

PRESS RELEASE

Broadcaster Liz Bonnin to judge 2022 Galapagos Photography Competition



2021 winning image of Nazca boobies © Leighton Lum/Galapagos Conservation Trust

We're thrilled that GCT Ambassador Liz Bonnin will be joining this year's Galapagos Photography Competition judging panel. She will be joining Walter Perez – Galapagos naturalist guide and photography instructor; Diego Bermeo – Galapagos National Park ranger and youth photography teacher – and Ralph Pannell – photography enthusiast and Director of Aqua-Firma.

Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is pleased to announce that science, natural history and environmental broadcaster, Liz Bonnin, who is also a GCT Ambassador, will be joining our 2022 Galapagos Photography Competition judging panel.

The competition celebrates the wonders of the Islands, while also aiming to raise awareness of the environmental issues that affect the wildlife there. With tourism slowly increasing in the Galapagos Islands after the pandemic, GCT are encouraging those who have been lucky enough to visit to send in their photos.

Liz Bonnin is well-known for her primetime programmes including BBC *Blue Planet Live*, BBC *Galapagos* and BBC *Drowning in Plastic*. Her TV career draws heavily on her academic expertise, having completed a Masters in wild animal biology with the Royal Veterinary College. She has been a GCT Ambassador since 2017.

Liz said, "Galapagos is often described as a living laboratory, a mini planet, that allows scientists to better understand the interconnectedness, vulnerability, and resilience of all living things. As such it has so many stories to tell, and photography is a very powerful way to help share those stories. I am looking forward to being drawn in, moved and inspired all over again by this year's entries."

Walter Perez has been working as a Galapagos naturalist guide for more than 15 years. He is a certified photography instructor and has published a photography book *Galapagos: Life in Motion*, and a children's book *Two Together*.

Diego Bermeo is a Galapagos National Park ranger who also teaches photography to young people within the Galapagos community. He has collaborated with a number of international and local institutions, using his photography to show the importance of conserving the protected areas of Galapagos.

Ralph Pannell is a photography enthusiast and the Director of Aqua-Firma Worldwide Ltd, a travel company driven by a long-developed passion for exploring and conserving the best of our planet's wilderness and wildlife. The competition is kindly sponsored by [Aqua-Firma](#).

This year's competition categories are *Birds of Galapagos, Coastal and Marine, 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 overall winner of the 2022 competition will have their image included in GCT's 2023 calendar, receive a year's free membership to GCT and win a DSLR camera backpack kindly donated by Rivacase.

The 2022 Galapagos Photography Competition is open until Monday 6 June 2022 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 over 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

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