

**Marcela Aguiñaga Vallejo**  
**Environment Minister of Ecuador**

Good evening,

For me as a young, professional woman and the Environment Minister of Ecuador it is an honour to be here.

The government of Ecuador is fully committed to participate in the Global Island Partnership. Our territory includes several islands, including the famous Galapagos Archipelago, a World Heritage Site that has two protected areas: the Galapagos National Park and the Marine Reserve.

As a clear demonstration of our strong commitment to conserve its biological diversity, Ecuador has created the Galapagos Invasive Species Control Fund. This endowment fund will secure the long-term financial sustainability of the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species on the islands, which is the main threat to biodiversity in this unique ecosystem.

The Ecuadorian government last year invested USD 2 million as seed funding, which was matched by the generous contributions of different donors and partners – such as the GEF, the UN Foundation, UNESCO, Conservation International, Global Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy and the Galapagos Conservancy.

Today I have the pleasure to announce an additional contribution of USD 3 million to this Fund, as part of the commitment of the government of Ecuador.

We invite the international community to match this contribution to reach the target of USD 15 million!

Finally, I would like to thank the organizers of this event and I hope that the Ecuadorian experience can be used as a model to be replicated by other GLISPA countries facing the same threat.

Thank you so much.