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Population Growth

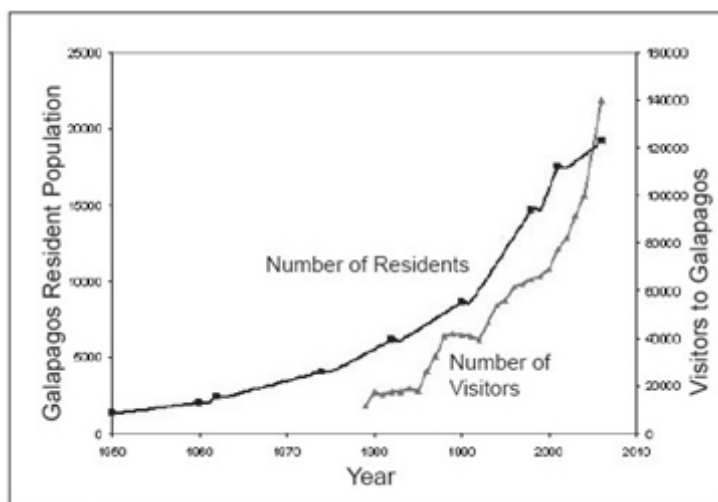
plane at Baltra Airport. (Photo by Lori Ulrich)

and population growth was among the 15 issues identified by the committee when it recommended that Galapagos be placed on the Red List of Threatened Species.

Residents numbered approximately 4,000. Between 1991 and 2007, the population doubled to more than 20,000. The population stands at just over 25,000 today, including temporary residents and up to 5,000 residents whose status in Galapagos is uncertain.

Since the 1960s, tourism has been the most important factor contributing to population growth. In the past 50 years, gross income generated by tourism has increased by an average of 10% per year. This is reflected in the increase in available beds (in both hotels and on tourist boats) from 3,473 in 2006 and the rise in the number of visitors to Galapagos from 145,000 in 2006. At present, Galapagos tourism generates \$418M annually. An estimated \$63M enters the local economy (equal to 51% of the Galapagos tourism requires ever-increasing infrastructure and human resources. It has led to the growth of local small enterprises, which, in turn, contribute to increased

The report included heavy criticism of Ecuador's economic policy during the 1980s and 1990s, when the sea cucumber fishery collapsed. Between 1999 to 2005, the sea cucumber fishery grew by 60%. In the 1990s, the sea cucumber fishery lost more than 6% of its catch, but 2% on the average. The sea cucumber fishery in Galapagos every year, see Taylor



The Law of 1998 laid out immigration protocols which sought to limit the size of the population, but loopholes and incomplete and inconsistent implementation of the Law have led to continued growth.

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growth

is and at visitor sites, the impact of increased numbers of visitors and all managed through standard protected area management techniques, accompany visitors, fixed itineraries, and a limited number of tourism (2001). The Galapagos National Park Service monitors visitor sites and can carry infrastructure such as stairs or walkways, or change itineraries in areas.

ed portions of the archipelago have been much more pronounced. Increasing incidents have resulted in a rapid growth in physical infrastructure and ever-bolic services.

Galapagos has grown, the number of airports in the islands has increased. ber of flights from the continent have increased from a few flights per week of six flights per day today, the number of cargo ships and the amount of and increasingly more fuel is brought to the islands increasing the risk of oil rgo ship Jessica in 2001. Commercial flights to Galapagos increased by and more private flights are arriving from other countries (Cruz, Martínez and ss routes overcome natural barriers that protect the islands from the arrival se in flights, new access routes, and cargo ships will potentially bring an ive species – the greatest threat to the archipelago. Invasive species links to ssue

eritage Committee Mission Report in 2007, the Ecuadorian government olemented a policy known as “*Zero people on irregular status in Galapagos*,” ntation of a system of Transit Control Cards for visitors, a more transparent nent and temporary residency status, and penalties (such as a one-year os) for those whose status in Galapagos is found to be “irregular.” In 2009, e returned to the mainland, 694 were informed of their irregular status, and rning to Galapagos for a period of one year. For more information, see the e World Heritage Center/IUCN commission.

de in the area of population control, it is generally believed that the pressure ary immigrants to help serve the tourism sector will continue until tourism is efforts are made to build the capacity of the local workforce.

sus (INEC)

Economy, Population Growth, and Conservation in Galapagos. (2007)

otoruism and Economic Growth in the Galapagos: An Island Economy

CN Reactive Monitoring Report (2010)

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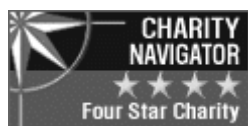
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