



STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE PROCESSES IN THE GALAPAGOS MARINE RESERVE

Traditional Fishing Tourism is on its Way

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During the second year of Overbrook Foundation's support, FFLA is concentrating its efforts in supporting the Fishing Sector to find sustainable economic alternatives which will reduce pressures over traditional fisheries, like sea cucumber and lobster. One of the economic alternatives, the fisherman prioritized, is Traditional Fishing Tourism (TFT).



The TFT is a non extractive source of income where fishermen take tourist on their daily fishing routine, in which they demonstrate the traditional fishing techniques during the trip. The tourist has also the opportunity to meet the fishermen's culture and experiences.

After a long dialogue process conducted by FFLA, with activities like facilitation of assemblies and individual and group meetings, the TFT proposal was approved by the AIM (Autoridad Interministerial de Manejo)¹ on December 20, 2005.

Since then, the TFT became a new opportunity to consolidate and establish collaborative relations between the private tourism sector, conservation organizations and the fishing sector. To crystallize this collaboration, FFLA proposed the formation of a fund to provide fishermen with initial investment in equipment (safety engine, life vests, etc) so that they can transform their fishing boats into safe and comfortable boats for tourism. Through the administration of this fund, FFLA believes that the traditional Fishermen Cooperatives at the Galapagos will be strengthened.

After several meetings convened and facilitated by FFLA, all sectors agreed on the objectives and methodology of the Fund. Finally, in March the "Contest for Projects of Traditional Fishing Tourism" was made public along with the Fishing Cooperatives; and with the collaboration of Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA), Fundación Natura and the National Association of Tourism Enterprises in Galapagos (ASOGAL).

The FDC, WWF and ASOGAL will make financial contributions to the fund, while FFLA and Fundación Natura will coordinate the contest, and control the loan assigning process, both technically and administratively.

¹ AIM: Inter. Ministry Authority: Maximum Authority Board of the Islands comprised by the Ministers of: Natural Resources, Defense, Commerce, Tourism and a representative of the fishing, commerce and tourism sectors.

Once the funds are obtained, a Rotating Fund will be created along with the Fishing Cooperatives, which will thereafter be in charge of administering the fund. The amounts invested in the loans will be refunded to the fishing cooperatives through small payments over long periods of time. Thus, with the repayments from the first 20 beneficiaries, other loans can be made to new fishermen, who wish to get involved in TFT.

The terms of reference for the contest have been launched and fishermen are working on their proposals. After the proposal submission deadline, FFLA will evaluate the proposals. Loans will be awarded to those fishermen who will follow the selection criteria with equipments and adaptations to their ships that will enable fishermen to take tourists on a Traditional Fishing Experience.