

PARTICIPATORY INITIATIVE TO PROTECT KEY MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN ECUADOR

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Galera-San Francisco conserves biodiversity with the support of local communities

This area features an outstanding variety of coastal and marine habitats including mangroves, estuaries, rocky reefs, and coral patches, with high levels of biodiversity.



Local residents are strongly dependent on natural resources for their subsistence, and artisanal fishing is one of their main activities.



The Galera-San Francisco area on the northern coast of Ecuador holds the last remnants of the Chocó-Darién-Tumbes-Magdalena hotspot and is part of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS), a regional marine conservation and sustainable development initiative led by Conservation International that supports transboundary marine management cooperation between Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador.

Galapagos has now a major counterpart on the mainland: Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve, the only protected area of this kind on the Ecuadorian coast.



Why is this a success story?

1. Local communities are fully involved
2. Conservation and development institutions are compromised
3. Political support by national authorities



To effectively implementing and managing the MPA, stakeholders and authorities are organized in a participatory committee for the decision-making to develop a management plan with specific and effective management actions, fair economic alternatives and governance models that will promote the marriage between conservation and sustainable local development.



Conservation agreements play an important role in management and implementation of conservation actions.



Threats to biodiversity

Overfishing, bycatch, habitat destruction, deforestation, pollution, and uncontrolled coastal development

Conservation actions

Fishing areas mapping
Zoning implementation
Fisheries code of conduct
Replacement of bad fishing practices

Benefits

Organization
Capitalization of fishing cooperatives
Capacity building, equipment and training
Market access

Opportunity cost

Invert time
Gasoline
Change bad practices
Get involved in outreach campaigns, monitoring and patrolling

Endowments

