

PRESS RELEASE

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Comment on the situation at the Charles Darwin Foundation

The current financial difficulties at the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) are of great concern. As a Friends of Galapagos Organisation, the Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) has worked closely with CDF for almost 20 years. During this time, GCT has funded many of CDF's critical research and conservation projects.

The Galapagos Islands are of great importance to the wider world. They played a fundamental role in the development of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and they continue to provide novel scientific insight into the origins and trajectories of life on Earth. Conserving this unique archipelago is therefore of global importance and a strong science base is vital.

As one of the major scientific organisations working in the Galapagos Islands, CDF plays an important role in the long-term conservation of the archipelago.

As a member of the CDF General Assembly (GA), GCT will attend the annual meeting next week in Quito, where we will work closely with our colleagues from across the world to identify a way forward.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The **Galapagos Conservation Trust** (GCT) is the only UK charity dedicated exclusively to supporting conservation and sustainability projects in Galapagos. Established in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT has raised nearly £5 million to date to protect the unique biodiversity of the Islands and meet the challenges of how the human population can live in balance with the unique environment and wildlife of Galapagos. To find out more visit their website galapagosconservation.org.uk.

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