

# LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**L**indblad Expeditions (LEX) has always believed in supporting the local communities to which it brings guests. One way that Lindblad Expeditions has chosen to give back to the regions that it works in is through the support of local micro-enterprise initiatives. Below are brief descriptions of some of the community development programs supported by LEX.

## **FUDECA**

In 2007, Lindblad Expeditions established a foundation in Ecuador, FUDECA (Fundacion de Artesanos Ecuatonanos) with the goal of supporting the development of skilled artisans. In addition, FUDECA was designed to promote traditional craft production in the Region and to generate economic growth at the local level. This is being accomplished by creating enterprise opportunities for local artisans living on the Galapagos Islands who are interested in making and selling artisanal products to the growing tourism sector. Through assistance with product creation and design, as well as training seminars that teach the skills necessary to run a successful craft based enterprise, Lindblad Expeditions hopes to encourage more local artisans to take part in this Galapagos Islands' initiative.



## **Glass Recycling Project**

Launched in 2008, the Glass Recycling Project is based in Puerto Ayora. This project seeks to reuse glass waste by transforming it into jewelry art objects and glassware.

Lindblad Expeditions is working with master glassmaker, John Gilvey, the founder of Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon, NY on this project.

## **Lindblad Artisan Fund**

In many parts of the world, craft development is the second largest income generator in rural areas, second only to agriculture. It is also, in many cases, a key component to preserving cultural heritage and empowering communities that may otherwise be left behind in today's global economy.

Lindblad Expeditions believes that as travelers we are enriched by crafts and by the effect they have on the well-being of the people we visit. It is for this reason that we have established the

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*Lindblad Artisan Fund.* This Fund will provide support to a variety of communities around the world to develop their craft potential more effectively, safely and successfully. In certain instances it will involve training for artists; and in other cases, it will involve supplying equipment and helping to find creative ways to develop markets.

### **Funding for the Lindblad Artisan Fund will come from a variety of sources:**

- ▶ *5% of all Lindblad Global Gallery/Market sales will be earmarked for this Fund;*
- ▶ *The Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic Joint Fund will match dollar for dollar the amount raised through the earmarked funds; and*
- ▶ *Lindblad Expeditions will seek additional matching grants for specific projects through established foundations.*

### **Fund For Local Conservation Action (FALC) Grants**

Lindblad established the Fund for Local Conservation Action (FALC) to provide small grants for locally initiated conservation-oriented projects from small enterprises in Galápagos.

Grants range in size from \$100 to \$2000, and the number of grants depends on the size of the fund each year. The idea behind FALC is to encourage those who live in the Galápagos to become involved in the conservation of their home islands. In the last several years, more than \$150,000 has been given to FALC projects with an emphasis on micro-enterprise to support projects such as the recycling of motor oil and tires, fishermen cooperatives and tortoise care.

### **A few FALC Grant Projects are highlighted here:**

One of the first FALC recipients was a fisherman named Alberto Granja. He tells a story that one day he was out fishing for lobster. As was customary, he disposed of his used engine oil overboard. Later that day he proceeded to make a great catch of lobster and had an epiphany: he, like other fishermen and boat operators, were busy destroying their own livelihood. He

then came up with the idea to start an oil recovery and disposal project in Santa Cruz, and applied for FALC funds to jump-start this idea.

This initial project developed into a highly effective program, involving both land and maritime transportation, and collecting used oils from fishermen, tour operators and even the local electricity plant. In 2005, a fisherman from a neighboring island, San Cristobal, was inspired by this story and started something similar on his island. He applied and received support from the FALC program, and has been guided and trained in his endeavor by Alberto Granja.



### **Fishermen's Wives Cooperatives (Isabela)**

The island of Isabela has a population of about three to four thousand people, whose main livelihood is fishing, which has caused the town inhabitants to repeatedly be in conflict with the conservation authorities.

A FALC project has been able to play a small role in finding livelihood alternatives for the "Isabeleños" by supporting several initiatives started by small cooperative set up by the wives of these fishermen. Over the years, FALC funds have supported one group with materials and machinery to make Galápagos souvenirs and another group with materials for making t-shirts. Two other small cooperatives, Pescado Azul and Baronesa, have been supported in producing smoked fish products. In 2006, the United Nations Development Program awarded an Equator Award to the women of Pescado Azul for their work.