



Approved Projects

First Call of Proposals
Small Grants
2025



In December 2024, the Galápagos Life Fund (GLF) launched its first call for small grants, focusing on two strategic areas for marine conservation in the archipelago:



Sustainable fishing



**Environmental education and
community outreach**

This process unfolded as planned, adhering to established deadlines and undergoing a rigorous technical evaluation. As a result, 10 innovative projects committed to the sustainable development of the islands were approved.

Call Characteristics:

- Maximum funding per project: Up to \$100,000
- Maximum project duration: 12 months
- Co-financing: Not required, but in-kind contributions are encouraged

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants: A minimum of 2 years of legal operation in Galápagos
- Eligible applicants include: local associations, individuals with a tax ID (RUC) registered in Galápagos, academic institutions, educational units, private companies, NGOs, and other organizations dedicated to marine conservation

Noise pollution in coastal ecosystems



Grantees:
Jeiser Vernaza,
Southcorp S.A.,
Lambdacoustic
Laboratories S.A.



Allocated funding:
\$83.750



Project Summary:

This project assesses the effects of noise on the marine-coastal ecosystems of Santa Cruz and Baltra by generating acoustic maps, promoting mitigation actions, and raising community awareness about the impacts of noise pollution on biodiversity and quality of life. The initiative aims to preserve the ecological functionality of Galápagos' coastal ecosystems, strengthen their resilience to climate change, and ensure their long-term sustainability.

Expected results:

- Development of acoustic maps in critical areas to identify the main sources of noise, in alignment with environmental regulations.
- Installation of four acoustic monitoring stations to obtain accurate data on noise levels and their variability.
- Design of mitigation proposals to address noise pollution.
- Organization of educational talks and community dialogues in schools, along with training for public officials and NGO staff.
- Technical transfer to local institutions to ensure long-term continuity.



Education for sustainability in Galápagos



Grantees:
Fundación Scalesia
Fundación ECOS



Allocated funding:
\$50.879



Project Summary:

The Curriculum Contextualization with a Sustainability Approach (CCSA) is a program supported by the Ministry of Education and developed in collaboration with multiple organizations. This initiative promotes high-impact pedagogical strategies that integrate theory and practice to strengthen sustainability education. In the Galápagos Islands, the project enhances sustainability-focused learning by providing tailored educational materials and capacity-building workshops for teachers and students. Key topics—such as biodiversity, sustainable tourism, and responsible fisheries—are integrated into the school curriculum to foster environmental awareness and action from an early age.

Expected results:

- Development of three thematic educational packages designed to deliver effective lessons that integrate theory and practice within the island context.
- Facilitation of 12 workshops for educational leaders across the islands, who will act as trainers for local teachers.
- Implementation of Experiential Learning Activities (EVA) with primary school students, reaching more than 150 participants.
- Teachers will gain access to tailored pedagogical resources to support lesson planning and implementation on the proposed sustainability topics.



Sea Festival: Culture and Science for Conservation



Grantees:
Gonzalo Fernández,
Ministry of Culture,
Institute for the Promotion
of Creativity and Innovation



Allocated funding:
\$27.620



Project Summary:

A free cultural event in San Cristóbal designed to raise awareness about marine conservation through concerts, scientific talks, workshops, exhibitions, and audiovisual content—blending art and science to promote environmental values. The festival provides a safe, inclusive space that celebrates diversity while educating both the local community and visitors on the importance of adopting sustainable practices.

Expected results:

- Implementation of the 4th edition, featuring a cultural program that fosters environmental awareness.
- Three days of cultural activities with high levels of participation.
- Six concerts and three talks focused on marine conservation.
- Two art workshops on marine biodiversity.
- Production of a video and reusable fabric bags with environmental messages.
- A photographic or artistic exhibition showcasing 15 community-created works on coastal and marine conservation and Galápagos biodiversity.
- An estimated digital reach of 40,000 people.



Girls with Gills Club – Galápagos



Grantees:
Diana Pazmiño,
USFQ, GCT



Allocated funding:
\$99.544



Project Summary:

The Girls with Gills Club empowers girls aged 8 to 12 through experiential learning focused on marine science and conservation. Inspired by an international model, the project fosters a deep connection with the ocean while promoting aquatic skills, critical thinking, and female leadership in the Galápagos Islands. The program is implemented in four phases: recruitment and outreach, classroom-based learning, field activities, and a final inter-island exchange and closing event.

Expected results:

- Active participation of 48 girls in educational, hands-on, and field-based sessions across the four islands.
- Development of aquatic skills—such as swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking—among at least 70% of participants.
- Inclusion of female scientists as role models in STEM to inspire scientific career paths.
- Implementation of a replicable ocean-connection methodology led by trained local facilitators.
- Creation of safe, reflective spaces that foster self-esteem and empower girls to express their voices.



Building opportunities for ocean connection and community learning in Galápagos Marine Protected Areas



Grantee:
Fundación Charles Darwin



Allocated funding:
\$100.000



Project Summary:

This project seeks to reconnect the Galápagos community with its coastal and marine ecosystems by providing hands-on learning experiences and promoting environmental awareness across the four inhabited islands. Activities include educational camps, community science projects, traveling marine libraries, creative workshops, and natural history collections. The approach emphasizes the inclusion of children, youth, and historically marginalized groups, fostering understanding of the importance of Marine Protected Areas (the Galápagos Marine Reserve and the Hermandad Marine Reserve).

Expected results:

- Organization of three educational camps with at least 60 participants.
- Implementation of three community science micro-projects focused on microplastics, mangrove biodiversity, and seabirds.
- Launch of seven traveling marine libraries and reading engagement activities across all four islands.
- Creation of educational and visual content that highlights local knowledge and is freely accessible.
- Participation of over 200 people in educational, artistic, and scientific activities.



Blue Guardians: Community Empowerment and Marine Conservation in Galápagos



Grantees:
Fundación Ola Igualdad,
Asociación Corazones
Unidos



Allocated funding:
\$80.850,00



Project Summary:

This initiative empowers women from San Cristóbal as leaders in marine conservation by combining aquatic skills, field excursions, legal training, and the development of an educational platform with a gender-based approach. The intervention will be carried out in phases—including assessment, training, digital implementation, monitoring, and outreach—to ensure the active participation of local women as key agents of change in conservation and socio-environmental resilience.

Expected results:

- Training of 20 women in environmental leadership, strengthening their connection to local ecosystems.
- Twelve aquatic sessions and five field visits to protected areas.
- Four experiential learning activities focused on sustainable ecotourism practices.
- Creation of a community network of women leaders trained to actively engage in the protection, monitoring, and management of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Development of an interactive digital platform with educational resources.



Building a collective vision of the conservation targets of the Hermandad Marine Reserve to inspire more sustainable lifestyles on San Cristóbal Island



Grantees:

Education 4 Nature Galápagos,
Fundación Ecuatoriana de
Conservación , FCD, Hacienda
Tranquila , GAD Municipal,
DPNG , USFQ



Allocated funding:
\$77.250



Project Summary:

This project seeks to foster a sense of community ownership of the Hermandad Marine Reserve through educational activities, awareness campaigns, and the production of materials that connect students, mothers, and local entrepreneurs with the values of marine conservation. It will involve coordinated work with a sample of community members from three priority sectors to promote coastal-marine conservation and climate change adaptation—yielding both intangible results (increased knowledge) and tangible outcomes (adoption of good practices).

Expected results:

- Training of community leaders to promote gender equity, marine conservation, and climate change adaptation.
- Strengthening the knowledge of 15 teachers and their students on the conservation targets of the Hermandad Marine Reserve.
- Production of 500 children's books on biodiversity.
- Placement of educational signage and distribution of learning kits in public spaces.
- Implementation of three community initiatives to promote stewardship of the RMH and a sustainable blue economy.
- Direct engagement of at least 300 local residents.



Orca Club:

Empowering Future Guardians of the Sea



Grantees:
**Maximilian Martin,
COPROPAG**



Allocated funding:
\$69.500



Project Summary:

Orca Club is an environmental education program that fosters emotional connection and hands-on learning with the ocean among children aged 5 to 12, especially the sons and daughters of fishers. Through an interactive workbook-agenda, playful workshops, and aquatic activities such as kayaking and surfing, the project aims to inspire early interest in conservation and cultivate an ocean-minded culture from childhood. The program seeks to empower children as key actors in protecting the natural heritage of the Galápagos Islands.

Expected results:

- Participation of at least 60 children in educational and recreational activities.
- Distribution of marine-focused educational materials for children and their families.
- Partnerships with local clubs to facilitate ocean access and community training.
- Production of educational videos to support learning in both formal and informal settings.
- Support for teachers and mothers in using the materials as tools for change.



Guardians of Galápagos Marine Life



Grantees:
Fundación ECOS,
GNPD



Allocated funding:
\$99.465



Project Summary:

This project seeks to strengthen the connection between local youth and marine ecosystems by building skills in participatory monitoring, citizen science, and environmental leadership. Through field expeditions, technical training, and awareness campaigns, young people from Isabela and Santa Cruz will be empowered as conservation agents, with an emphasis on gender equity and sustainable integration. The initiative builds on a previously successful experience focused on sea turtles and expands its scope to include other key marine ecosystems, while broadening its target audience in alignment with strategic priorities.

Expected results:

- Training of nine young leaders in monitoring protocols and environmental leadership.
- Engagement of at least 300 students in citizen science activities.
- Implementation of community education campaigns led by youth.
- Application of participatory monitoring protocols for turtles, mangroves, and coastal lagoons.
- Development of community logbooks and dissemination of findings in local venues.



Turning Plastic into Education: Social Innovation Lab



Grantees:
ECOGAL,
Fundación Proyecto
Social



Allocated funding:
\$96.000



Project Summary:

This project deploys mobile recycling labs that will travel to communities and schools across the three main islands, transforming plastic waste into school supplies and toys. The initiative promotes a circular economy, engages families through a social currency system, and encourages early involvement in waste management. It also seeks to empower the next generation to take an active role in preserving their invaluable natural heritage.

Expected results:

- Deployment of three mobile recycling labs in Santa Cruz, San Cristóbal, and Isabela
- Active participation of hundreds of students in the creative recycling process
- Production of school supplies made from recycled plastic
- Community incentives through a social currency system to encourage waste collection
- Strengthening of a sustainability culture within educational settings



**Galápagos
PlastiLab**





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