

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OVERVIEW



2017 was another highly successful year for Galapagos Conservation Trust. We launched our second flagship programme, Plastic Pollution Free Galapagos, which culminated with our Galapagos Day event where we brought together a panel of experts to help solve this issue in Galapagos. There have been significant changes since, with legislation introduced

in Galapagos to ban a number of single-use plastic items. We are stepping up our work with local groups and the tourism industry to promote responsible use and alternatives to plastic, which you can read more about on [page 7](#).

We continued to support conservation breakthroughs in our Science & Conservation work, including the first ever wild whale shark ultrasound and the pioneering study on sex ratios of wild giant tortoise hatchlings. We also launched our Galapagos Land Iguana project, with the long term aim of reintroducing this species to Santiago island.

I am delighted to report our overall expenditure on charitable activities rose by 25% in 2017, enabling us to achieve even greater impact. We are immensely grateful for the support from our dedicated supporters, partners, staff and Board, which is vital for us to ensure a sustainable future for these unique Islands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Johnson'.

Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive
Galapagos Conservation Trust

Who we are

Galapagos Conservation Trust is the only UK charity focussed solely on the conservation of one of the most unique and ecologically important areas in the world, the Galapagos Islands.

With over 20 years of experience, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading researchers to support impactful Science & Conservation programmes and deliver community outreach across the Archipelago through our Education & Sustainability programme.

Our team

Sharon Johnson, *Chief Executive*

Jen Jones, *Projects Manager*

Lisa Wheeler, *Office Manager*

Clare Simm, *Communications & Membership Manager*

Stephanie Strutt, *Trusts Fundraising Manager*

Kelly Hague, *Individual Giving Manager*

Alice Marks, *Trusts Fundraising Officer*

Ben Stockwell, *Communications & Membership Officer*

Beth Byrne, *Office Assistant*

Andy Donnelly, *Flagship Programmes*

Anne Guezou, *Outreach Coordinator in Galapagos*

Sarah Langford, *Education Writer*

Our trustees

Mark Collins (Chair), Jonathan Lea (Treasurer), Simon Dickson, Michael Drake, Rebecca Nesbit, Marta Tufet.

Our project partners

Charles Darwin Foundation, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Ecology Project International, Galapagos Conservancy, Galapagos Science Center, Galapagos National Park, Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme, Galapagos Whale Shark Project, Grupo Eco Cultural Organizado, Island Conservation, Massey University, Scalesia Foundation.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all of our supporters and partners who have helped us protect the Enchanted Isles in 2017.

Support of £10,000 and over

- Altitude London
- The Bromley Trust
- The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
- Evolution Education Trust
- H D H Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
- Ken Collins and Jenny Mallinson
- New Chapters UK
- The Sackler Trust
- The Woodspring Trust



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Support of £1,000 and over

Accentus Foundation, The Catatania Trust, Decroom Ltd, Dennis Curry's Charitable Trust, Michael Drake, Ian Dunn, Ennismore Foundation, Jennifer Evans, The GESS Charitable Trust, Go Barefoot Travel, John and Marion Green, Claire Halpin, Haugan Cruises, The Holbeck Charitable Trust, IWC Schaffhausen, Langdale Trust, Spiro and Dorothy Latsis, Mark and Liza Loveday, Guy Marks, Metro Broadcast, Metropolitan Touring, Peregrine Moncreiffe, National Marine Aquarium, Barry and Ann Phillips, Michael Prater, Sarah Reynolds, Rutherford Trust, Sculpt the Future Foundation, Anthony Smith Sculpture, Christopher Spooner, Steppes Travel, Jennifer Stone, Think Galapagos, Travel Matters, University of Essex.

Galapagos Guardians

Geoffrey Ball, Csaba Barta, Edward and Sally Benthall, David and Rosalind Cleevely, Olivia Cleevely and Martin Edge, Jeremy Coller, Tim and Catherine Cox, Annie Coxon, Paul and Jill Davis, Christine Edwards, Penelope Eve, Barbara and Patrick Gallagher, Nicholas and Judith Goodison, David Girling, Claire Halpin, Sue Henning, Daniel Hochberg, Mavis Hughes, Roderick and Elizabeth Jack, Margaret Jackson, Robin and Diana Jakeways, Chris John, Carol Kemm, Darren Leftwich, Mark and Liza Loveday, Carolyn Michie, Renate Nahum, Barry and Ann Phillips, Julian Ranger, Sarah Reynolds, Michael and Barbara Saville, David and Katherine Soanes, Christopher Spooner, Nicholas Spooner, Thomas Spooner, Jennifer Stone, Catherine Thomas, Andrew Thompson, Jane Tozer, Edmund Truell, Jim Wheeler, Camilla Williams, David Wiltshire, John and Jill Woodley.



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Ambassadors

Monty Halls (President), Janet Barber, James Barlow, Liz Bonnin, Sarah Darwin, Angela Darwin, Julian Fitter, Stanley Johnson, Randal Keynes, Dorothy Latsis, Godfrey Merlen, Henry Nicholls, Jonathan and Angela Scott, Antje Steinfurth, Jennifer Stone, Ian Swingland.

SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

Our support for Science & Conservation work on the Islands continued throughout 2017, helping to ensure a future for the incredible ecosystems and unique biodiversity of Galapagos.

Land Iguana Project

Launched in 2017 and led by Luis Ortiz-Catedral, this project aims to re-assess the species' IUCN Red List status which has not been reviewed for over 20 years. 80% of land iguana populations appear to be heavily affected by feral cat predation and there has been little or no records of young iguanas surviving into adulthood.

This project will highlight the current health status of the species and look at potential re-introduction sites around Santiago island where they have been extinct since the early 20th century. In 2017, the team tagged over 150 iguanas in three populations, including the smallest land iguana recorded in the last 10 years on top of Fernandina island – measuring just 14cm.

Galapagos Whale Shark Project

In order to provide effective protection to whale sharks throughout their life, we need to understand their migratory routes and key life stages. This project, started in 2011, is collecting important data to help inform the conservation of this endangered species. In 2017, the team led by Jonathan Green and Alex Hearn, tagged 20 whale sharks, of which seven were new to the global whale shark database.

A major achievement in 2017 was conducting the first ever wild whale shark ultrasound and taking blood samples. The results of this will confirm, for certain, whether or not this whale shark is pregnant – a significant milestone for this project and the species' conservation.

Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme

Since 2009, the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme (GTMEP) led by Stephen Blake with partners including the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park, has provided critical insights for developing robust conservation strategies for giant tortoises through research into migration, nesting, sex ratios and early years' survival.

In 2017, the team undertook a third season of tortoise nest surveys with 67 nests monitored on Santa Cruz and the first ever study on sex ratios of wild hatchlings. New for 2017 was the survey of a recently discovered population of tortoises at Cerro Fatal on Santa Cruz. The project also launched a study of tortoise-farm interactions to feed into land use planning.



© GTMEP; Neil Bruce; GWSF

GCT's outreach coordinator Anne Guezou, took one hundred children on tracking surveys in the Galapagos National Park and created a science communication club for teenagers on the Islands. We also organised a World Turtle Day event in May for around 270 children.

EDUCATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Our Education & Sustainability work continued to strengthen in 2017, delivering community outreach across the Archipelago and increasing education activities in the UK and Ecuador.

Plastic-free Galapagos – Grupo Eco Cultural Organizado (GECO)

GCT has been working alongside GECO, a local youth campaign group that promotes a culture of responsible plastic usage on San Cristobal island. In 2017 GECO spread their message directly to 2,000 people and a further 3,000 indirectly – around half the total population of San Cristobal.

Their success is due to the creation of a dedicated team of 15 young ‘agents of change for less plastic’, who helped deliver over 30 responsible plastic usage workshops with local communities and school groups. GECO successfully extended the campaign to several local businesses including shops and restaurants and has solidified a network of 53 citizens to clean up rubbish on a daily basis in San Cristobal - preventing more than an estimated 5000 pieces of litter entering the ocean.

Discovering Galapagos

Our Discovering Galapagos programme is continuing to go from strength to strength with the average website visitors increasing to over 3,500 per month on the UK site and 9,000 per month on the Ecuadorian site.

Discovering Galapagos teacher resource downloads are now around 600 per month with a further 300 per month on the Times Educational Supplement website. Furthermore, a GCSE case study was developed in partnership with Royal Geographical Society and has been linked to UK exam boards. 2017 also saw us develop Spanish language teaching resources to link to the Ecuadorian curriculum.



© GECO; Adrian Vasquez

Bullhead Shark Project

In addition to an excellent year surveying bullhead sharks in Galapagos, the team organised their Shark Day on the Islands. Supported by GCT, they put together a selection of educational activities for 65 children and their families to take part in.

This was an excellent engagement activity for local community members to learn about the sharks of Galapagos, including their importance in a healthy marine ecosystem and how we can conserve them in the future.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

As part of our long-term, measured approach to projects we have developed two flagship programmes - Restoring Floreana and Plastic Pollution Free Galapagos.

Restoring Floreana

In 2016 we launched our first multi-year, flagship programme, to support the restoration of Floreana. As the sixth largest island in Galapagos, Floreana used to be home to some of the most iconic species in the Archipelago, including the Floreana mockingbird, racer snake and giant tortoise. Today, however, 55 of its species are listed as endangered and a further two as critically endangered – primarily due to the introduction of invasive species.

This long term project, led by Island Conservation and the Galapagos National Park, seeks to make Floreana the first large, inhabited island to achieve full eradication of invasive mammals, with the ultimate goal of reintroducing the locally extinct Floreana mockingbird and racer, which have small populations on nearby Champion and Gardner islets.



© Luis Ortiz-Catedral



© Jen Jones

In 2017 the project made significant progress working alongside local residents to develop management plans for livestock during and after the baiting phase of the project. The eradication of rats will benefit local farmers as rats decimate crops and eat food for livestock. A workshop was also held with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to discuss the necessary mitigation plans to ensure that local wildlife is not impacted during the baiting phase.

The populations of both Floreana mockingbirds and racers were monitored throughout the year by Luis Ortiz-Catedral's team - providing crucial data for future reintroduction plans. The team also carried out vegetation mapping on Champion islet, which will help us understand the habitat requirements of Floreana mockingbirds prior to their reintroduction.



Plastic Pollution Free Galapagos

Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing marine wildlife worldwide and whilst Galapagos remains relatively pristine, sadly it is not exempt from this problem. Plastic is regularly found in the Galapagos Marine Reserve and is posing a threat to the unique biodiversity of the Archipelago. In fact, at least 18 species have been recorded either entangled by plastic, or to have ingested it.

In 2017, we launched our second long-term and ambitious programme that will combine groundbreaking scientific research with coordinated education and outreach to make Galapagos plastic pollution free once again.

Over the past year we have worked alongside the local youth group, Grupo Eco Cultural Organizado (GECO), who have promoted responsible plastic usage on San Cristobal island through workshops and innovative education activities. The results have been promising, with an incredible 97% of surveyed participants sharing the campaign messages with their families and friends. We also supported pilot beach and street surveys on San Cristobal island, allowing us to set methodologies for future surveys.

In late 2017, we brought together a panel of experts for our Galapagos Day event to discuss the issue of plastic pollution in Galapagos. The collaborative, multi-disciplinary knowledge of the panelists informed planning for our 2018 plastics workshop, which will kick start the science and conservation strand of the programme. In 2018, we are also working with partners, including the Galapagos National Park and the Galapagos Science Center, to develop a five-year management strategy to make Galapagos plastic pollution free.



Tourism Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Our tourism strategy got underway with the launch of our 'Inside Galapagos' responsible tourism leaflet in early 2017. The leaflet is a key part of our goal to inform visitors to the Islands about responsible plastic usage and adhering to Galapagos National Park rules.

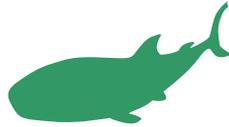
In 2018, we are holding a plastics workshop, supported by the Latin American Travel Association (LATA), for the UK tourism industry to look at how we can further work together to reduce plastic pollution on the Islands.

SOME KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

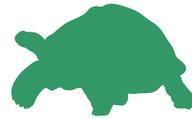
SCIENCE & CONSERVATION



FIRST EVIDENCE
OF HAND REARED
MANGROVE
FINCH CHICKS
BREEDING
IN WILD



WORLD'S FIRST
ULTRASOUND
PERFORMED
ON A WILD
WHALE SHARK



67
GALAPAGOS
GIANT
TORTOISE NESTS
MONITORED



100
BULLHEAD
SHARKS
RECORDED

EDUCATION & SUSTAINABILITY



OVER 200
SCIENCE
TEACHERS
ATTENDED WORKSHOPS
IN GALAPAGOS



65
CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES
ATTENDED
SHARK DAY



100 <sup>6-12
YEAR
OLDS</sup>
HELPED TO
TRACK GIANT
TORTOISES

DISCOVERING
GALAPAGOS

AVERAGE OF
600
LESSON PLANS
DOWNLOADED
EACH MONTH

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR WORK



Become a member.

Our members underpin our work – without your support and funds, we couldn't continue to conserve the Islands.



Enter our annual photography competition.

Fun for you, and your images will help us promote the beauty of Galapagos.



Enter our raffle.

This brings in important funding and you could win an amazing prize such as the trip of a lifetime to Galapagos.



Join a bespoke GCT cruise.

Not only will you have a unique experience, you will also help fund our important conservation work.

To find out more about these and other ways you can help, please visit our website galapagosconservation.org.uk, sign up to our **monthly e-News** or follow us on **social media**.



Leave a legacy.

A comforting and meaningful way to support our conservation work. The legacies we receive help us enormously.



Adopt a Galapagos animal.

For you or as a present for someone. Something different whilst being extremely helpful to our work.



Donate.

However big or small, donations enable the impact of our work to grow.



Attend an event.

Get inspired at our talks and events, and meet others passionate about Galapagos.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overall income for the charity was £667,745 in 2017. This compares to £883,904 in 2016 when we were grateful to receive a significant legacy of £366,504 from the late Mrs Janet Knell. Excluding this legacy, income increased by £150,345 or 29% in 2017 compared to 2016, largely due to an increase in individual donations, many of which were restricted.

We were able to increase our expenditure on charitable activities to £567,722, an increase of 25% from the previous year of £453,755. Expenditure on our two main programmes was £304,254 on Science & Conservation and £263,468 on Education & Sustainability.

Expenditure on raising funds decreased slightly to £110,508 in 2017 from £119,051 the previous year.

Statement of Financial Activities

For year ended 31 December 2017	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Income:				
Donations and legacies	115,286	330,932	446,218	641,350
Charitable activities	118,923	-	118,923	113,943
Other trading activities	70,626	31,548	102,174	127,542
Investment income	430	-	430	1,069
Total income	305,265	362,480	667,745	883,904
Expenditure:				
Raising funds	110,508	-	110,508	119,051
Charitable activities	190,145	377,577	567,722	453,755
Total expenditure	300,653	377,577	678,230	572,806
Net income/ (expenditure)	4,612	(15,097)	(10,485)	311,098
Transfers	(35,765)	35,765		
Net movement in funds	(31,153)	20,668	(10,485)	311,098
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	583,636	92,246	675,882	364,784
Total funds carried forward	552,483	112,914	665,397	675,882

Balance Sheet

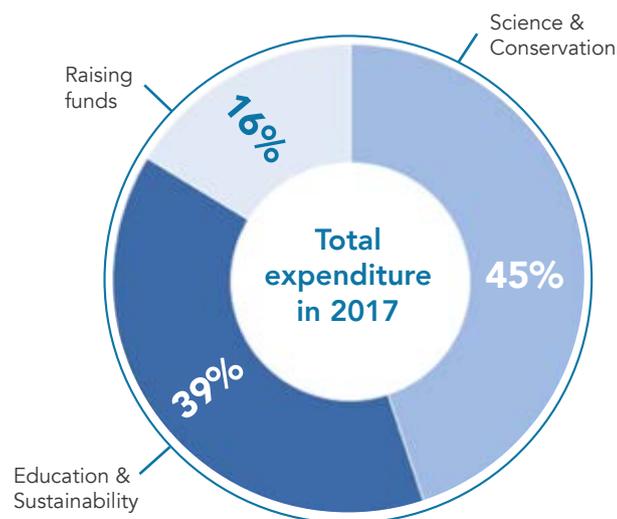
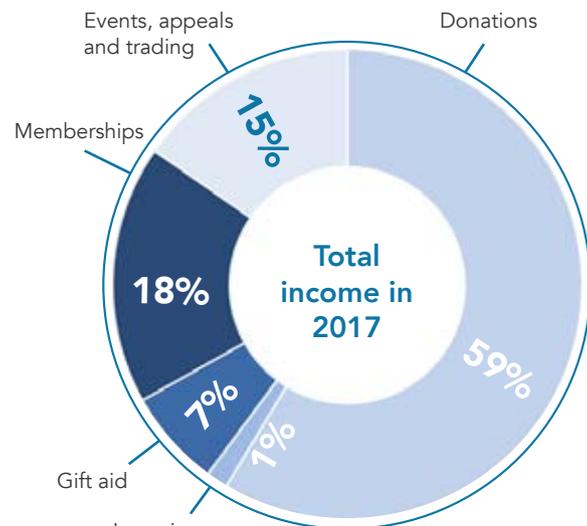
For year ended 31 December 2017	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets:		
Tangible fixed assets	2,688	2,229
Current assets:		
Debtors	29,198	30,767
Cash and bank	657,053	649,446
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(23,542)	(6,560)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	662,709	673,653
Total net assets	665,397	675,882
Funds:		
Restricted funds	112,914	92,246
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	364,235	400,000
General funds	188,248	183,636
Total funds	665,397	675,609

Reserves

As planned we ended the year with a small deficit of £10,485 (2016: £311,098 surplus). At 31 December 2017 we carried forward total reserves of £665,397 of which £112,914 are in restricted funds. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £364,235 to the two main programmes, Science & Conservation and Education & Sustainability, while unrestricted general funds stood at £188,248, which is in line with our reserves policy.

These financial statements are a summary of information extracted from the full financial statements. The full report and accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18 June 2018 and have been submitted to the Charity Commissioner and Registrar of Companies. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Galapagos Conservation Trust. For further information, the full annual accounts, the independent examiner's report on these accounts and the Trustees' annual report should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Galapagos Conservation Trust, 28 Portland Place, London, W1B 1LY, UK, by email at gct@gct.org or by phone on 020 7399 7440.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by: Mark Collins and Jonathan Lea, 18 June 2018.



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Registered Charity No. 1043470

Printed on sustainably sourced paper.

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