



## 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement and

## Call for Abstracts!

## Galapagos Symposium 2009 (July 20-24, 2009)

**“Darwin’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50 years of conservation in the Galapagos: the role of science in developing a sustainable future”**

Directors of Science responsible:

Matthias Wolff  
Mark Gardener

[Contact: paulina.couenberg@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:paulina.couenberg@fcdarwin.org.ec)

### **Context**

2009 will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin’s birth in 1809, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his seminal work *“On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life”* and 50 years since the establishment of the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). 2009 offers an unprecedented opportunity to

## Galapagos Symposium 2009

---

celebrate these three events in a way that will focus international attention on one of the world's most vulnerable and unique ecosystems.

CDF proposes a scientific symposium with five aims:

- to recognize and honor the scientific work of Charles Darwin, particularly in the context of creationism's challenges to the evidence for evolution;
- to review the scientific work and achievements of the CDF and its partner institutions to conserve the Galapagos Archipelago;
- to discuss the present role of science in developing a sustainable future for Galapagos;
- to foster collaborations with international experts in conservation and social sciences, to the long term benefit of Galapagos;
- to use conference attendance fees to leverage funds for research to benefit Galapagos.

It is proposed that delegates will be invited based on relevant experience to Galapagos/ Island systems. [A call for abstracts, based on thematic sessions outlined below, forms the basis of the selection of the participants.](#)

Hosted by the Charles Darwin Foundation in the town of Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos, the event will provide a forum for world experts in conservation science, and friends and sponsors committed to the conservation of the Galapagos, to meet and exchange state-of-the-art knowledge. Each day will have a thematic focus and will be divided into a morning sequence of three invited keynotes, followed by theme-specific lectures. In the afternoon expert theme workshops will be conducted.

The current conflict between conservation and the socio-economic development of Galapagos, and approaches to resolve this, will be a central topic. The specific themes of the Symposium are given in the following table, together with thematic keywords, meant to give an orientation for abstract submissions. Invited Keynotes and theme specific talks shall have a duration of 45 and 20 minutes respectively. Registration fees to the Symposium will be 400 US\$. For those that register early, accommodation arrangements will be provided at reasonable costs through the CDF-guest house facilities.

### Preliminary Symposium Programme

Day	Theme	Abstracts/Key words
Monday, 20.07.09  morning	<b>Evolutionary biology with a focus on small islands</b> <b>Keynote 1:</b> Charles Darwin's work (with special reference to the Galapagos) in the light of the present	Islands versus continents; rate of evolution and speciation; microevolution, macroevolution, etc.

## Galapagos Symposium 2009

	<p>debate between Creationism vs. Darwin's theory of Evolution</p> <p><b>Keynote 2:</b> Research on Evolutionary Principles in Galapagos: an overview of the past 50 years</p> <p><b>Keynote 3:</b> Evolution of the human society on Galapagos since the first colonizers until today</p>	
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Workshop: Evolution</b>	
<p>Tuesday, 21.07.09</p> <p>morning</p>	<p><b>Biodiversity monitoring-</b></p> <p><b>Keynote 1:</b> State of the biodiversity knowledge of the Galapagos Islands: an overview on the terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Keynote 2:</b> Biodiversity of the Galapagos Marine Reserve: status of the present knowledge</p> <p><b>Keynote 3:</b> Methodological approaches for biodiversity monitoring: challenges and pitfalls.</p>	<p>Shifting Baselines; temporal and spatial resolution; environmental and human impacts; species versus functional groupings; bio-indicators for change;</p>
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Workshop: Monitoring</b>	
<p>Wednesday 22.07.09</p> <p>morning</p>	<p>Field trip to El Chato tortoise reserve</p>	
<b>afternoon</b>	<p><b>Understanding system resilience: quantification and modeling of system dynamics</b></p> <p><b>Keynote 1:</b> A system approach for conservation science</p> <p><b>Keynote 2:</b> The role of modeling in conservation science</p> <p><b>Keynote 3:</b> How to measure system resilience – comparing marine and terrestrial systems</p>	<p>Model complexity; Island resilience; experimental approaches; Learning from natural disturbances (El Niño events, hurricanes, fires); stable states of ecosystems</p>
<p>Thursday, 23.07.09</p> <p>morning</p>	<p><b>The need to reconcile biodiversity conservation with socio-economic development</b></p> <p><b>Keynote 1:</b> The needs and limits for economic valuation of biodiversity conservation</p> <p><b>Keynote 2:</b> Incentives for Conserving Nature: Examples that have worked)</p> <p><b>Keynote 3:</b> The role of education programs to foster Nature conservation - what has been learned?</p>	<p>Livelihoods and conservation; long term sustainability (50 years); pioneer vs. islander mentality; governance models (centralized vs regionalized); stakeholder involvements; co-management approaches; integrating social and ecological systems; the role of education; the role of resources-option analysis</p>
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Workshop: Conservation &amp; development</b>	
<p>Friday, 24.07.09</p> <p>morning</p>	<p><b>Restoration of ecosystems: concepts and tools for self-sustaining systems</b></p> <p><b>Keynote 1:</b> Restoration of degraded systems: possibilities and limits</p> <p><b>Keynote 2:</b> An ecosystem approach to invasive species management</p> <p><b>Keynote 3:</b> Eradication programs worldwide and their success: an overview</p>	<p>Reference states; ecosystem functionality problems/advantages of island restoration; role of invasive species; importance of threatened species; promoting active restoration (land) vs. eliminating negative pressures (MPAs, water); tools for different spatial scales (gardening concept vs. steady</p>

## Galapagos Symposium 2009

---

		state systems)
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Workshop: Restoration</b>	