

PRESS RELEASE

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Award-winning lessons from Galapagos

Discovering Galapagos, the pioneering education programme from the Galapagos Conservation Trust, has won the Highly Commended Publishers' Award at this year's Geographical Association awards ceremony.

Launched in September last year, Discovering Galapagos uses genuine case studies from the Galapagos Islands to teach Key Stage 2 and 3 students about globally relevant environmental issues. A Geographical Association representative said that the judges were "very impressed by the high standard" of the bilingual resource.

"We are thrilled to have won this award for Discovering Galapagos and hope that it encourages more teachers and pupils to visit the website and learn more about this incredible archipelago" said Jen Jones, Projects Manager at the Galapagos Conservation Trust, who collected the award at the presentations in Manchester last night.

When asked how the concept of the programme originated, Jones said "Ever since Darwin's visit in 1835, the Galapagos Islands have been teaching humanity about how the natural world functions. Given that so many global conservation issues are affecting Galapagos, we thought that the archipelago would make an excellent area for case study and this has certainly proved to be the case."

Produced in association with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), the free online resource has been accessed by over 100 countries in the eight months that it has been available.

You can visit the website and discover Galapagos for yourself at discoveringgalapagos.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

- The **Galapagos Conservation Trust** (GCT) is the only UK charity to focus exclusively on the conservation and sustainability of the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT raises funding and awareness for projects in Galapagos which focus on science, education and culture. To find out more, visit their website: <http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/>
- **Discovering Galapagos** is a bilingual educational resource from the Galapagos Conservation Trust, made in association with the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). It is premised on the belief that lasting change in the effort to conserve Galapagos and the wider natural world can best be achieved through engaging and educating today's school children and early career decision makers – our future conservation ambassadors. <http://www.discoveringgalapagos.org.uk/>
- The **Geographical Association** (GA) is an independent charity with a core objective to further geographical knowledge and understanding through education. The **GA Publishers' Awards** aim to recognise material which is likely to make a significant contribution to geography in primary schools, secondary schools or colleges, and encourage the creative development of new materials.

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