

## **International CBNRM Workshop, Washington D.C., May 1998**

### **Case Study Information Sheet**

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Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

Country: Ecuador

Title: Conflict Resolution as a Key Element for Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management With Local Participation: The Case of the Galápagos Islands

Author: Paola Oviedo-Sylva

Other Information: (i) Original language: Spanish; (ii) Partner: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Abstract: This case study is an outsider's perspective on the conflict which accompanied the establishment of the Galapagos Islands Marine Reserve. This unique ecosystem, recognized as a world 'landmark', is protected by various national and international environmental legal instruments, and makes the debate over striking a balance between conservation and sustainable use of natural resources all the more appropriate. The establishment of both terrestrial and marine protected areas in these islands were preceded by severe conflicts with local people due to their absence of participation in decisions concerning their own livelihood. In 1995, growing external pressures from the private sector, combined with the disastrous effects of a national economic crisis, led to unprecedented levels of confrontation that put in risk the implementation of necessary conservation measures. Following this event, efforts were undertaken to involve local people, particularly fisherfolk. The chief outcome of the process is a legal and political reform expressed by way of preparation, negotiation and adoption of a Special Law for the Province of Galapagos. The case study highlights the repercussions of adopting conservation measures without taking into account the full range of stakeholders, including those that are weaker. The author suggests that for sustainable use of marine resources to be achieved, participation and consent of all parties involved is essential, as is providing reasonable alternatives and compensation for the changes that might take place, in an equitable and transparent manner.

Themes (prioritized): 2, 4, 3

Subsistence Practice: Fishing

Resource Types & Ecosystems (prioritized): Marine resources, Fish, Coastal areas

Key Terms: Biodiversity, Community consultation, Conflict management, Conservation, Fisheries, Income generation, Parks/Reserves, Private sector, Tourism, Training

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