

PRESS RELEASE



Cheeky waved albatross wins 2022 Galapagos Photography Competition



Winner: Waved albatrosses by Enzo Reyes



Second place overall: Darwin's Pillars by Craig Oxley

Galapagos Conservation Trust is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. Despite the decrease in the number of tourists to Galapagos in the last 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still had many brilliant submissions which illustrate the beauty of the Islands and the wildlife that live there.

The overall winner this year was Ecuadorian Enzo Reyes with his image of a cheeky waved albatross looking straight at the camera. He said that he took the picture to show the striking yellow colour of the waved albatross beak and eyebrows, and that the expression of the albatross was an unexpected bonus.

This year's judges were science and natural world expert and broadcaster, and GCT Ambassador, Liz Bonnin, professional photographer and Galapagos naturalist guide, Walter Perez, photography teacher and Galapagos National Park ranger, Diego Bermeo and the Director of travel company Aqua-Firma, Ralph Pannell. Of the winning image, Walter said, *"No matter how many books you read or how many movies you watch about Galapagos, they will never prepare you for what you will really experience once you are here. This picture tells the better story."*

The categories this year included Animals in Action; Birds of Galapagos; Coastal and Marine; Landscape; Up Close and Personal; and Urban Life.

You can see the full collection of category winners online at galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2022-photography-competition.

In addition to the winners selected by the judges, we will also be holding a public vote this year, to find the 'Public's Choice' which people can take part in here: galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2022-public-vote. A selection of the winning and short-listed images will feature in GCT's 2023 calendar. The 2023 Galapagos Photography Competition will open in autumn 2022.

This year's photography competition was kindly sponsored by Aqua-Firma.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The **Galapagos Photography Competition** has been run by Galapagos Conservation Trust since 2001. Its categories include Animals in Action; Birds of Galapagos; Coastal and Marine; Landscape; Up Close and Personal; and Urban Life. Find out more about the competition here: galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/photography-competition
- **Galapagos Conservation Trust** (GCT) is the only UK registered charity to focus solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Islands, one of the most unique and ecologically important, but vulnerable, areas in the world. With over 25 years of experience supporting impactful conservation programmes across the Archipelago, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading scientists, both in Galapagos and worldwide.

By raising funds and awareness in the UK, we are able to support and deliver projects in Galapagos and respond to key threats facing the Islands, focusing on restoring natural habitat, protecting threatened species and driving sustainable solutions, helping to contribute to the overall management of this unique ecosystem. To find out more, visit: galapagosconservation.org.uk

- **Liz Bonnin** is a science and natural world expert and broadcaster, as well as an Ambassador for GCT. She is in her element in the presence of wild animals or when picking the brains of scientists. In 2017, she presented BBC *Galapagos*, and other recent projects include BBC *Big Blue Live*, BBC *Meat: A Threat to Our Planet*, BBC *Drowning in Plastic* and BBC *Our Changing Planet*.
- **Walter Perez** has been working Galapagos as a naturalist guide for over 15 years. He is a certified photography instructor, a professional photographer and has published two books, *Galapagos: Life in Motion* and *Two Together*.
- **Diego Bermeo** is a Galapagos National Park ranger and a photography teacher, sharing his experience with young people from the local community. He has collaborated with institutions including WWF and Conservation International.
- **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.

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Hi-res photos from the 2022 competition are available on request - please request photos by

Thursday 4 August. Alternatively, email beth@gct.org