

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT OF 2014 FOR THE GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST

Since 1995, the Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) has been working to promote the conservation and sustainable development of Galapagos and its unique biodiversity. We are the only UK organisation focused exclusively on working to protect the Galapagos Islands and the need for this work is more pressing than ever. Over the past decades, Galapagos has seen unprecedented growth and development. By 2014, visitor numbers had grown to over 215,000 and over 30,000 people now live on the Islands. Without urgent and holistic action, this icon of the natural world will be severely degraded. With prompt action however, Galapagos can provide a model for the world in conservation and sustainability. Our mission therefore is:



Above: (Main) Waved albatrosses © Jacintha Van Beveren, (inset) Speakers at our Re-Discovering Galapagos Day event in 2014

- To raise funds and support projects for the conservation and sustainable development of Galapagos.**
- To provide educational resources in support of national curricula, teaching about the facts, issues, threats, opportunities and uniqueness of Galapagos with a focus on the relevance for the rest of the world.**
- To act as the primary source of conservation related information about Galapagos in the UK.**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2014

Our support of Galapagos conservation projects during 2014 incorporated the cornerstones of our vision – **science, education and culture**. This vision promotes the view that the challenges faced by the Galapagos Archipelago are multi-faceted, complex and can best be addressed with an integrated and holistic approach. As well as an icon of the conservation movement, a microcosm of the wider world, Galapagos also represents a socio-economic system that is at transition point; either there continues to be on-going degradation of the natural environment or there is a progressive move towards a position where conservation and sustainability are the mainstays of further development. This approach recognises the value of the natural world that makes Galapagos so special whilst also recognising the needs of a local, national and global human society. Science, education and culture are brought to best effect in this model through cross-organisational multi-institutional collaboration.

Selection of Highlights for GCT in 2014:

- Focusing our conservation based around the themes of Science, Education and Culture
- Raising over £670,000 during a time of continued economic uncertainty
- Investing over £450,000 in Galapagos conservation and education
- Launch of our new educational programme, Discovering Galapagos (www.discoveringgalapagos.org.uk; www.descubriendogalapagos.ec)
- Launch of the new Galapagos Conservation Trust website (www.galapagosconservation.org.uk)
- Expanding the range of opportunities for volunteer support, including with post-graduate students
- Expanding the events portfolio for both members and non-members
- Expanding our outreach activity with many more talks to schools, universities and other interested parties
- Increased coverage in main stream print and radio
- Forming a growing number of collaborative partnerships to enhance the effectiveness of delivering our objectives (Royal Geographical Society, London Zoological Society, The Deep, The Book Bus)

Delivering Essential Resources to Galapagos

Our support of conservation projects in Galapagos was achieved mainly through grants made to local partners on the Islands and world leading visiting scientists undertaking research in Galapagos. The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) continued to be a significant recipient of funds whilst we also continued development of a wider range of delivery partnerships according to conservation and educational needs. Galapagos increasingly requires a holistic approach to address substantive threats and during 2014 we continued to promote ways to address these.

Primary sub-themes are:

- Ecosystem and habitat restoration
- Species protection and population ecology
- Invasive species management
- Education
- Sustainable development



PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2014

During 2014 we continued our support for on-going multi-year projects such as the Galapagos Penguin & Flightless Cormorant Survey and the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme, expanded to include the 'Lost Years' project. Our primary project in terms of funding commitment was the Mangrove Finch Project (leading to eight fledglings being hatched – a significant addition of 10% to the tiny population). We continued support for furthering our understanding of the ecology of the whale shark and improving visitor experience to the Islands. Our projects are outlined in the following section and more details can be found at galapagosconservation.org.uk.

Discovering Galapagos

Discovering Galapagos is a comprehensive bilingual (English/Spanish) online educational resource focused on the conservation and sustainable development of Galapagos. The site will eventually cater for four distinct audiences: Key Stage 2 & 3 (ages 7-14), Key Stage 4 (14-16), Key Stage 5 (16-18) and a case study based section for use in executive training.

During 2014 the following was achieved:

- The site went live in September, firstly in Spanish in Ecuador then in English in the UK
- 'Life on the Islands', the first curriculum linked module was produced and tested
- The new website architecture was developed and site built

The need to embrace the conservation of our natural world based on a thorough understanding of sustainable development is paramount if we are to protect the future of fragile ecosystems such as those in Galapagos. Of equal importance in the UK and mainland Ecuador, this project aims to provide an international connection between schools in very different environments to promote a global view of conservation issues.

Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme

The inclusion of valuable science into conservation management plans is essential to ensure the best chance of a sustainable future for Galapagos ecosystems. The goal of the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme is to determine the environmental and anthropogenic drivers of the migration of Galapagos giant tortoises and their effects on the Islands' biodiversity.

Project objectives are to:

- Inform the strategic conservation management of tortoise populations
- Enhance knowledge to aid appropriate land based tourism planning
- Understand links between healthy populations and habitat preservation
- Determine the environmental drivers of tortoise migration in Galapagos
- Understand the impact of anthropogenic environmental change
- Determine the relevance of tortoise migration on Galapagos ecosystems; and
- Build a Galapagos Education Partnership

In addition to developing a hands-on educational programme for local Galapagos students and training workshops for their teachers, GCT is incorporating findings into the Discovering Galapagos programme. This includes building a relationship with the Zoological Society of London in order to improve educational outreach in the UK about giant tortoises and Galapagos as a whole.

Understanding the Whale Shark

The largest fish in the sea is also one of the least understood. We do not know their full movements, have never witnessed mating or birthing, do not know how deep they can dive or how far they migrate. Yet, these magnificent animals are being killed for their dorsal fins at an alarming rate. In Galapagos, over 95% of visiting whale sharks appear to be pregnant females and as they do not seem to be actively feeding they may well be giving birth to pups at depth. At Galapagos Conservation Trust we are:

- Funding scientists to observe and track the whale shark
- Supporting DNA and photographic identification
- Providing funds for boat based research in the far north of Galapagos incorporating other vulnerable species
- Purchasing satellite tags for tracking movement

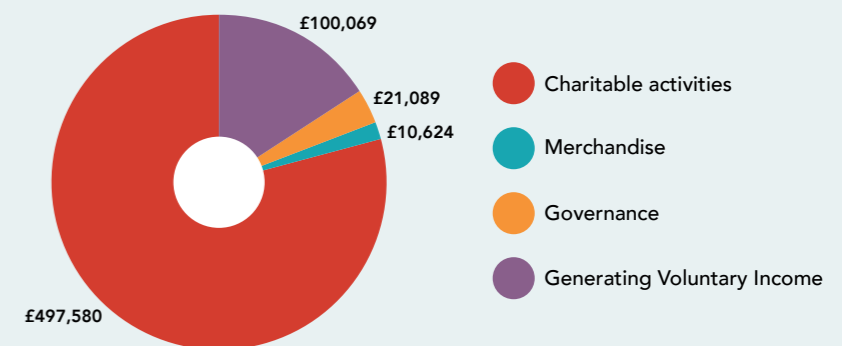
FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF 2014

The purpose of the information below is to give an oversight only of the main funding activities of the Galapagos Conservation Trust in 2014. The numbers used in this summary have been taken from the annual accounts which have been audited. The full financial report submitted to the Charity Commission can be found at www.charitycommission.gov.uk using charity reference number 1043470.

The reserves policy for the Trust is set at the equivalent of six months full operating cost. This decision was premised on the lease commitment for the offices having a six months break period and more importantly on the length of time to withdraw from funding commitments in Galapagos with minimum damage were such action to be required. As such the cash reserves are set at £170K in order to comply with this policy.

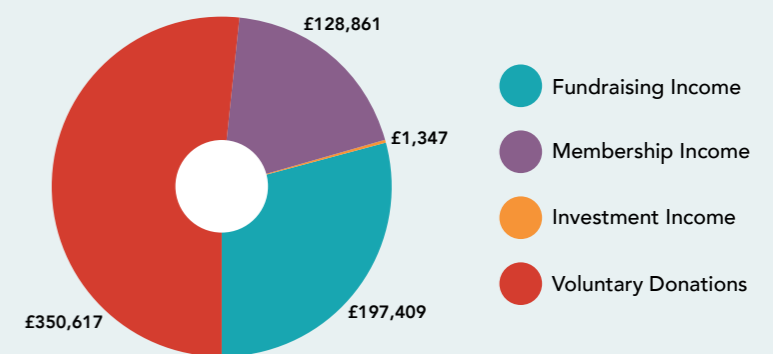
Finances in the year were tightly controlled and the auditors provided an unqualified audit report. Governance costs remain low and whereas a broad range of fundraising activity also incurs costs, the overall spend on charitable activity remained high. Financial reserves were also increased to provide a matched funding opportunity for the 2015 Galapagos Future Fund for the ongoing (and sustainable) development of Discovering Galapagos and other key project activities in 2015.

GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST: SPENDING IN 2014



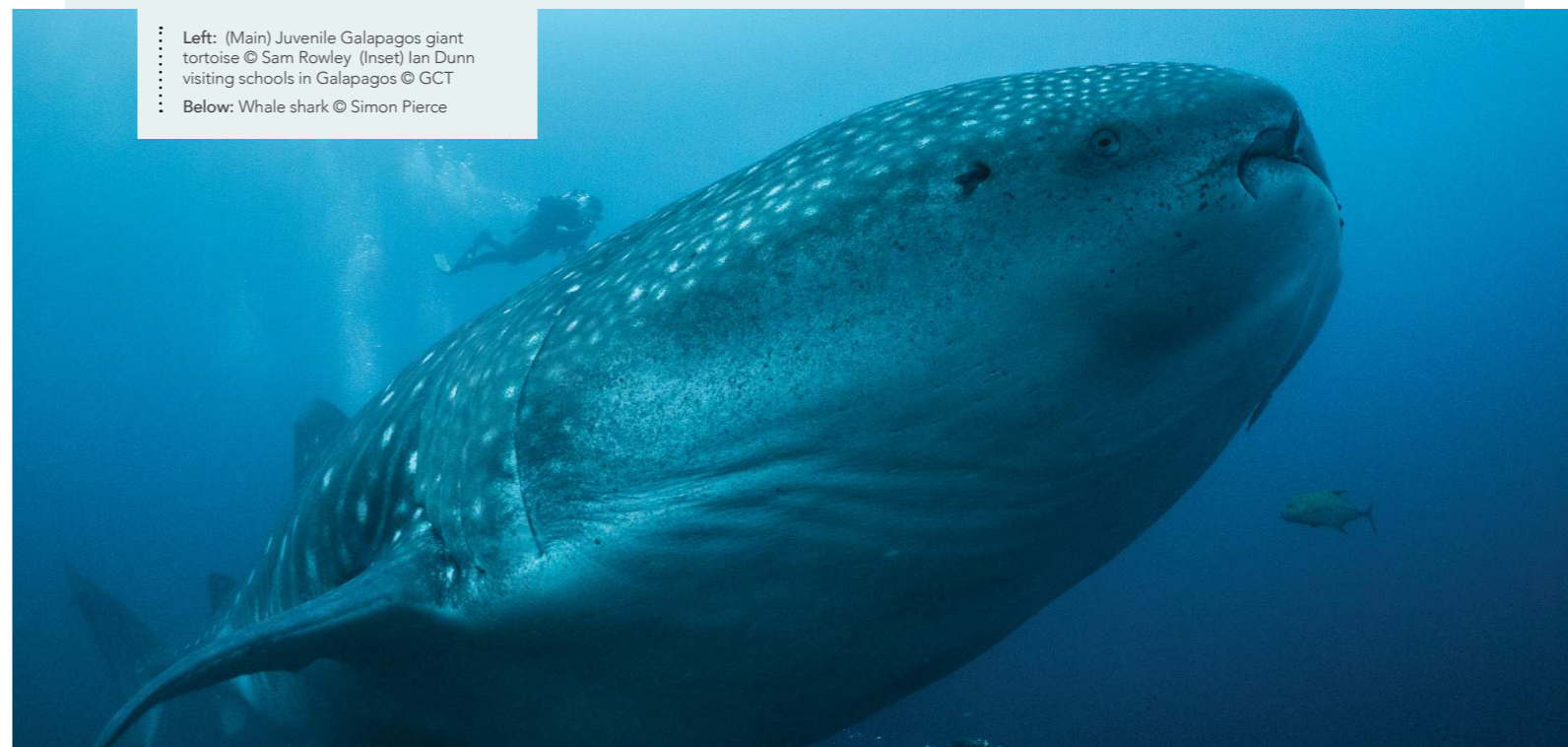
Total spending (excl. reserves increase): **£629,362**

GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST: INCOME IN 2014



Total income: **£678,234**

Left: (Main) Juvenile Galapagos giant tortoise © Sam Rowley (Inset) Ian Dunn visiting schools in Galapagos © GCT
Below: Whale shark © Simon Pierce





• A newly hatched mangrove finch is hand-fed. © Juan Carlos Avila

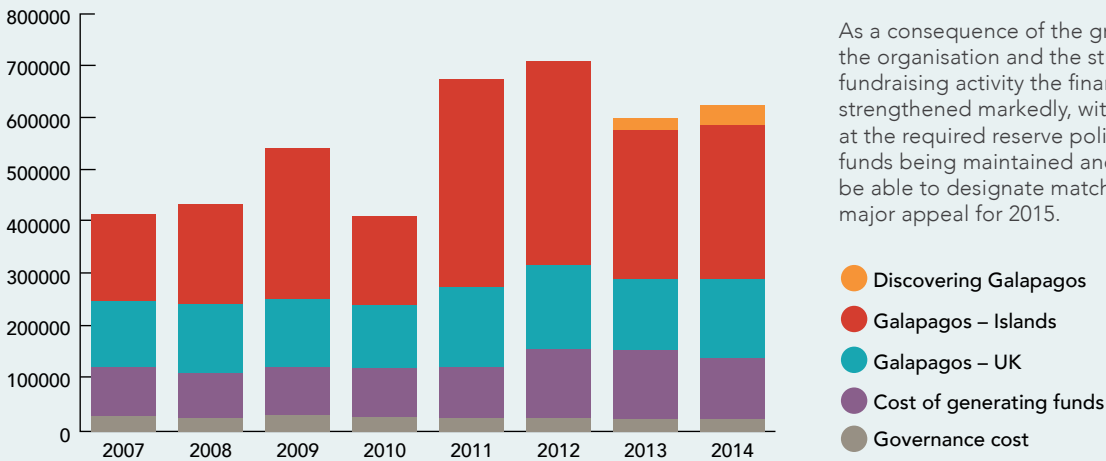
FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF 2014 CONTINUED

The following charts show the trend of how funds have been expended since 2007. Notable developments include the strength in growth of funds applied on the Islands. Although still a relatively small sum, the growth in cost of generating funds has been a consequence of no longer being able to benefit from office space provided by a supporter that was effectively rent free. GCT's new location is well positioned, competitively priced and provides additional space to enable benefitting from a significant increase in volunteer support.

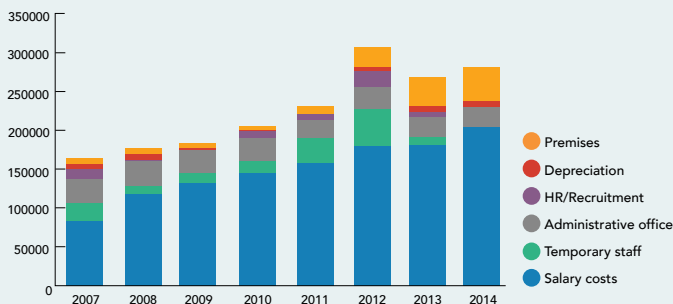
The change in total operating cost over the eight years projected partly reflects the growth of office costs but more notably reflects a growth in the number of staff employed in specific areas and funded by projects. For the sake of clarity these are fully captured in staff costs even when fully funded by the project concerned. The strategy to deliver greater resources for Galapagos conservation with a long term impact by marginally increasing staff numbers and broadening staff skills continues to be a success. 2014 saw many of the initiatives of earlier years come to fruition.

As a consequence of the greater impact of the organisation and the strengthening of fundraising activity the financial position of GCT strengthened markedly, with unrestricted funds at the required reserve policy level, restricted funds being maintained and sufficient funds to be able to designate matched funding for the major appeal for 2015.

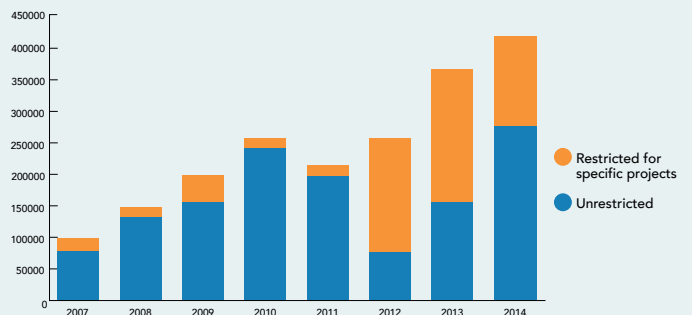
GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST: FUNDS USAGE (2007-2014)



GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST: OPERATING COSTS (2007-2014)



GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST: RESERVES/CARRY FORWARD FUNDS (2007-2014)



Acknowledgement and thanks for supporting the Galapagos Conservation Trust in 2014.

We would like to thank all of our members, supporters and volunteers for their support this year. In addition to a number of Trusts and Funds who have requested not to be recognised in our annual report, we would like to express particular thanks for significant support from The Bromley Trust, The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, The Dennis Curry Charitable Trust, the British Chelonia Group, The Deep and The Woodspring Trust. We would not be able to undertake the work we do in the absence of such generous funding support from all concerned in helping conserve Galapagos for future generations.