a teacher training ground for the entire archipelago.

Through an innovative project called *Pasos Equilibrados* (Balanced Steps) in the municipality of Santa Cruz, GC is supporting an after-school tutoring and mentoring program, student-identified/organized public education campaigns (for example, alternatives to the use of plastic bags and bottles), and the organization of an ecological leadership club. Based on the program's initial success, it will eventually be expanded to the other islands.

Galapagos Conservancy is currently supporting the Foundation for Alternative and Responsible Development (FUNDAR Galapagos), one of the larger and more visible local NGOs in Galapagos, to strengthen its administrative procedures and strategic planning.



SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY





EMERGING ISSUES



Galapagos Conservancy's **Emerging Issues Program** identifies new impacts or trends that could compromise the conservation of Galapagos so that investments in research and management can be made to respond quickly to those issues.

GC recruited and funded Dr. David Anderson of Wake Forest University to conduct a research project to determine the validity of anecdotal information suggesting a possible decline in the Blue-footed Booby population. His study did verify a significant population decline, and he is now providing a series of recommendations for future research and management.

Over the last few years, many naturalist guides and other observers in Galapagos noted the gradual disappearance of Vermilion Flycatchers on the inhabited islands of Galapagos. GC provided a small grant to Godfrey Merlen, a local naturalist and long-term Galapagos resident, who confirmed these declines and produced a recommended plan to counteract the decline. This bird has already disappeared from Floreana and San Cristóbal, but there is still hope on Santa Cruz, as well as on the uninhabited islands.

Galapagos Conservancy stepped in to ensure the continuity of a critical tortoise genetics study, which led to the discovery of both Floreana and Pinta hybrids on Wolf Volcano and catalyzed the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative. Currently, GC is supporting Yale University scientists in developing protocols to rapidly identify tortoises from these lineages. This will allow the relocation of high conservation value hybrids from Wolf Volcano and the initiation of breeding programs for both Pinta and Floreana tortoises.

Galapagos Conservancy's **Knowledge Management Initiative** fosters a culture that incorporates both knowledge and wisdom as a critical component of decision-making and policy development at all levels of governance and ensures broad engagement and participation of all stakeholders.

In 2006, Galapagos Conservancy reinitiated the *Galapagos Report*, a biannual collection of articles on socioeconomic and conservation issues, with the goal of providing decision-makers, Galapagos stakeholders, and the general public with up-to-date information on biophysical and socioeconomic issues in Galapagos. A critical component of each article is scientifically-based recommendations for changes in policy and management to improve sustainability and conservation. The *Galapagos Report* is published jointly by the GNPD, the Governing Council of Galapagos, CDF, and GC. It is available for free download online in English and Spanish to ensure that everyone has access to the information.

A citizen science program is also being developed to engage both residents and visitors in conservation work and, at the same time, provide critical monitoring data for the GNPD, other governmental organizations, and stakeholders. Galapagos Conservancy co-organized and facilitated a workshop with the GNPD which resulted in a detailed plan for the initiation of an formal citizen science program. GC staff is currently working with the GNPD and our network of international scientists to create a program of citizen observation to involve both tourists and residents.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT





GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Fiscal year beginning April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013 (with comparative totals for FY 2012)*

GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY'S

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

	4/1/12 to 3/31/13	4/1/11 to 3/31/12
Revenue and Other Support		
Contributions & Membership	\$2,276,612	\$1,648,652
Sales	\$22,355	\$17,909
Investment Income	\$347,639	\$173,413
Total Revenue and Support:	\$2,646,606	\$1,839,974
Expenses		
Grants Out:		
Ecosystem Restoration	\$357,642	\$404,003
Sustainable Society	\$270,214	\$164,909
Knowledge Management	\$0	\$82,629
Galapagos National Park	\$100,000	\$106,123
Charles Darwin Foundation	\$735,979	\$279,264
Allocated Program Costs	<u>\$458,396</u>	<u>\$489,025</u>
Total Grants Out:	\$1,922,231	\$1,525,953
Costs of Goods Sold	\$12,155	\$9,089
Support Services:		
Management and General	\$198,217	\$191,804
Fundraising	<u>\$530,813</u>	<u>\$271,694</u>
Total Support Expenses:	\$729,030	\$463,498
Total Operating Expenses:	\$2,663,416	\$1,998,537
Operating (loss) Income	(\$16,810)	(\$158,563)
Endowment Income	\$100,000	\$100,000
Adjusted Operating (loss) Income	\$83,190	(\$58,563)
Total Net Assets:	\$4,345,629	\$4,362,439



LONESOME GEORGE



In Memoriam:

Lonesome George was the last of the Pinta Island tortoises, when he died from natural causes on June 24, 2012 at an estimated 100 years old. His legacy will live on through the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative, aimed at restoring tortoise populations throughout Galapagos over the next 10 years.

Lonesome George was a conservation icon for the entire world. His lonely story touched the hearts of everyone who met, knew, or simply knew of him. A sign posted outside his corral for the last decade reminded people of our responsibility to nature:

“Whatever happens to this single animal, let him always remind us that the fate of all living things on Earth is in human hands.”

We at Galapagos Conservancy are reminded of this daily as we strive to preserve, protect, and restore Galapagos . . . for George, and all of Galapagos’ other unique species.

WE THANK OUR 2012-2013 CONTRIBUTORS!

HERE, WE RECOGNIZE OUR AMBASSADOR SOCIETY MEMBERS, WHO MADE GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE DURING THE PERIOD, APRIL 1, 2012 TO MARCH 31, 2013. LEGACY GIFTS ARE DENOTED BY (L).

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2012-2013 BOARD MEETINGS

June 5, 2012 (Hume, VA)
November 13, 2012 (Arlington, VA)
February 15, 2013 (Fairfax, VA)
May 9, 2013 (Galapagos, Ecuador)

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