



Fact sheets of

# Approved Projects

First Call for Proposals  
Grants 2025



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



Sustainable fishing



Environmental education and  
community outreach

The process was carried out as planned, meeting the established deadlines and following a rigorous technical evaluation. As a result, 18 innovative projects committed to the sustainable development of the islands were approved.

### Evaluation Criteria:

- Community Impact
- Marine Conservation Impact
- Technical Capacity
- Gender and Diversity
- Viability
- Innovation
- Scalability and Replication

### Eligibility Requirements:

- **Applicants:** At least 2 years of legal operation in Galápagos
- **Eligible to apply:** local associations, individuals with a tax registration (RUC) in Galápagos, academia, educational institutions, private companies, NGOs, and other institutions dedicated to marine conservation.



A photograph of a man with a beard and three children sitting on a grey patterned mat. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue shirt and pointing at a map of the Galápagos Islands. Two boys are sitting in front of him, looking at the map. One boy is wearing a black t-shirt with 'DRWIN+WO GALAPAGOS' printed on it. The other boy is wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic of a creature's face. A girl is sitting on the right, also looking at the map. In the background, there are blue and white objects, possibly parts of a boat or equipment.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES



Galápagos  
life fund



# Noise pollution in coastal ecosystems



## Grantee and Partners:

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



## Grantee and Partners:

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



## Grantee and Partners:

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.



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



## Grantee and Partners:

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



## Grantee and Partners:

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



## Grantee and Partners:

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



### Grantee and Partners:

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



**Grantee and Partners:**  
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



Grantee and Partners:  
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 Infinito: Training Ocean Guardians



## Grantee and Partners:

Naveducando,  
Frente Insular



## Allocated funding:

\$249,478



## Project Summary:

The Naveducando program connects 7th-grade students (ages 12–13) with their marine environment through immersive "Ocean Classrooms." This initiative uses sailing trips and coastal activities to deepen students' knowledge, strengthen their connection to the ocean, and build a lasting commitment to conservation. The program features a progressive model of single-day and two-day field trips and will culminate in the creation of the Galápagos Blue Coalition to sustain local conservation efforts.

## Expected Results:

- Direct engagement of over 1,000 students through 30 one-day trips (2025–2026) and 30 two-day trips (2026–2027).
- Certification of 1,000 students as "Ocean Guardians" upon program completion.
- Establishment of the Galápagos Blue Coalition, uniting 5 local organizations and launching one pilot conservation project per inhabited island.
- Enhanced teaching capacity, with 25 local teachers trained and actively applying experiential learning methodologies.
- Increased public awareness through the development of 3 educational communication products designed to amplify conservation messages.



# Darwin's Chest



## Grantee and Partners:

Adrián Vásquez,  
Archipiélago Films, Matte  
Graphics



Allocated funding:  
\$250.000



## Project Summary:

This project introduces the first-ever animated series about the Galápagos, created to foster a conservation mindset from childhood. Starring local children and endemic animals, the six-episode series tackles key environmental issues, including climate change, plastic pollution, sustainable fishing, and biodiversity. Accompanied by educational guides and interactive activities, the series will be integrated into the official school curriculum and widely disseminated through schools, local media, and digital platforms.

## Expected Results:

- Produce a complete educational toolkit consisting of 6 animated episodes, 12 educational guides, and 12 interactive learning activities.
- Reach at least 1,000 children directly, achieving an 80% comprehension rate on the topics covered.
- Screen the series in all 22 educational centers across the Galápagos, ensuring equitable access for all students.
- Build a digital community of 2,000 active users and achieve an online reach of 10,000 people.
- Forge a strong community network of teachers, scientists, and families dedicated to advancing environmental education.





# Sustainable Fishing Initiatives



Galápagos  
life fund



# STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE FISHING MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE GALÁPAGOS MARINE RESERVE (GMR)



## SUMMARY

This project seeks to consolidate a sustainable model for artisanal fishing in Galápagos by activating the Participatory Management Advisory Council (PMAC), developing action plans for key species, and improving infrastructure with a Fish Aggregating Device (FAD), ice plants, and refrigerated transport. It will also strengthen the value chain through a socioeconomic study to facilitate access to credit.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

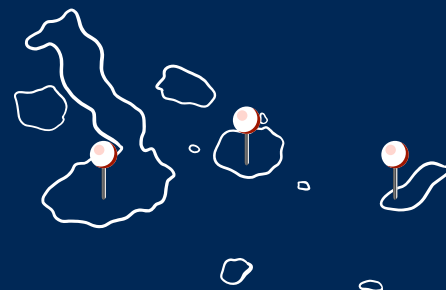
- PMAC activated and regulated.
- Fishery improvement plan for brujo and bacalao.
- FAD in Isabela, 2 operational ice plants, a refrigerated truck, and a trailer.
- Socioeconomic study with a roadmap for credit access.
- 15% increase in value per kilo of marketed products.

## Grantee and Partners:

Jocotoco,  
Copespromar,  
Copahisa, Tunacons,  
Inocar

**Amount:** USD 759,786

## Islands of Impact:





# BLUE GALÁPAGOS: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF GALÁPAGOS



## SUMMARY

This project aims to strengthen fisheries sustainability in the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR) through the enhancement of the monitoring platform, digitalization of the fisheries registry, and the implementation of a participatory, comprehensive monitoring plan for commercial species. It will also create a public fisheries repository, deliver the FITI 2024 report, and provide training for fishers along with technical assistance to cooperatives.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

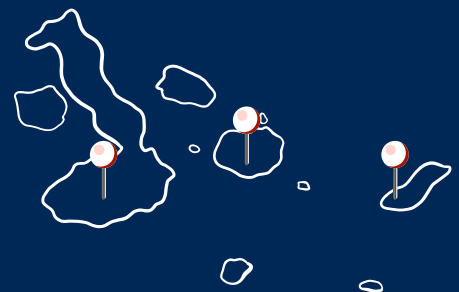
- Monitoring platform upgraded and 4 control points equipped.
- Comprehensive monitoring plan approved through participatory processes.
- Public fisheries repository on the DPNG website and FITI 2024 report published.
- Study of artisanal fleet and carrying capacity.
- 50% of fisheries registry digitalized.
- 60 fishers trained and 1 cooperative strengthened.

## Grantee and Partners:

WildAid,  
Copropag,  
Copespromar, DPNG

Amount: USD 247,500

## Islands of Impact:





# CHILD NUTRITION SYSTEM BASED ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



## SUMMARY

This project responds to concerning child malnutrition rates in Galápagos, where undernutrition, overweight, and obesity coexist among children aged 4 to 11. The proposal introduces an innovative and scalable food system that incorporates locally sourced fish into school nutrition, strengthening both student health and the economy of artisanal fishers.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1,500 weekly snacks for 500 children over one school year.
- 25 recipes with sustainable fish published in an illustrated cookbook.
- Baseline and ongoing nutritional and ecological monitoring.
- Inclusion of 30 local women in the value chain.
- Community Health Schools for parents, teachers, and students.
- Strengthening of COPESPROMAR through commercialization agreements.

**Grantee and Partner:**  
USFQ, COPESPROMAR

**Amount:** USD 246,950

**Islands of Impact:**



# INNOVAPESCA: Fishing with Science, from Ocean to Table



## SUMMARY

This project seeks to transform artisanal tuna fishing in the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR) into a sustainable, high-value model. Through an ecosystem-based approach, it combines science, innovation, and technology to reduce pressure on overexploited coastal species while promoting sustainable fishing methods alongside electronic monitoring and traceability systems.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

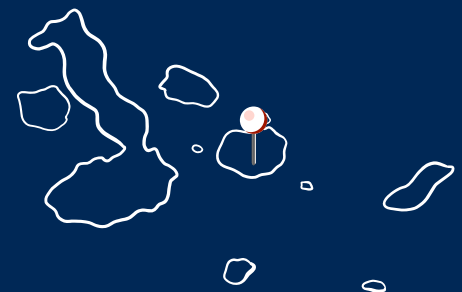
- At least 80% reduction in the catch of overexploited coastal species.
- Bycatch reduced to less than 6% of the total catch.
- 100% of participating vessels equipped with monitoring and traceability systems.
- 30% increase in profitability of fishing trips and in the value per pound of tuna sold in differentiated markets.
- 100% of tuna processed into value-added products, with at least three by-products from fishery waste.
- Implementation of a tuna management plan.

## Grantee and Partners: INNOVAPESCA

Cooperativa Pelican Bay, Universidad de la República (Uruguay), TUDelft, Universidad de las Américas, Circular Community Foundation, Shellcatch, Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Ai2), Fundación OCCA.

**Amount:** USD 741,958

## Islands of Impact:





# PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FISHING IN GALÁPAGOS: ALTERNATIVE FISHERIES, VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE FUTURE



## SUMMARY

This project promotes selective tuna fishing with pole-and-line using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), while strengthening local enterprises such as Del Mar al Campo, dedicated to transforming fish by-products into organic fertilizers. It also encourages responsible markets through the EcoGourmet program, which connects fishers with restaurants, tour operators, and consumers, fostering sustainable consumption and value-added fisheries.

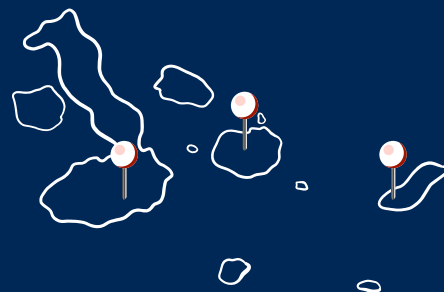
## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Training of 25 fishers in sustainable pole-and-line tuna fishing techniques.
- Installation and use of 1 FAD in Isabela.
- Identification and strengthening of at least 5 local enterprises through training, seed capital, and mentoring.
- Legal registration and operational launch of Del Mar al Campo, producing fish hydrolysate at its artisanal plant.
- Development of a pilot EcoGourmet plan in San Cristóbal.
- Awareness-raising activities, fairs, and events to promote responsible consumption and preference for sustainable fishery products.

**Grantee and Partners:**  
Conservación Internacional  
COPAHISA,  
emprendimiento Del Mar  
al Campo.

**Amount:** USD 250,000

**Islands of Impact:**





# STRENGTHENING THE FISHING SECTOR OF ISABELA THROUGH THE OPERATION OF COPAHISA'S COLLECTION CENTER AND THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL FISHERIES



## SUMMARY

This project seeks to reactivate the COPAHISA Cooperative by rehabilitating its collection center, formalizing the fisheries value chain, and improving its administration. With more than 180 members, the initiative will upgrade cold storage facilities, provide training in value-added practices and sustainability, and implement a sustainable business plan. The project aims to boost the local economy, ensure fair prices, and promote marine conservation.

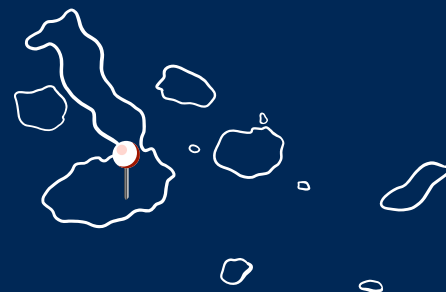
## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthened administrative system.
- Collection center rehabilitated and cold storage units upgraded.
- 4 training courses on sustainability, value-added practices, finance, and commercialization.
- Fisheries and environmental best practices manual approved and applied.
- Business plan in place and operational.
- Members' income increased by 30% and illegal fishing reduced by 80%.
- Guaranteed participation of women (30%) and youth (20%).

**Grantee and Partners:**  
COPAHISA  
DPNG, CGREG

**Amount:** USD 249,268

**Islands of Impact:**





@GalapagosLifeF



@galapagos.life.fund



Galapagos Life Fund



[www.galapagoslifefund.org.ec](http://www.galapagoslifefund.org.ec)