

PRESS RELEASE

Winners of Galapagos Photography Competition 2020 Announced





Winner: Waiting for a Meal by Marcos Miranda Correia

Second place overall: Galapagos Barnacle Blenny by Jon Anderson

Galapagos Conservation Trust is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. 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 this year was Marcos Miranda Correia with his image Waiting for a Meal, a stunning black and white shot showing brown pelicans at the fish market in Puerto Ayora. He took the image because he thought it embodied the relationship between animals and humans in Galapagos.

Liz Bonnin, TV presenter and GCT Ambassador, joined Series Producer of BBC *Blue Planet II* Mark Brownlow and professional photographer Jay McLaughlin, as a judge in this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. Of the winning image, Liz Bonnin said, *"The ghostly quality of this image is captivating, but there is also an almost comedic feel to the pelicans boldly lining up for pickings, fearless of the woman working away."*

The categories this year included Animals in Action; Birds of Galapagos; Coastal and marine; Landscape; Up close and personal; and Urban life. We received around 700 brilliant entries from 30 different countries, making this one of the most exciting competitions yet!

You can see the full collection of category winners online at <u>galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2020-photography-competition</u>.

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'. A selection of the winning and short-listed images will feature in the GCT's 2021 calendar.

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: <u>galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2020-photography-competition</u>
- 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 20 years of experience, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading researchers to support impactful Science & Conservation programmes and deliver community outreach across the Archipelago through our Education & Sustainability programme. 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
- 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. In 2017, she presented BBC *Galapagos*, and other recent projects include BBC *Drowning in Plastic*, *Blue Planet Live* and *Stargazing Live*. <u>lizbonnin.com/</u>
- Mark Brownlow is an EMMI-award winning producer/director with over twenty years' experience making wildlife documentaries. From series producing BBC *Blue Planet II* and *Ocean Giants*, the BBC/PBS series on whales and dolphins, to producing the *Planet Earth* 'Shallow Seas' & 'Freshwater' episodes for BBC/Discovery, Mark has specialized in underwater film-making.
- Jay McLaughlin is a professional fashion and portrait photographer, and co-author of the photography book *Exploring Ecuador*. His work has been published internationally and he has worked with clients including Harper's Bazaar, TopShop, Olympus and Vogue. jaymclaughlin.co.uk

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Photos from the 2020 competition are available on request – these can be viewed here: galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2020-photography-competition