

Dear Friends,

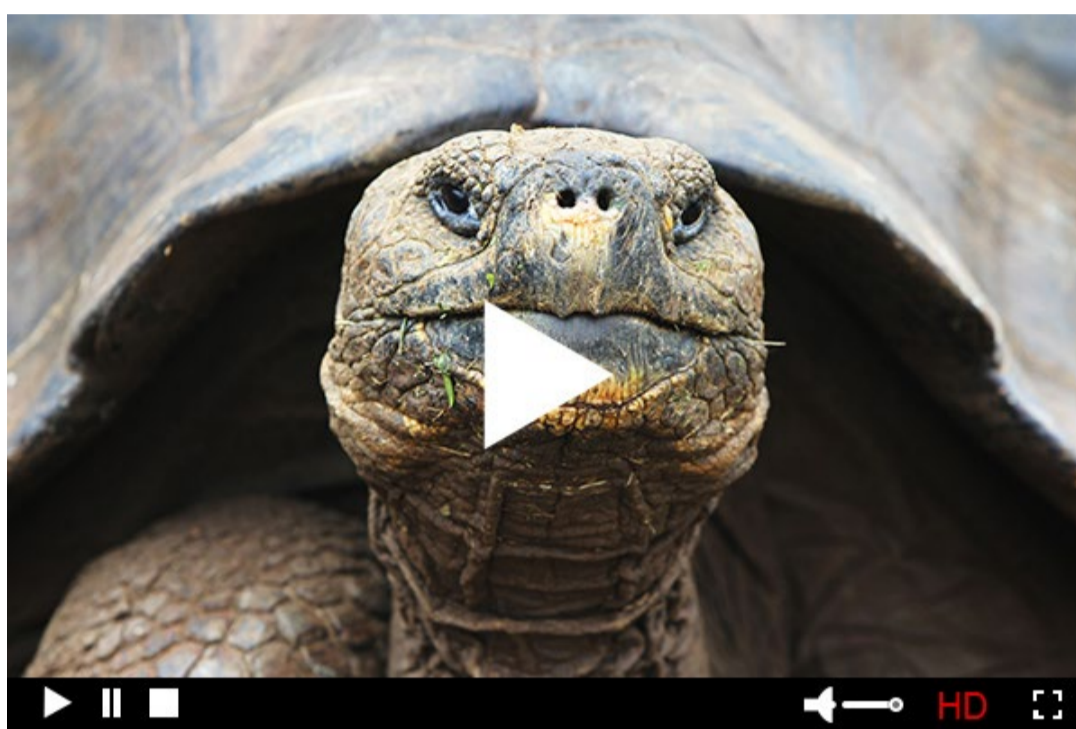
During this challenging time, when our researchers and students have been unable to travel to the Galapagos, we have continued to be involved in many meaningful projects that I wanted to share with you.

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### Helping prepare giant tortoises for the wild



The Galapagos Science Center recently collaborated with the **Galapagos National Park** to reintroduce giant tortoises into the wild on San Cristobal, Galapagos. This was truly a team effort and the GSC was responsible for leading the health assessments of this iconic species to ensure their healthy release. Please have a look at the [feature article](#) and you can also watch a [short video](#) to transport yourself to the Galapagos!



### UNC, USFQ, and Galapagos Science Center help Galapagos respond to COVID



UNC and the GSC also recently worked with USFQ to help facilitate capacity building at Oskar Jandl Hospital in San Cristobal, Galapagos to [better respond to COVID](#). The hospital is now equipped with a PCR machine, medical supplies, and continued technical support to not only perform diagnostic testing in the short term but to be better prepared for future health challenges. We are pleased to support the Galapagos community in this way and hope this will allow UNC and global researchers to get back to Galapagos faster and get the GSC back to full operations to continue our important research!

### Reactivating the Galapagos Economy Through Science, Community & Work (REACT)



We also recently launched a new community engagement program known locally in Galapagos as **REACT** (Re-Activating the Economy through Science, Community and Work). REACT is supporting seven innovative projects that help promote research in areas of citizen science, food security, conservation of native and endemic plant species, and improved marine practices, while providing funds to deserving individuals and families hit most hard from the economic impact of COVID. You can view both our [launch story](#) and a follow-up on our [projects selected](#) to learn more!

### Galapagos Science Center will collaborate & host the BARCODE GALAPAGOS Project



Lastly, the GSC is proud to be involved in the most ambitious citizen science project to document biological life in the Galapagos – called **Barcode Galapagos**. This project will allow members of the community to conduct vital capacity-building research that will provide the basis for measuring the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic on biodiversity.

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I hope you enjoy learning more about our recent projects that both advance research and help the local Galapagos community. We look forward to sharing more stories in the future! If you would like to support our Center to allow us to continue making an impact in this way [please click here](#) or feel free to reach out to me at [weaverk@email.unc.edu](mailto:weaverk@email.unc.edu) to arrange a phonecall or Zoom to learn more!

Kind regards,

Kelly Weaver  
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UNC Center for Galapagos Studies



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