



VULNERABILITY TO VIABILITY
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V2V Thematic Webinar Series 2021

GOVERNANCE REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE PARADISE: CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Don't miss out on the inspiring presentation by María José on the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on eco-tourism along the Galapagos Islands. The presentation will also discuss the various initiatives taken by local entities in light of the crisis.

Date: Friday, June 25, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM UTC to 1:15 PM UTC

8:00 AM EDT to 9:15 AM EDT

1:00 PM BST to 2:15 PM BST

Link: <https://youtu.be/YZATYyLkiSE>



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The Galapagos Islands have been perceived to be one of the most popular nature-based tourism destinations in the world. During the last five decades, this 'paradise' on earth has gone through a process of growth, mainly based on an economic model developed and fully reliant on nature-based tourism. In early 2020, however, the entire Galapagos archipelago was 'closed' for four months, due to the COVID19 pandemic, with a decrease in the arrival of tourists and thus, on the economic benefits for the local economy. This caused a crisis that still is felt at a local level but this situation has also contributed to varied initiatives and good examples of resilience and adaptation, that have strengthened the human society in the islands. Additional consequences are still unforeseen, mainly due to the uncertainty on how tourism and other economic-related activities will be addressed in the immediate future. This talk will explore those challenges but also will illustrate some opportunities that have been driven by the crisis.

SPEAKER BIO:

María José obtained her Ph.D. in Human Geography from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, a Master of Science degree from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, and a Bachelor of Biological Sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. Her early research work was related to marine-coastal ecosystems, emphasizing human interactions with wild marine fauna within the context of protected areas. Her Doctoral research was inspired by the governance of marine resources focused on marine protected areas and their governance with the Galapagos Marine Reserve case study. She was later a post-doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen, Germany. Here, she developed research areas on the governance of artisanal fisheries, with a focus on the sociology of knowledge and development and food security from a maritime perspective. Since the beginning of 2018, María José is the Science Director at the Charles Darwin Foundation and was also appointed as Interim Executive Director of the same institution from April 1st, 2020 till February 28th, 2021.

