

PRESS RELEASE

Judges and new categories announced for the 2020 Galapagos Photography Competition

Judges include series producer of BBC's Blue Planet II, Mark Brownlow, science and wildlife presenter, Liz Bonnin, and professional photographer, Jay McLaughlin

Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is pleased to announce an exciting new line up of judges and two new categories for its 2020 Galapagos Photography Competition. Judges of this year's competition include Series Producer of BBC's Blue Planet II, **Mark Brownlow**, science and wildlife presenter and GCT Ambassador, **Liz Bonnin**, and professional photographer, **Jay McLaughlin**.

The competition, sponsored by Aqua-Firma, celebrates the beauty of the Islands while also aiming to raise awareness of the environmental issues that affect the wildlife and communities who live there. The overall winner of the 2020 competition will have their image included in GCT's 2021 calendar, receive a pair of Opticron binoculars and a year's free membership to GCT.

GCT Ambassador and new competition judge **Liz Bonnin** has a Masters in Wild Animal Biology and has presented over 40 primetime TV programmes including the BBC's Bafta-Award winning *Blue Planet Live*, *Super Smart Animals*, *Galapagos*, *Horizon* and the landmark documentary *Drowning in Plastic* which investigated the ocean plastic crisis which raised the level of public debate on this important topic, also winning both a prestigious RTS Award and a Grieson Award. Most recently Liz was on our screens with *Meat: A Threat to Our Planet?* investigating whether our growing hunger for meat is destroying our planet.

Also joining the judging panel is **Mark Brownlow**, Executive Producer of the BBC's next wildlife television blockbuster *Frozen Planet II* and was previously the Series Producer of *Blue Planet II*. The BBC's Emmy and BAFTA winning *Blue Planet II* series was broadcast in 2017 to record global audiences of over half a billion. As series producer, Mark led the editorial and logistics of this ground breaking series and co-directed its accompanying 3D giant screen production *Oceans: The Blue Planet*. The 'Blue Planet Effect' has been credited with changing global behaviour around single use plastic. GCT's own [Plastic Pollution Free Galapagos](#) programme looks to bring together experts from across the world to make Galapagos plastic pollution free once again.

Based in East London, British fashion and portrait photographer **Jay McLaughlin** completes the new judging line up for 2020. Jay's work has been published internationally and has worked with clients such as Harper's Bazaar, Bulgari, TopShop, and Vogue, as well as working with celebrities such as David Hasselhoff, Dua Lipa, Little Mix and Millie Mackintosh. Jay contributed to the [Exploring Ecuador](#) photography book with all profits from the book going to GCT. *Exploring Ecuador* captures the unique landscapes and wildlife both above and below the water during an epic trip to Ecuador with a wonderful chapter dedicated to the Galapagos Islands.

This year's competition includes two new categories *Birds of Galapagos* and *Coastal and Marine* which join the four existing categories of *Up Close and Personal*, *Animals in Action*, *Landscape* and *Urban Life*. Following an announcement of the winners, there will be a *Public's Choice* vote including all of the winners and runners-up as well as some of the shortlisted images.

The 2020 Galapagos Photography Competition is open until Sunday 7 June 2020 with winners announced in July. To enter the competition and for terms and conditions, please visit galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/photography-competition

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Galapagos Photography Competition has been run by Galapagos Conservation Trust since 2001. Its categories include Up Close and Personal; Animals in Action; Landscape; Coastal and Marine; Urban Life; and Birds of Galapagos. Find out more about the competition here: galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/photography-competition
- Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is the only UK charity focussed solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Archipelago, one of the most ecologically important places in the world. With 25 years of experience, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading researchers to support impactful conservation programmes across the Archipelago. As a charity we rely on the generosity of donors in the UK and abroad to raise money to support our work so that we can preserve Galapagos for generations to come. To find out more, visit: galapagosconservation.org.uk
- Aqua-Firma is the sponsor of the 2020 Galapagos Conservation Trust Photography Competition. In addition to tailor-made journeys, Aqua-Firma organises special Wildlife, Marine Life & Photography trips to the Galapagos, Andes and Amazon, including Shark Research Insights & Photography dive trips. Leaders include BBC TV Presenter, Mike Dilger; shark researcher, marine biologist and photographer Dr Simon Pierce; and director of Aqua-Firma, Ralph Pannell, formerly of Rainforest Concern. To find out more, visit: www.aqua-firma.com

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