

ECUADOR PRESENTS AWARD TO SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



The Ambassador of Ecuador in London, Sebastián Corral, has presented the decoration of the 'National Order of Merit', to the scientist, naturalist, writer and presenter, Sir David Attenborough, for his outstanding and continuous support to the preservation of the natural environment of the Galapagos Islands.

The 'National Order of Merit' is the highest decoration granted by Ecuador and is imposed by the President of the Republic. On his behalf, Ambassador Corral presented the decoration to Sir David Attenborough.

In his speech, Ambassador Corral emphasized the importance of the work of Sir David Attenborough over the years to protect the environment, the nature and the oceans. In particular, he highlighted the documentary *Galapagos 3D*, which made the Archipelago even more famous, but also raised environmental awareness of its fragility, as a way of promoting its care and preservation.

Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive of Galapagos Conservation Trust, commented, "The Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, are recognised as one of the most unique, scientifically important biodiversity hotspots on Earth. We are working with the Ecuadorian Government and partners to tackle climate change in Galapagos through restoring the Islands' ecosystems and protecting the ocean surrounding them. We are grateful to Sir David for highlighting the importance of the Galapagos Islands and would like to congratulate him on his award."

Ambassador Corral thanked Sir David for inspiring new generations of children and young people through his documentaries and books, which will remain as the best legacy of a man whose life has been devoted to love and protect our living planet.

Notes to Editors

- **Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT)** is the only UK registered charity to focus solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Islands. 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

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Hi-res photos from the event are available on request