



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

# World Heritage Patrimoine mondial

31 COM

Paris, 22 May / 22 mai 2007  
Original: English

Distribution limited / limitée

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Thirty-first session / Trente et unième session

Christchurch, New Zealand / Christchurch, Nouvelle Zélande  
23 June - 2 July 2007 / 23 juin - 2 juillet 2007

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (1bis) / Îles Galápagos (Équateur) (1bis)

8 – 13 April 2007 / 8 – 13 avril 2007

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

WHC-07/31.COM/7A

WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add

WHC-07/31.COM/7B

WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **Acknowledgements**

<b>Executive Summary and List of Recommendations.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Background to the Mission.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. National Policy for the Preservation and Management of the World Heritage Property.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Identification and Assessment of Issues.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Assessment of the State of Conservation of the property.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Conclusions and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. List of Annexes.....</b>	<b>12</b>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The members of the World Heritage Centre – IUCN mission team would like to place on record their deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for their kind invitation to undertake this monitoring mission, and for their hospitality and assistance throughout the duration of the mission. Special thanks are due to them for organising the multi-stakeholder meeting in the Galapagos on 9 April 2007, which provided the platform for a free and frank exchange of views and information by all relevant stakeholders. Thanks are in particular due to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Environment, Tourism, External and Internal Security and the respective Vice-Ministers for participating in various meetings with the mission team. We are grateful for the assistance and information provided by the representatives of various agencies and organisations, including non-governmental organisations, particularly the Charles Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos Islands and IUCN regional office for South America (SUR) in Quito, which greatly facilitated our mission. Lastly, we are most grateful to the Director a. i. of UNESCO Quito Office and his staff, principally Mauricio Castillo the Coordinator for Science, who accompanied the mission and provided unstinted support throughout the duration of the mission.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The aim of this mission was to follow up the 2006 World Heritage Committee decision, which called upon the State Party to organise a multi-stakeholder meeting, to discuss and agree upon indicators which can be used to measure progress being made to address the specific concerns highlighted in the decision.

The findings of the mission, based on its participation in the multi-stakeholder meeting and consultations held with various organisations and individuals, are that the Galapagos Islands face a multitude of problems which need urgent resolution. No progress had been made by the State Party to implement any of the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre – IUCN mission in 2006, and on the contrary many of the indicators of conservation are declining.

A positive development which occurred while the mission was still in the Galapagos Islands is the issuance of a Presidential Decree declaring the Galapagos archipelago ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority, which outlines specific measures to deal with the various problems. In addition, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador has developed an Action Plan to address the 15 issues contained in Decision **30 COM 7B.29**, with specific activities, indicators/targets, time-lines and responsibilities under each. The mission makes the following recommendations:

### **Recommendations:**

- a) The State Party of Ecuador should be commended for the decisive action which they have taken through the Presidential Decree issued on 10 April 2007, declaring the conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority, and outlining an agenda to systematically address the various factors affecting the state of conservation of the property.

- b) The international donor and conservation community should be requested to work with the Government of Ecuador in a fully coordinated and complementary manner to support the effective and urgent implementation of the reform agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree and the various activities outlined in the action plan.
- c) The State Party should also be specifically called upon to assess the structure, finances and operations of the Galapagos National Park Service, with the objective of ensuring its strengthening so that it is well positioned to carry out its full range of responsibilities.
- d) The State Party should be asked to arrange a conference of donors and national and international conservation organisations with the objective of identifying and coordinating support for the conservation of the property under a common conservation framework.
- e) The comprehensive action plan developed by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador to deal with the 15 issues highlighted by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.29** should be accepted as the package of corrective measures, and its implementation by the State Party should be harmonised and coordinated with the process outlined in the Presidential Decree. In the process of implementing these corrective measures other complementary and supportive actions might be identified to enhance the conservation and management of the property.
- f) The implementation of the action plan and the reform agenda in the Presidential Decree should be monitored and assessed regularly by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN and reported to the World Heritage Committee.
- g) The State Party should be asked to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN by 1 November 2007 on the progress made in implementing the agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree, and a plan of action for completing all the decreed actions, particularly as the Decree requires some urgent action to be taken, within 15 to 30 days of its issue.
- h) Considering the fact that the property is affected by a number of serious threats, and that the State Party has itself identified it as being in a state of risk and a national priority, the mission recommends that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) in the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a complementary and supportive measure to draw attention to its state of conservation and mobilise international assistance.

## **1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

The Galapagos Islands was one of the first properties to be inscribed on the World Heritage List at the second session of the World Heritage Committee in 1978. At that time it covered an area of 7,665 sq. km. which represents 97% of the terrestrial area of the islands. The property was later extended in 2001 to include the Galapagos Marine Reserve (comprising 135,000 sq. km.) thus, increasing the total size of the property to 142,665 sq. km.

Based on the findings of the mission to the property in 2006 the World Heritage Committee expressed great concern over the variety of threats that it faces, and requested the State Party to organize, in cooperation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, a multi-stakeholder meeting, no later than March 2007, to i) help advance the development of the Vision for Galapagos process and ii) to clearly define benchmarks and timeframes against which progress can be measured and to which commitment of relevant national authorities and ideally of international cooperation agencies is formally obtained. These benchmarks and timeframes were required to address, as a minimum, the 15 issues listed in the decision, to the satisfaction of the World Heritage Committee. A copy of Decision **30 COM 7B.29** is attached at [Annex 1](#).

The WHC-IUCN Mission was undertaken between 8 to 13 April, 2007 and comprised Tumu Te Heuheu, Chairman of the World Heritage Committee, Kishore Rao, Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Bernd Von Droste, Consultant representing IUCN, John Paki from the World Heritage delegation of New Zealand, and Mauricio Castillio, Coordinator of Natural Sciences in UNESCO Quito office.

The mission primarily participated in the multi-stakeholder meeting organised by the State Party, as requested by the Committee, but it also held discussions with various stakeholders and on that basis, assessed the state of conservation of the property. Thus, this mission report responds directly to the 2006 Committee decision.

## **2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

The property comprises State owned land / waters, managed by the Directorate of Galapagos National Park of the Ministry of Environment. The marine reserve component of the property also involves the Fisheries Department and the Ecuadorian Navy in management operations. The 1998 Special Law for Galapagos provides the overall legal framework for the administration and management of the property. However, in addition to the Constitution of Ecuador, there are some 13 statutes dealing with a variety of topics like tourism, biodiversity, forestry, artisan fishing, garbage and residues, etc which are applied to the administration and management of the Galapagos Islands. The management of the property is guided by the current management plan, which was approved in April 2005. The Galapagos National Park was granted ISO 9001:2000 certification in September 2005 for a three year period, for having a quality management system in place.

## **3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY**

The threats identified by the 2006 mission and reported to the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee continue to increasingly threaten the property. The mission noted that all the factors affecting the property, which were described comprehensively in the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN mission report continue to be relevant and of concern, and that none of the 15 specific issues listed in Decision **30 COM 7B.29** had been addressed by the State Party. On the contrary there were clear indications that the situation was getting worse, as exemplified by the following:

- a) On 17th March 2007 the Galapagos National Park Director and her staff were assaulted by members of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces stationed on Baltra Island, while carrying out their responsibilities of enforcing park regulations;
- b) An additional entry point to the Islands has been created with the commissioning of an airport on Isabela Island, thus, further increasing the risk of entry of alien species;
- c) The number of commercial flights to Galapagos, each a potential agent for the introduction of harmful alien species, has nearly doubled since 2001, while at the same time, the number of quarantine agents and phytosanitary inspectors mandated to reduce the risk of alien species introduction has reportedly diminished by 20%;
- d) The World Heritage Centre has received reports of large-scale illegal cutting of protected mangroves forests on Isabela Island, under municipal government patronage; and
- e) While the mission was in the Galapagos Islands, it received information that a fishing ship from Costa Rica had been seized in the Marine Reserve, pointing to the fact that illegal fishing continues to be a threat to the property.

It is critical that these measures be addressed as a matter of urgency.

*Multi-stakeholder meeting:*

The multi-stakeholder meeting requested by the Committee was held on Santa Cruz Island on 9 April 2007, to advance the development of the vision 2020 for Galapagos process. The mission team participated in this meeting and the working agenda of the meeting is attached at **Annex 2**. The following is a brief summary of the meeting:

The Minister for Environment welcomed the participants and stated that in the past, because of political turmoil in the country there were problems in Galapagos also but that now the President of the Republic was very committed to the conservation and sustainable development of the Galapagos. She mentioned that there was need for a shared vision 2020 and that the meeting should aim at identifying clear steps to achieve its objectives, using the key factors of management needs and commitment.

The Minister for Environment presented the Vision 2020 which was aimed at improving the sustainability of the Galapagos. She stated that there was a need to clarify the overlapping jurisdictions of the multiple agencies, and create a model for sustainable development. By the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> plan there would be no use of fossil fuels on the islands. Some items of progress mentioned include, a transparent and competitive selection process having been followed for the recruiting the Director of GNP, and the President of Ecuador being personally seized of the problems of Galapagos.

The Vice-Minister for Tourism stated that sustainable tourism was a cross-cutting theme for economic development of local communities. The Ministry was preparing a tourism development plan as an input to the 2020 vision document. This includes a training plan for local people in the Galapagos. Regulations would be issued within 6 months for land and marine activities and their management would be decentralised to local authorities. Presenting the sustainable tourism model for Galapagos the Vice-Minister for Tourism emphasised the need to promote community based tourism, particularly as an

alternative livelihood for the fishers, and stated that only activities with good practice certificate will be promoted.

The Vice-Minister for External Relations mentioned that the Government of Ecuador (GoE) shared the concern of the World Heritage Committee on the 15 points of the decision **30 COM 7B.29**. He pointed out that Ecuador was a small country with 30% under protected areas. The state of conservation of Galapagos was better than it was 50 years ago (quoting the Charles Darwin Research Foundation, which had made this statement only in relation to the uninhabited islands). There had been significant achievements like eradication of goats, with no international help. He also pointed out that tourism poses a risk for the islands and hence, there is need to promote a more sustainable model.

The representative of the Chambers of Tourism, Construction, and Commerce complained that the meeting agenda does not consider stakeholders who generate the economic benefits and that only Government agencies were listed to speak. He charged that the institutions of government and international agencies had not supported implementation of the Special Law for Galapagos (SLG) and pursued their own initiatives without consent of local communities. Thus, there was a lack of inter-institutional coordination and a lot of politicisation. He proposed that the President of Ecuador, through INGALA should ensure coordination of institutions, compliance with regulations, promote education, and an effective system of quarantine and inspection.

The representative of the Agricultural Health Service of Ecuador (SESA) and Inspection and Quarantine System for Galapagos (SICGAL) stated that the invasive species risks were increasing while the staff and capacity was decreasing. There was a need to limit the number of entry ports for both air and sea transportation, because the chain of providing services and flow of goods was posing increasing threats. For example, in 1970 there were about 100 introduced plant species, by 2006 that number had grown to about 800. Change will no doubt happen, but human activities accelerate that change. It was suggested that donor funding should be redirected to sustainable production so that goods coming from the outside could be reduced.

The Vice-Minister for Tourism stated that tourism is the principal economic activity, but the current model is not sustainable, because the local community is not participating. In 2006 there were 96,672 tourists, which is 64.5% of total visitors to the Galapagos and the tourists were spending fewer number of days in the archipelago. There is lack of leadership and capacity in the community. The new model envisages strengthening of local institutions and building of capacity and skills. The 2020 PLANDETUR will be completed by July 2007. There is no evidence of uncontrolled tourism threatening Galapagos and that the time is right for change.

The representative of the Artisanal Fishing Association mentioned that in 2006 there were about 1,000 fishers - a level which had been maintained since 2002. There were more than 400 boats, again a level that was being maintained since 2002. There are 4 fishing cooperatives and none of the members had been able to shift to tourism activities, as envisaged in the SLG, as there is no credit for the fishing sector.

The President of the Tourist Guides Association mentioned that they were not being seen or used as the 'eyes' of the GNP. There is one guide for every 16 tourists, which is difficult to manage because of the narrow trails. The problem of uncontrolled tourism

development exists since 10 years and environmental regulations are not being followed. The citizens are trying to salvage the institutions which are on the verge of collapse, but the tour operators do not listen to the guides.

Some comments made during the discussion session that followed include:

- Permits were given for tourism boats for a period of 10 years, yet number of tourists coming by boats has increased, which shows that the capacity of boats had been increased. Most boats are carrying out double activities (cruising and diving), but nobody checks them.
- There is need for a policy of technical and financial assistance for people to participate in tourism.
- There is poverty in Galapagos, but this is not being taken into account in government plans and programmes.
- The representative of the Galapagos Education, Health and Culture sector mentioned that while the population growth rate in continental Ecuador is 2.1% it is 6.1% in the Galapagos. There is lack of potable water, sewer system, mental health and medical system to cater to this population.

The Head of INGALA stated that they were unable to control growth in population, because it has the same number of staff as it had 25 years ago, at the time of its creation. There is no effective migratory control system, as all entry points and areas cannot be covered. There is also political interference in decision-making. The rapid and uncontrolled growth of tourism sector is fuelling illegal migration to fill service sector positions. There is need to develop technical skills through training of permanent residents to meet the needs of the production sector. A growing population is making more demands on civic services and facilities. Effective immigration controls should be exercised on the continent, not when they reach the islands. INGALA has to be strengthened to fully play its mandated role.

On the issue of Governance and Eco-sustainability the presentation focused on the need for equity, inclusivity and sustainability. There was a tendency to maximize profits in the short-term from natural resources and the effects of over-exploitation were already being felt e.g. marine resources. Issues of water and soil pollution had also surfaced. There was a weakening of institutions, conflicts over jurisdiction and generally, a lack of effective governance. Hence, there is a need to review the policy and institutional framework of Galapagos with a view to restructure and modernize them to improve their efficiency and stability. Other needs identified under this theme include: a land-use plan, energy policy, and a policy on land, air and water transportation.

The Mayor of Santa Cruz launched a scathing attack and stated that he had heard all these speeches before and there was no credibility any more as mere talk will not solve the problems of the Galapagos. He stated that it was for this reason that the other two Mayors (of San Cristobal and Isabella had not come to participate in the meeting, and that he was authorized to represent them). He said that the INGALA Council is incapable of addressing the problems, and although it has 5 Ministers they never attend its meetings. The SLG continues to be violated, as it lacks adequate legal and judicial regulations. The GoE does not apply the principles enshrined in the SLG and does not allocate adequate resources. SESS-SICGAL does not have permanent staff and they

work on the basis of annual contracts. The national government does not listen to or take responsibility for Galapagos and its issues, and there is no State policy to solve the social and environmental problems of Galapagos. The tourism model has collapsed and it needs local participation. There is an urgent need to sensitise the GoE, and UNESCO should come back in three months, not after one year! UNESCO has to assume its responsibility; otherwise there will be no progress in the islands.

In her concluding remarks at the end of the meeting, the Minister for Environment stated that the progress made had not been adequately recognised because the GoE had failed to communicate effectively. The GNP had achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification in 2005 because of its quality management practices. All the 15 issues raised in the World Heritage Committee's decision were being addressed, and a matrix of commitments had been developed through a participatory process since October 2006, which can be used for monitoring progress. The Ministry has discussed with IUCN locally to establish a continuous monitoring system for the islands. The three main items of work include (i) developing a model for conservation and sustainable development; (ii) developing a model of governance; and (iii) developing a model of education and technical capacity.

#### *Additional sources of information*

Information on the biodiversity loss in the Galapagos Islands is documented in the publication "*A Biodiversity Vision for the Galapagos Islands*" edited by R. Bensted-Smith and published in Quito by the Charles Darwin Foundation and WWF in 2006. In chapter five, H. L. Snell, A. Tye, C.E. Causton and R. Bensted-Smith state the following: "Of the endemic flora with all 175 endemic species having been assessed almost 10 % of the taxa are classed as critically endangered, i.e., they are already reduced to the brink of extinction. Some fifty per cent are endangered, meaning that they are in serious decline, and a further 40% are classed as vulnerable, in most cases due to their very small ranges. The salient point from these figures is that a relatively large number of species have suffered decline, are continuing to decline, and are thus on the road to extinction unless action be taken to reduce or remove these threat factors leading to those declines." The quoted article also indicates that up to 60% of all arthropod species may have suffered declines. Fifty percent of the vertebrate fauna of Galapagos is likely to go extinct if current and future conservation efforts are not successful

An unpublished paper by Charlotte Causton indicates that until the end of 2006 some 490 species of insects and 53 species of other invertebrates were introduced into the Galapagos. Among the insects, 71 of the introduced species constitute a threat to the economy and biodiversity of the islands.

Another unpublished paper, written in 2007 by Alan Tye and Rachel Atkinson of the Charles Darwin Foundation, indicates that a total of 800 to 900 vascular plant species are already introduced to the Galapagos, which is considerably higher than the number of native flora species, which is estimated at 500 species.

The principal anthropogenic threat to the Galapagos marine biodiversity (2,900 species) is inappropriate or excessive fishing. Over the years the number of registered fishers has increased reaching one thousand fishers with 440 active fishing boats in 2000. Almost 70% of the catch consists of eight species of fin fish, lobster and sea cucumber. Lobster and sea cucumber catch have virtually collapsed in recent years due to over-fishing.

### *Action Plan to address the issues*

Following the multi-stakeholder meeting, the Ministry of Environment prepared and submitted (on 24 April 2007 and only in Spanish) to the World Heritage Centre a report of the meeting, and a table (hereafter referred to as the 'action plan') showing the activities proposed to be undertaken in relation to each of the 15 issues listed in Decision **30 COM 7B.29**, the time-frame for their completion, the indicators to measure progress, and the institutions responsible for implementing these activities. Additionally, the action plan includes specific activities proposed for the Agriculture and Health sectors. A copy of the action plan is attached at **Annex 3**.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that this action plan, with indicators and time-frames constitutes the programme of "corrective measures" to overcome many of the serious threats confronting the property, and can also be used by the Committee as a tool for monitoring the progress of implementation, but it may be noted that the indicators/targets for some of the activities have not been quantified as yet and need to be established.

### *Decree issued by the President of Ecuador*

While the joint mission was in the Galapagos Islands on 10 April 2007, the President of Ecuador issued a Decree declaring the conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos archipelago ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority. This is an unprecedented action taken in terms of a positive response by the State Party, even while the mission was ongoing and still in the country. In fact, the mission was also informally requested to provide inputs into the preparation of this Decree. The Decree requires the Governor of the Galapagos Province to convene a meeting of the INGALA Council within 15 days to address and make policies on the following issues:

- a) To determine the current status of conservation, development and health (sanitation) of the archipelago and its marine reserve;
- b) To determine the efficacy of the total control of introduced species;
- c) To study the possibility of temporarily suspending the issuance of new tourism patents and air operation permits;
- d) To study the possibility of temporarily suspending residence permits;
- e) To prioritise compliance with the provisions of Articles 4 (functions of INGALA) and 6 (powers of the INGALA Council) of the Special Law for Galapagos;
- f) To coordinate fulfillment of the powers and responsibilities of each of the institutions with activities in the Galapagos province;
- g) To order the performance of the population census on the archipelago and devolution to the continent of inhabitants living illegally on the islands.

The Presidential Decree also calls upon the SESA-SICGAL, in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, to submit within 30 days a proposal for the eradication of the primary introduced species and the financial and technical requirements to do so. It also orders the Ministry of Economy and Finance to allocate the financial resources required to enforce the decree and any resolutions made on the status of the Galapagos

province by the INGALA Board, the Ministry of Environment, SESA, SICGAL, and the Ministry for the Coordination of Internal and External Security (CIES). An informal English translation of the original Presidential Decree, which was in Spanish, is attached at **Annex 4**.

#### **4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY**

Based on the information gathered during the multi-stakeholder meeting and the different meetings held with individuals and institutions in the Galapagos and in Quito, the assessment of WHC and IUCN of the state of conservation of the property is that it faces a number of ascertained or potential dangers to its outstanding universal values and integrity. The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List on all four natural criteria and at least three of them (vii), (ix) and (x) and the related conditions of integrity are affected. The following are some of the specific problems:

- a) The piece-meal approach to regional planning, the lack of inter-agency coordination, and the continuing lack of political will, leadership and authority is proving inimical to the development and effective implementation of a common vision for Galapagos. It is also a limiting factor in the full application and enforcement of the Special Law for Galapagos. Consequently, there is a weakening of institutions, conflicts over jurisdiction and generally a lack of effective governance.
- b) The risks from alien invasive species are rapidly increasing, mainly as a result of increased visitation, while the Agricultural Health Service of Ecuador (SESA) and the and Inspection and Quarantine System for Galapagos (SICGAL) has inadequate staff and capacity to deal with the nature and scale of the problem. As there is no practice of fumigating aircraft and ships, SICGAL estimates that 779 invertebrates entered the islands through aircraft in 2006.
- c) The Charles Darwin Foundation has clearly documented the biodiversity threats<sup>1</sup> resulting from alien species. Since 2001, there has been a 60% increase in introduced species recorded in the archipelago. There are now 748 species of introduced plants in Galapagos compared to the 500 species of native plants. Sixty percent of the 180 endemic plant species are considered threatened according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species criteria. There are now at least 490 species of insects and 53 species of other invertebrates introduced to Galapagos; 55 of which have the potential to cause severe impacts on native biodiversity. There are 18 established species of introduced vertebrates, 13 of which are invasive. New vertebrates arrive every year and some, for example, mainland snakes are enormous risks. Marine resources including lobster, sea cucumber and grouper have declined precipitously over the last 15 years.
- d) The rapid growth of the tourism sector is haphazard and unsustainable and some activities, such as sport fishing, have been promoted and implemented despite the fact that the existing regulatory framework does not provide for such activities. Tourism is also not equitable and much of the benefits do not accrue to the local communities. Tourism visitation has grown in Galapagos

---

<sup>1</sup> Galapagos at Risk, 2007 (forthcoming)

from 40,000 in 1991 to over 120,000 in 2006. There was a 26% increase in planes and 15% in ships arriving to the islands in 2006. Other reports indicate that in the past 15 years, the number of cruise ship passenger days has increased by 150%, and the number of hotels has doubled. It is this growth that fuels immigration to the islands, which in turn leads to inter-island traffic, exacerbating the already very serious threat from introduced species.

- e) Despite clear laws restricting migration to Galapagos, the National Institute for Galapagos (INGALA) is unable to control the arrival of illegal immigrants, as there is no effective migratory control system at all of the entry points. While the population growth rate in continental Ecuador is 2.1%, it is 6.1% in the Galapagos Islands, with the population doubling every 10 years. About 20% of the resident population is reported to be illegal immigrants. This is putting pressure on the limited public services, facilities and natural resources.
- f) The staff of the National Park and Marine Reserve lack job security, stability of tenure, and the capacity and facilities for effective law enforcement. They are often the target of violence as a result of conflicts with local people and leaders.
- g) The education system has not been reformed as required under the Special Law for Galapagos, and as yet does not incorporate elements of environmental management and heritage preservation, and natural resources conservation development, further delaying the critical need to develop an insular culture focused on sustainable development.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Mission notes that the State Party had not made any significant progress in addressing the issues identified in the previous mission reports and Committee decisions. Thus, a number of serious threats continue to adversely impact on the outstanding universal values and integrity of the property. These need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The mission is of the opinion that the various activities outlined in the "action plan" prepared and submitted by the State Party comprises the package of corrective measures that needs to be implemented on priority by the State Party, in harmony with the implementation of the reform agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree.

The following are the specific recommendations of the mission:

- i) The State Party of Ecuador should be commended for the decisive action which they have taken through the Presidential Decree issued on 10 April 2007, declaring the conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority, and outlining an agenda to systematically address the various factors affecting the state of conservation of the property.
- j) The international donor and conservation community should be requested to work with the Government of Ecuador in a fully coordinated and complementary manner to support the effective and urgent implementation of the reform agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree and the various activities outlined in the action plan.

- k) The State Party should also be specifically called upon to assess the structure, finances and operations of the Galapagos National Park Service, with the objective of ensuring its strengthening so that it is well positioned to carry out its full range of responsibilities.
- l) The State Party should be asked to arrange a conference of donors and national and international conservation organisations with the objective of identifying and coordinating support for the conservation of the property under a common conservation framework.
- m) The comprehensive action plan developed by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador to deal with the 15 issues highlighted by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.29** should be accepted as the package of corrective measures, and its implementation by the State Party should be harmonised and coordinated with the process outlined in the Presidential Decree. In the process of implementing these corrective measures other complementary and supportive actions might be identified to enhance the conservation and management of the property.
- n) The implementation of the action plan and the reform agenda in the Presidential Decree should be monitored and assessed regularly by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN and reported to the World Heritage Committee.
- o) The State Party should be asked to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN by 1 November 2007 on the progress made in implementing the agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree, and a plan of action for completing all the decreed actions, particularly as the Decree requires some urgent action to be taken, within 15 to 30 days of its issue.
- p) Considering the fact that the property is affected by a number of serious threats, and that the State Party has itself identified it as being in a state of risk and a national priority, the mission recommends that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) in the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a complementary and supportive measure to draw attention to its state of conservation and mobilise international assistance.

## **ANNEXES**

Decision of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee - Annex 1

Work Agenda of Multi-stakeholder Meeting - Annex 2

Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Environment - Annex 3

Presidential Decree - Annex 4

Selected Photographs – Annex 5

**30COM 7B.29 - State of Conservation (Galápagos Islands)**

---

**Decision Text**

The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Regrets that the report submitted by the State Party was not provided in one of the working languages of the *Convention* (English or French);
4. Commends the State Party for having implemented a transparent process which led to the successful selection of a director for the Galapagos National Park Service, ending an extended period of instability;
5. Commends international donors and development agencies for their continued commitment and support for the State Party's efforts for conservation and management of the islands and in particular the State Party's recently launched initiative of establishing a Donors Roundtable and its Galapagos 2020 vision process, designed to coordinate activities and investments;
6. Also commends a number of partners and NGOs actively involved in the conservation and management of the islands for their continued support and in particular the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) for its long term and successful scientific support to Galapagos National Park;
7. Notes with great concern the variety of threats that the property faces as noted in the report of the 2006 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission;
8. Requests the State Party to organize, in cooperation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, a multi-stakeholder meeting, no later than March 2007, to i) help advance the development of the Vision for Galapagos process and ii) to clearly define benchmarks and timeframes against which progress can be measured and to which commitment of relevant national authorities and ideally of international cooperation agencies is formally obtained. Results of this meeting are to be presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007. These benchmarks and timeframes should address, as a minimum, the following issues to the satisfaction of the World Heritage Committee:
  - a) Increasing number of access points to Galapagos, both air and marine, further compounding the threat of introduced species.
  - b) Sub-optimal resource allocations for critical Galapagos conservation agencies, in particular, the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS), the National Galapagos Institute (INGALA) and the Quarantine and Inspection System (SESA-SICGAL);
  - c) Processes for the selection of leading senior posts for INGALA and SESA-SICGAL remain to be strengthened;

- d) On-going presence of a large number of illegal immigrants living in Galapagos;
- e) Sports fishing activities operating in a regulatory vacuum;
- f) Rapid and uncontrolled growth in tourist arrivals;
- g) Non-application of aircraft inspection and fumigation regulations;
- h) Non-application of quarantine measures and phytosanitary practices on cruise ships and cargo ships, as they sail between islands and from the continent to Galapagos;
- i) Fishing over-capacity and insufficient alternative opportunities for fishermen;
- j) Patterns of movements of people and goods between islands and between the continent and Galapagos, leading to increased opportunities for the dispersal of introduced species;
- k) Continental departure points and Galapagos entry points understaffed and lacking necessary infrastructure to carry out effective inspection services;
- l) Commercial shipping to Galapagos carried out by vessels very poorly designed to contain the risk of transporting alien species;
- m) Absence of a comprehensive strategy for building the capacity of permanent Galapagos residents so that they may be better prepared for employment opportunities that have traditionally been filled by non-residents;
- n) Educational reform, as called for by the Special Law for Galapagos in 1998, is not yet implemented; and
- o) Sufficient capacity to detect and react to new introductions of alien species from the continent and between the islands of the archipelago.

9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to participate in the meeting noted in point 8 above;

10. Calls on donors and development agencies to focus on rapidly capitalizing a permanent financing mechanism supporting the excellent applied research and management work carried out by the GNPS and the CDF, with emphasis on the Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Programme (GEF-UNDP) endowment fund, to a level of at least USD 15 million.

## Work Agenda of Multi-stakeholder Meeting

### Objectives:

- To present to the World Heritage Committee the problems Galapagos faces, the Ecuadorian Government's (Central Government, regional institutions and local government) and the civil society's policies and strategies in the short, medium and long terms, aimed to ensure biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and sustainable development of the islands inhabitants.
- To present the activities and steps to be implemented to guarantee the achievement of the objectives and goals agreed.

### Date and Place:

- "El Chato" – Puerto Ayora – 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2007

HOUR	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
7.30 – 8.30	Transportation of the participants to the meeting place	Galapagos National Park
8.30 – 9.00	Opening of the meeting – Registration of participants	Facilitator
	Opening Speech	Ministry of Environment or Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9.00 – 9.15	Objectives and Methodology of the Meeting	Facilitator
9.15 – 9.45	Participant's presentation	Facilitator
9.45 – 10.15	Overall view on Galapagos and main topic	Ministry of Environment / Director GNP
10.15 – 10.30	Break	
10.30 – 10.50	Prevention system of invasive species	SESA
10.50 – 11.10	Total control of invasive species	GNP – Washington Tapia
11.10 – 11.40	Forum	Facilitator
	<b>MARINE RESERVE</b>	
11.40 – 12.00	Ordering and Management	Junta de Manejo Participativo
12.00 12.20	Tourism	GNP: Edwin Naula
12.20 12.40	Artisanal Fishing	Eduardo Espinoza and the Union President of Fishing Cooperatives in Galapagos
12.40 – 13.10	Forum	Facilitator
13.10 – 14.10	Lunch	

<b>HOOR</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>
14.10 – 14.15	Synthesis	GNP Director, Facilitator
14.15 – 14.35	Education, Culture and Health	Maria Lopez, Director Galapagos Nacional Highschool
14.35 – 14.55	Populations dynamics and migration	Schubert Lombeida, Migration Coordination, INGALA
14.55 – 15.25	Forum	Facilitator
15.25 – 15.30	Synthesis	INGALA, Facilitator
15.30 – 15.50	Sustainability and Equity	Carlos Carrion G.
15.50 – 16.10	Local Governments and Governability	Mayor delegated by the local governments
16.10 – 16.30	Institutional System and Governability	Fabian Zapata, Director INGALA
16.30 – 17.00	Forum	Facilitator
17.00 – 17.15	Break	
17.15 – 17.35	Synthesis	Regional Tourism Director – Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation – Facilitator
17.35 – 17.55	Conclusions and future actions	Environment Ministry
17.55 – 18.15	Closing	Higher authority present at the meeting
18.15 – 18.45	Press meeting	Facilitator

**Activities to be undertaken to address the problems identified in the Resolution of the World Heritage Committee on Galapagos**

<b>Problem (a). The number of access points to the Galapagos Islands, by sea and by air, is on the rise, which increases the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Draft the initial proposal on regulating the arrival of international boats and aircraft	Proposal for aircraft – April 2007, for boats – end of June	Proposal drafted to be submitted to HCNAC, establishing a single departure point for aircraft. Proposal drafted and submitted to the Ministry of Defence to be implemented in the seaports of Guayaquil and Manta.	Galapagos National Park (GNP), with the support of SESA, INGALA, DIGMER and the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF)
Reach agreement between institutions involved in regulating the arrival of international boats and aircraft	2007	Proposal agreed	GNP, INGALA, municipalities and DIGMER
Draft the definitive proposal on regulating the arrival of international boats and aircraft	2007		GNP
Submit the definitive proposal to the Government	2007-2008	Law regulating the arrival of international aircraft and boats	Ministry of the Environment
Draft a proposal on prohibiting night flights	2007		GNP
Reach agreement between institutions involved in prohibiting night flights	2007		GNP, INGALA, municipal governments and DAC
Draft a definitive proposal on prohibiting night flights	2007		GNP

Submit the proposal to the Ecuadorian Government	2007	Executive Decree prohibiting night flights	Ministry of the Environment
Fix permitted departure points to the Galapagos Islands	2007	One agreement regulating permitted departure points to the Galapagos Islands	DIGMER, GNP, INGALA, MINTUR
<b>Problem (b).The resources allocated to the Galapagos conservation agencies have not been optimized, particularly in relation to GNP, INGALA and SESA</b>			
<b>Pending activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Evaluate the human and financial resources of GNP, INGALA and SESA	Until the second quarter of 2007	Evaluation undertaken of the human and financial resources of GNP, INGALA and SESA	GNP, INGALA and SESA, SEMPLADES
Design and implement financial management indicators for GNP, INGALA and SESA	2007-2008	Financial management indicators implemented in GNP, INGALA and SESA	MAE, GNP, INGALA, SESA
Design and implement an annual accounting system for GNP, INGALA and SESA	2007-2008	Accounting system now operating in GNP, INGALA and SICGAL	GNP, INGALA and SESA
Determine the professional and technical profiles necessary for each of the posts to be filled in the three institutions	2007	Professional profiles approved for the three institutions	GNP, INGALA and SESA
Draft a proposal for and implement a personnel selection system based on terms of reference and selection by merit for GNP, INGALA and SESA (depoliticization)	2007	System to select personnel on merit for GNP, INGALA and SESA	GNP, INGALA and SESA
<b>Problem (c).The selection process for the highest-ranking posts in INGALA and SESA must be strengthened</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Technical criteria in tourism to fix the terms of reference and technical and professional profiles for each post	2007	One document with technical criteria in tourism for the selection of: INGALA Manager, PGN	MINTUR

		Director, and Municipal Directors of Tourism	
Draft a proposal so that the posts of INGALA Manager and SESA Director are technical posts, based on terms of reference, selection by merit and a 4 year period in-post, independent of changes in government	2007-2008	Proposal for selecting posts submitted and approved	SENPLADES leads a working group with GNP, INGALA and SESA, drafting a institutional design proposal
Institutionalize the selection of the Management of the Galapagos National Park in accordance with the selection on merit competition already carried out	2007	Selection on merit of GNP Management institutionalized through Executive Decree and Ministerial Accord	PR, MAE, GNP
<b>Problem (d). The significant number of illegal immigrants in the Galapagos Islands is rising</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Agree upon and submit the Migration Regulations to the Ecuadorian Government	End of May 2007	Draft Migration Regulations agreed and submitted to the Government	INGALA, INGALA Board
Adopt the Migration Regulations	2007	Executive Decree bringing Migration Regulations into force	Ecuadorian Government
Comply with the Migration Regulations	2008 onwards	Quarterly evaluation of compliance with migratory controls by INGALA and the police	INGALA and the Migration Police
Forge and bring into force a migration policy	2008	Migratory policy in force	INGALA, INGALA Board
Strengthen checks by authorities at the local level	2007	Halve the number of persons illegally present in the Galapagos	INGALA and the Migration Police

		Islands by the year-end	
<b>Problem (e).Non-regulation of recreational fishing activities</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Undertake a study on the environmental impact of recreational fishing	2007	Environmental impact study undertaken, analysing the effects of recreational fishing	DIGMER, GNP
Draft and agree upon a proposal regulating the prohibition of or conditions for recreational fishing	2007-2008	Draft regulations on the prohibition of or conditions for recreational fishing established	MAE, GNP, JMP
Draft and agree upon a proposal setting the technical standards for recreational fishing	2007	One technical standard for recreational fishing drafted	MINTUR with support consultancy from the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB-MIF), CAPTURGAL
<b>Problem (f).Rapid and unbridled growth in the number of tourists coming to the Galapagos Islands</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Define a tourism model for the Galapagos Islands, based on the study undertaken by INGAL	2008-2009	Tourism model for the Galapagos approved	GNP Management, MT, INGALA, municipalities
Approval of the GNP Administrative Statute	2007	GNP Administrative Statute approved	MAE, GNP
Draft and approve the study on the capacity of places to visit on land in GNP	2007	Study on the capacity of places to visit on land undertaken	MAE, GNP
Environmental restoration of degraded sites	2007	Environmental restoration of	GNP

		degraded places to visit undertaken	
Establish the technical standards fixing the maximum number of tourists per vessel <i>per annum</i>	2007	Technical standards establishing the maximum number of tourists per vessel <i>per annum</i> in force	GNP
Establish and fix the maximum acceptable capacity of tourists <i>per annum</i>	2007	Maximum acceptable capacity of tourists <i>per annum</i> established and fixed	MAE, GNP, Guides, ATI, municipalities, ASOGAL
Undertake a Naturalist Guide Course on Isabela Island	2007	Naturalist Guide Course on Isabela Island carried out	GNP
List the tourist attractions located in areas adjoining populated areas and buffer zones, in compliance with zoning by the competent authority	2007	One database of tourist attractions in the Islands established	MINTUR, GNP, municipalities
Consider the possibility of opening other visiting and recreation sites	2007	One report with a list of potential new places to visit	GNP, MINTUR
Study the supply and demand of tourism to the Islands	2007	One study of tourism supply and demand on the Islands undertaken	MIF, MINTUR
Develop and implement a tourist statistics system within the SETE project	2007-2009	One IT system developed and in operation	MINTUR
Forge a Development of Sustainable Tourism Strategic Plan (PLANDETUR) for the Galapagos Islands	2008-2009	One Development of Sustainable Tourism Strategic Plan for the Galapagos	MINTUR, IBD-MIF, CAPTURGAL, DIRTURS, INGALA
Execute three strategic plans for tourism by local governments: Isabela, San Cristóbal, Santa Cruz (institutional strengthening, destination management and improvement of the welcome accorded to tourists) so that competence in this field becomes decentralized	2007-2008	Three strategic plans for tourism in the execution phase	MINTUR, municipalities, INGALA
Define the occupancy capacity of land-based tourist establishments	2007	One agreed technical document on occupancy capacity in land-based	MINTUR, IBD-MIF,

		tourist establishments	CAPTURGAL
Develop technical standards to categorize tourist boats per tourist operation	2007-2009	15 technical standards for tourist operations defined	MINTUR with support consultancy from IBD-MIF, CAPTURGAL
<b>Problem (g) Regulations on inspecting and fumigating aircraft are not applied</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Redesign cabotage boats	2007-2009	X no of cabotage boats redesigned	DIGMER
Shape, agree upon, implement and nationalize Inspection and Fumigation protocols for aircraft	2007	Protocols in execution and nationalized by SESA, DAC and DIGMER.	SESA-DAC and DIGMER
Increase SICGAL technical personnel	End of April	DIGMER resolution allowing sailing following presentation of clearance documents	DIGMER, SESA
Train health inspectors to implement the protocol	2007	X no of health inspectors trained to implement the protocol	SESA-SICGAL
Application of the Protocol for the Inspection and Fumigation of Aircraft	2007	100% of application of the Protocol for the Inspection and Fumigation of Aircraft	SESA-SIGGAL
<b>Problem (h). Failure to apply the quarantine measures and the phytosanitary practices in cruisers and freighters both between the islands and between the mainland and Galapagos</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Establish an anti-rodent and anti-insect campaign in Guayaquil Wharf	2007	Anti-rodent and anti-insect campaign carried out in Guayaquil Wharf	SESA-SIGGAL, GNP and CDF

Draft and put into effect protocol for inspection of boats	May, 2007	protocol for inspection of boats in force	SIGGAL-GAT
Make it legally binding to obtain inspection clearance before setting sail	2007	Inspection clearance norms now in force	SESA-SIGGAL, DIGMER, Capitanías de Puerto (Harbour masters offices).
Increase number of inspectors and train them	March, 2007	X no of inspection personnel contracts signed and X no of inspectors trained	SESA
<b>Problem (I). Overexploitation of fish resources and insufficient opportunities for alternative employment for the small-scale fishing sector</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Promotion and training for demonstration fishing	2007	X no of persons trained for demonstration fishing	GNP and Fishing Cooperatives
Raise funds for strengthening demonstration fishing	2007	Successful raising of funds for strengthening demonstration fishing	GNP and International Cooperation Agencies
Establish Web page for demonstration fishing and sale of package tours	2007	Web page for demonstration fishing established	GNP and International Cooperation Agencies
Provision of equipment on the basis of loan and restitution contracts for collection centres	2007	Equipment provided to collection centres	GNP and Fishing Cooperatives
Monitor and establish results of plans for boosting fish stocks	2007	Results achieved in plans to boost fish stocks	GNP and Fishing Cooperatives
Seek funds for training courses in fishing	2007	Funds secured for training courses in fishing	GNP and International Cooperation Agencies
Seek funds for Pilot Project to Cultivate Pearls	2007	X% of financing provided for Pilot	GNP and International

		Project to Cultivate Pearls	Cooperation Agencies
Increase the number of personnel for inspecting boats and aircraft leaving the Galapagos	2007	Provision of X number of personnel responsible for inspecting boats and aircraft leaving the Galapagos	GNP-SENRES
Provision of a fleet of boats for inspection duty and sea patrol	2007	Fleet of X no of boats for inspection duty and sea patrol available	GNP
Search for funds to conduct feasibility study for breeding and liberation of commercial species	2007	Funds provided for feasibility studies for breeding and liberation of commercial species	GNP and International Cooperation Agencies
Search for funds for consultancy in commercialisation of fishing	2007	Funds provided for commercialisation of fishing	GNP and International Cooperation Agencies
Implement optimisation fund for fishing which exists in regulations	2007-2008	Implementation of optimisation fund for fishing	GNP
Strengthen collection centres	2007-2008-2009	X no of centres strengthened	GNP
<b>Problem (j). The movement of people and freight between islands and between the mainland and Galapagos increases opportunities for the dispersal of invasive species</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>indicators</b>	<b>Institutions responsible</b>
Include sexual education teaching post in curriculum	2007	Inclusion of sexual education teaching post in curriculum	DPE (Provincial Education Authority)

Promote health and prevent diseases (Sexually transmitted diseases-HIV/AIDS. Diseases transmitted by vectors)	2007,2008,2009	X no of workshops provided for health personnel and the community, X no of units of educational materials distributed, X no of vectors inspection campaigns conducted	MSP-Municipalities-Armed Forces
Conduct continuing campaigns for Family Planning, prevention of pregnancy in adolescents, and second pregnancies	2007	Conduction, <i>per annum</i> , of X nos of continuing campaigns for Family Planning, prevention of pregnancy in adolescents, and second pregnancies	MSP
Carry out continuing inspections and monitoring of water quality	Continuing	X nos of continuing inspections and monitoring of water quality carried out <i>per annum</i>	MSP, Municipalities
Inspection and monitoring of solid wastes	Continuing	X % of treatment of solid wastes	Municipalities, MSP
Improve access to health coverage	Continuing	X% increase in health coverage	MSP
Create 4 Cantonal Health Councils	2007, 2008, 2009	4 Cantonal Health Councils created	MSP, Municipalities
Fix maximum number of tourists <i>per annum</i>	2007	Maximum number of tourists <i>per annum</i> fixed	MAE, GNP
Control of illegal migration	2007	X% of illegal migration reached	INGALA, Police
Complete inspection control of cargo and persons being transported to or from the Galapagos.	Continuous	X% of inspection control of freight and persons going to the Galapagos carried out, registrations of luggage and cargo inspection from the mainland and between the islands.	SESA

<b>Problem (k). Lack of staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galapagos for effective inspection.</b>			
<b>Pending activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Increase in SICGAL staff in order to carry out full inspection	2007		SESA – SICGAL
Prohibiting boats from setting sail or aeroplanes from taking off without inspection.	End of March	Interinstitutional meeting to harmonize inspection procedures and to establish coordination mechanisms	DAC, DIGMER and Capitanías de Puerto.
Prohibiting aircraft and boats from entering populated or protected areas without inspection.	2007	X% of aircraft and boat inspection	GNP, DAC, DIGMER and Capitanías de Puerto.
<b>Problem (l). Cabotage boats do not meet the basic conditions for cargo and food transportation, increasing the risk of introduction of invasive species.</b>			
<b>Pending activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Establish terms of reference for quality standards that boats must meet.	October 2007	Terms of reference to publish standards for the transportation of agricultural products and livestock	SESA, GNP, GAT, CDF and DIGMER.
Permanent system for rodent and insect control on board boats prior to setting sail.	June 2007	Protocols updated and revised jointly with DIGMER for rodent control.	DIGMER, SESA
<b>Problem (m). Absence of a general capacity-building strategy among local residents to enable them to be better prepared to undertake technical or professional work traditionally done by foreigners.</b>			
<b>Pending activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>
Planning and implementation of REIG (Integral Educational Reform for the Galapagos).	2007		Directorate for Education

Negotiations to obtain student grants.	2007		GNP, CDF, Prefecture and Municipalities.
Negotiating funds for training courses.	2007		GNP
Creation of medium-level occupations in the technical institutes on the islands (Colegio Galápagos and Colegio Ignacio Hernández).		Intermediate courses at two levels: (a) post-basic and (b) post-secondary education according to areas identified by DPG ((a) Naval Mechanics, Handicrafts and Beauty; (b) Hotel and Catering, Tourism (Ecological), Gastronomy and Computer Science).	ME
Setting up a course for naturalist guides in the Galapagos.	2007-2008	Six naturalist guide courses by category (I, II, III)	MINTUR in coordination with GNP
Awareness campaigns on the importance of the development of sustainable tourism in the Galapagos.	2007-2008	Two awareness campaigns each year	MINTUR, Municipalities
Training plan for low- and medium-level tourist workers.	2007-2010	One tourist worker training plan per sector	MINTUR, Municipalities, INGALA, GNP
Establishing family support centres.	2007-2010	X family support centres established	DPE
Creating cultural spaces.	2007-2012	At least three cultural spaces created	MC (Ministry of Culture), Municipalities
Budgeting for a special fund for education.	2007-2008	Special fund for education created	ME
<b>Problem (n). The Integral Educational Reform has not been implemented despite having been in the LOREG (Organic Law for the Special Regimen for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Galapagos since 1998.</b>			
<b>Pending activities</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>

Evaluating the level of education of teachers and students.	2007	Establishing baselines and creating databases.  Permanent monitoring by Education Supervisors and reports highlighting baseline progress.	DPE and specific consultants
Formulating REIG proposal and consensus with other institutions.	2007	DPG worked on a Integral Educational Reform proposal in February 2007.  A database has been created of the results that support this proposal to make REIG viable. Fifty per cent of the above-mentioned courses would begin in the 2008 academic year.	DPE, GNP, CDF, Prefecture and Municipalities.
Training of teachers	2007	Drafting of the permanent Training Plan begun and concluded in the second quarter of the 2007-2008 academic year, charged against the financial resources budgeted in the MEC divisions and agreements in the new specialization areas and/or the creation of financial allotments for bringing specialists from the mainland to the Islands	DPE
<b>Problem (o). Early detection and eradication of invasive species arriving from the mainland or other islands is impossible</b>			
<b>Activities pending</b>	<b>Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Institutions responsible</b>
Draw up a black list of invasive species for the Galapagos Islands	End of 2009	Capitalized trust fund, focusing on activities for the early detection and/or eradication of introduced species	GNP, SESA

Draw up black lists between islands	2007		GNP, SICGAL
Implement training courses for inspectors	2007		SICGAL, PNG and FCD
Install incinerators on all islands	2007		SICGAL
Launch an awareness-raising campaign for quarantine species	2007		GNP, FCD
Shape a prevention strategy for invasive species	2007		SICGAL, GNP, FCD and GAT
Draft a Total Control of Invasive Species Plan	2007		SICGAL, FCD and GNP
Train park rangers and naturalist guides to detect quarantine pests	2007		SCIGAL, GNP and FCD
Launch awareness-raising campaigns for West Nile Virus	2007		SESA, GNP
Agricultural Sector			
Establish soft and long-term lines of credit, since investment in these activities is required	2007, 2008	Line of credit established	MAG
Increase agricultural production for self-sufficiency	2007-2010	X% of agricultural self-production increased	MAG
Boost technical assistance and training	2008-2009	X technical assistance and training programmes implemented	MAG and other actors
Pest control campaign	2007-2009	Pest control campaigns launched	MAG
Open markets for strategic products from the Galapagos Islands	2007-2010	X markets opened for strategic products from the Galapagos Islands	MAG and other actors

Centralize logistics in Baltra for the arrival of food and generating its distribution in the Islands	2007-2012	Baltra operating as a logistical centre	All
Establish an abattoir for slaughtering cattle	2007-2011	Abattoir operating	Municipality
Health Sector			
Strengthen public health control and monitoring	2007-2011	Public health control and monitoring system strengthened	MSP
Improve infrastructure	2007-2011	Health service infrastructure improved	MSP
Employ more doctors	2007-2008	X doctors hired by the Galapagos Health Service	MSP
Establish effective controls to combat vectors such as malaria and dengue fever	2007-2010	Effective controls to combat vectors established	MSP
Foster family and HIV/AIDS control programmes	2007-2012	X family and HIV/AIDS control programmes	MSP

**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE**

(Informal translation and without the preamble)

Art. 1 - The conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos archipelago ecosystem is declared in a state of risk and national priority.

Art. 2 - The Governor of the Galapagos Province, in his capacity as the President of the National Institute for Galapagos (INGALA), is ordered to convene an urgent meeting of the INGALA Council within 15 days, to address and make policies on the following agenda:

1. To determine the current status of conservation, development and health (sanitation) of the archipelago and its marine reserve.
2. To determine the efficacy of the total control of introduced species.
3. To study the possibility of temporarily suspending the issuance of new tourism patents and air operation permits.
4. To study the possibility of temporarily suspending residence permits.
5. To prioritise compliance with the provisions of Articles 4 (functions of INGALA) and 6 (powers of the INGALA Council) of the Special Law for Galapagos.
6. To coordinate fulfillment of the powers and responsibilities of each of the institutions with activities in the Galapagos province.
7. To order the performance of the population census on the archipelago and devolution to the continent of inhabitants living illegally on the islands.

Art. 3 - To order that the SESA and SICGAL present the INGALA Board, with the urgency that the case demands, with a report on invading species control in the Galapagos province and all other procedures and activities performed by these entities. In addition, within 30 days they should submit, in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, a proposal for the eradication of the primary introduced species and the financial and technical requirements to do so.

Art. 4 - Through the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to order the allocation of the economic resources required to enforce this decree and any resolutions made on the status of the Galapagos province by the INGALA Board, the Ministry of Environment, SESA, SICGAL, and the Ministry for the Coordination of Internal and External Security (CIES).

General Provision - The Provincial Governor of Galapagos, who presides the INGALA Board, shall have a tie-breaking vote when there is no majority in decisions made by that body.

Final Provision - The Ministries of Economy and Finance, Agriculture, Environment, tourism, and of CIES are charged with implementing this decree, which will become effective as of this date, without prejudice to its publication in the official gazette.

Done in the National Palace in Quito on 10 April 2007.

Rafael Correa Delgado  
President of the Republic

Ricardo Patino Aroca  
Minister of Economy and Finance

Carlos Vallejo Lopez  
Minister of Agriculture

Anita Alban Mora  
Minister of Environment

Fernando Bustamante  
Minister of Coordinating Internal and External Security

Maria Isabel Salvador  
Minister of Tourism

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS



A Caldera on Santa Cruz Island



Alien plant control effort



Native vegetation in Santa Cruz



View of multi-stakeholder meeting



Waste recycling plant on Santa Cruz