

**Subject:** Lifting of Management Measures for H5N1 Avian Influenza for Genovesa and Española Islands

To: Tour Operators of the **Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, in September 2023, cases of H5N1 avian influenza were reported and confirmed in various species and islands within the protected areas of the Galapagos. Based on the technical recommendations of the interinstitutional committee formed for this purpose, the Directorate of the Galapagos National Park issued Resolution 0000206 on October 4, 2023, adopting biosecurity measures for tourist operations, managing activities, and closing certain visitor sites.

Subsequently, following evaluations and recommendations from experts, Resolution No. 0000018 was issued on March 1, 2024, establishing new preventive management measures for H5N1 avian influenza.

Throughout this period, together with strategic partners, we have remained vigilant and conducted continuous monitoring and control of species populations of interest. As a result of successive and constant monitoring at control sites with significant bird populations, the latest monitoring yielded negative results for H5N1 avian influenza in bird samples from Genovesa Island, as documented in Report DPNG-ABG-FCD IA 013.

Based on this background, as of May 11, 2024, the management measures detailed in Articles 1 and 3 of Resolution No. 0000018 dated March 1, 2024, regarding the closure of visitor sites El Barranco and Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island, and Punta Suárez, Punta Cevallos, and Manzanillo on Española Island, are lifted. Consequently, authorized tourist activities are reinstated according to their respective modalities and authorized itineraries.

The management measure detailed in Article 2 of Resolution No. 0000018 dated March 1, 2024, concerning the itinerary of navigable diving tour vessels for Darwin and Wolf Islands, remains in effect.

As a precautionary measure, all operations—tourist vessels—must apply biosecurity protocols for tourism activities at all visitor sites within the protected areas of the Galapagos. These protocols were communicated through Official Letter No. MAATEPN/DIR-2023-0587-O, dated September 18, 2023.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arturo Ignacio Izurieta Valery  
**DIRECTOR OF THE GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK**