PRESS RELEASE

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Liz Bonnin to host 2017 Galapagos Day

Having recently seen the issues that the wildlife on the Galapagos Islands face first-hand, TV presenter Liz Bonnin is joining forces with Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) to help conserve the Islands for generations to come. Join Liz and GCT at Galapagos Day on Wednesday 25 October at the Royal Geographical Society, London to find out more about the projects the Trust carries out to inspire and educate people in both Galapagos and the UK, and how you can support this vital work.



A familiar face on British television, Liz Bonnin was recently on our screens presenting the BBC's *Galapagos* series, where she joined an expert team of international scientists on a lifetime journey of discovery across the magical Galapagos Islands. Inspired by her time on the Islands and the people that she met, Liz has become an ambassador for Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) and will be supporting their education and sustainability work. As part of this new role, she will be hosting the annual GCT Galapagos Day in October.

Liz commented, "The Galapagos Islands are truly unique. You feel part of the wildlife there, not merely a spectator of it, and they contain some of the most pristine wild places left on earth. However, despite their remoteness, they are sadly not immune to our human footprint. Every ecosystem on Earth is inextricably linked and how we conduct our lives at home inevitably affects this Archipelago. Having seen first-hand how the pressures of the modern world are affecting Galapagos, I am looking forward to helping Galapagos Conservation Trust raise awareness of these threats and to communicate what each one of us can do, in a very practical way, to protect this precious place for generations to come".

GCT is a London-based charity that supports and delivers science, conservation, education and sustainability projects on the Islands whilst raising awareness in the UK at events like Galapagos Day. Liz hopes that her new position as GCT ambassador will help to bring the Islands the attention and protection they deserve.

Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive of GCT said, "We're thrilled that Liz will be joining us as our new ambassador. We support a range of exciting projects on the Islands including habitat restoration and the tortoise tracking work that featured in the BBC Galapagos series, but we could not do our work without the support of advocates like Liz, or our dedicated members and supporters."

Join GCT and Liz at Galapagos Day on Wednesday 25 October at the Royal Geographical Society, London to learn more about the education and sustainability projects that GCT support, including their exciting new multi-year programme fighting marine pollution, and how you can get involved. Find out more at galapagosconservation.org.uk/event listings/galapagos-day-2017

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Notes to editors:

- A biochemist, wild animal biologist and TV presenter for BBC and ITV, Liz Bonnin is in her element in the presence of wild animals or when she's picking the brains of scientists. Find out more about her here: <u>http://www.lizbonnin.com/</u>
- The Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is the only UK charity to focus exclusively on the conservation and sustainability of the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT raises funds and awareness for projects in Galapagos focussing on two strategic areas, Science and Conservation, and Education and Sustainability. To find out more, visit their website: http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/
- Galapagos Day will be celebrating the work that GCT supports on education and outreach around sustainability issues such as plastic pollution. It will be on Wednesday 25 October at 6pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, Kensington, London SW7 2AR. Tickets can be purchased <u>here</u> with profits going to supporting sustainability projects on the Islands.

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