




# DISCOVERING GALAPAGOS



# Galapagos Giant Tortoises

- What habitats do they need?
- How are the different types adapted to their environment?
- How can we protect them?





It is likely that the 10 species of giant tortoise living on the Galapagos Islands all evolved from a common ancestor.

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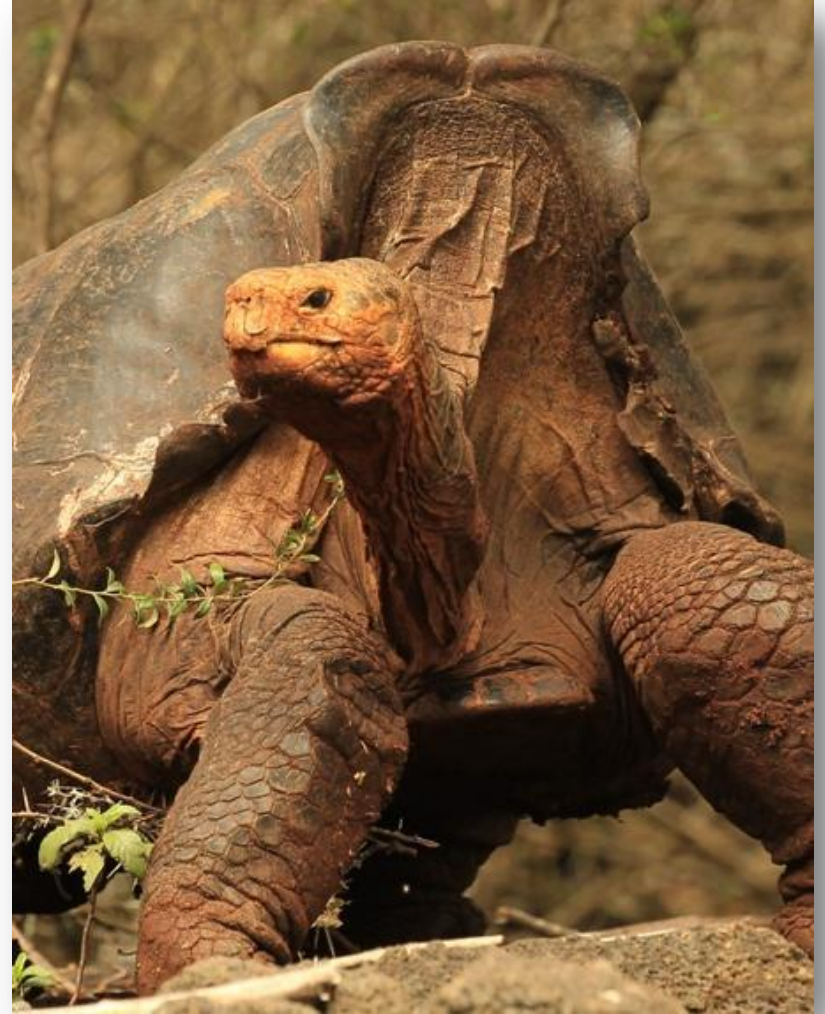




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# Habitat Adaptation






Female giant tortoises can travel up to several miles to their nesting areas of dry, sandy ground to lay their eggs, they lay between 2 -16 eggs the size of tennis balls!





Warm nest temperatures lead to the tortoises becoming female, while cool temperatures increase the likelihood that the hatchlings are male.

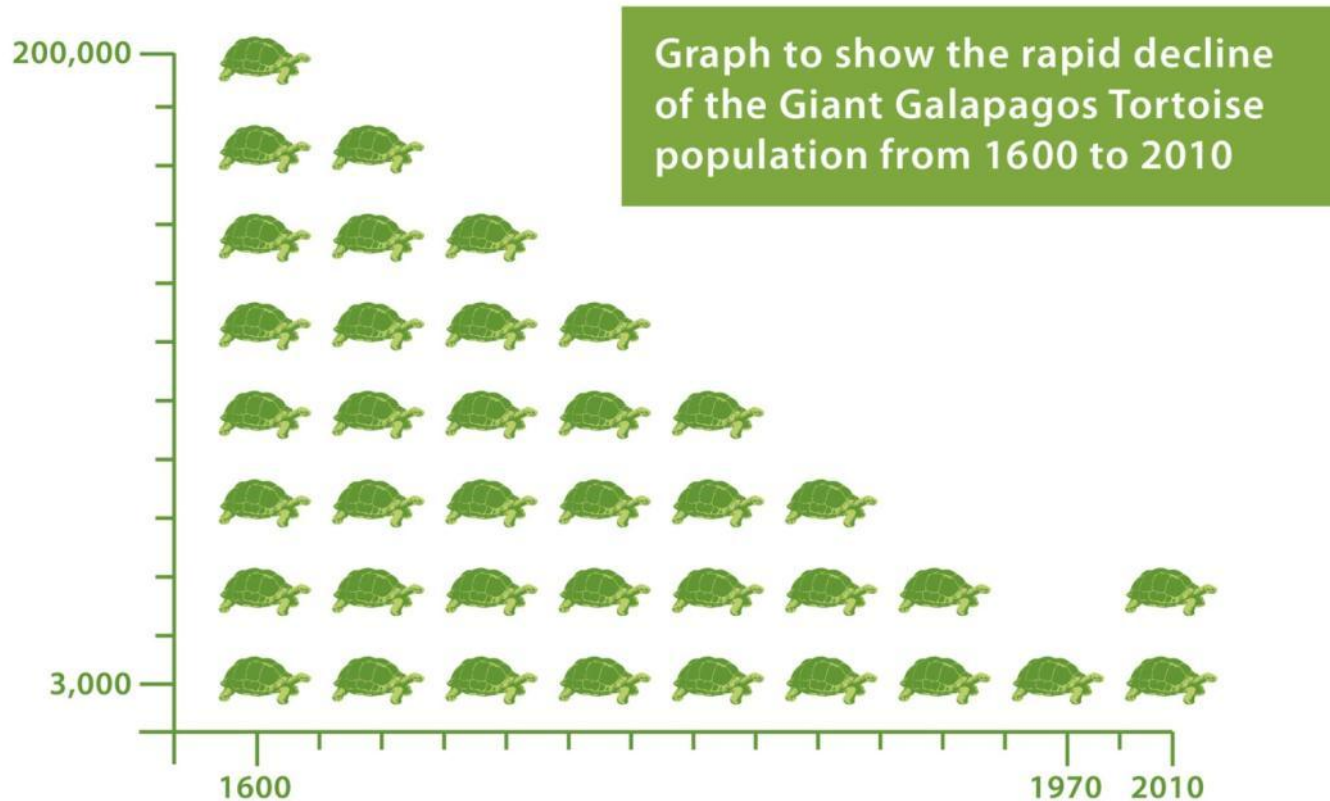


A group of five Giant Tortoises are gathered in a muddy pool of water. The tortoises are large, with dark, textured shells. They are surrounded by lush green vegetation. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue overalls, is crouching on a dirt bank, holding a camera up to take a picture of the tortoises. The background shows a dense line of trees and bushes under a bright sky.

Giant Tortoise can survive for long periods of time without water, but they do love a long drink and a wallow in water and mud pools.



# Tortoise Population Decline



There is a lack of precise data regarding population fluctuations.

It is estimated that the population could have been as high as 200,000 in the 1600s, dropping to 3,000 in a 1970 census.

Numbers have been slowly rising since then.



A photograph showing three researchers in a field setting. One man in a white shirt and hat stands on the left. Two other men in blue t-shirts and hats are sitting on the ground, working with a laptop and a handheld device. The background shows sparse vegetation and trees under a clear sky.

# Tracking Tortoises: The Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme

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The trackers are attached to the tortoise shell using high-grade plumbers glue!



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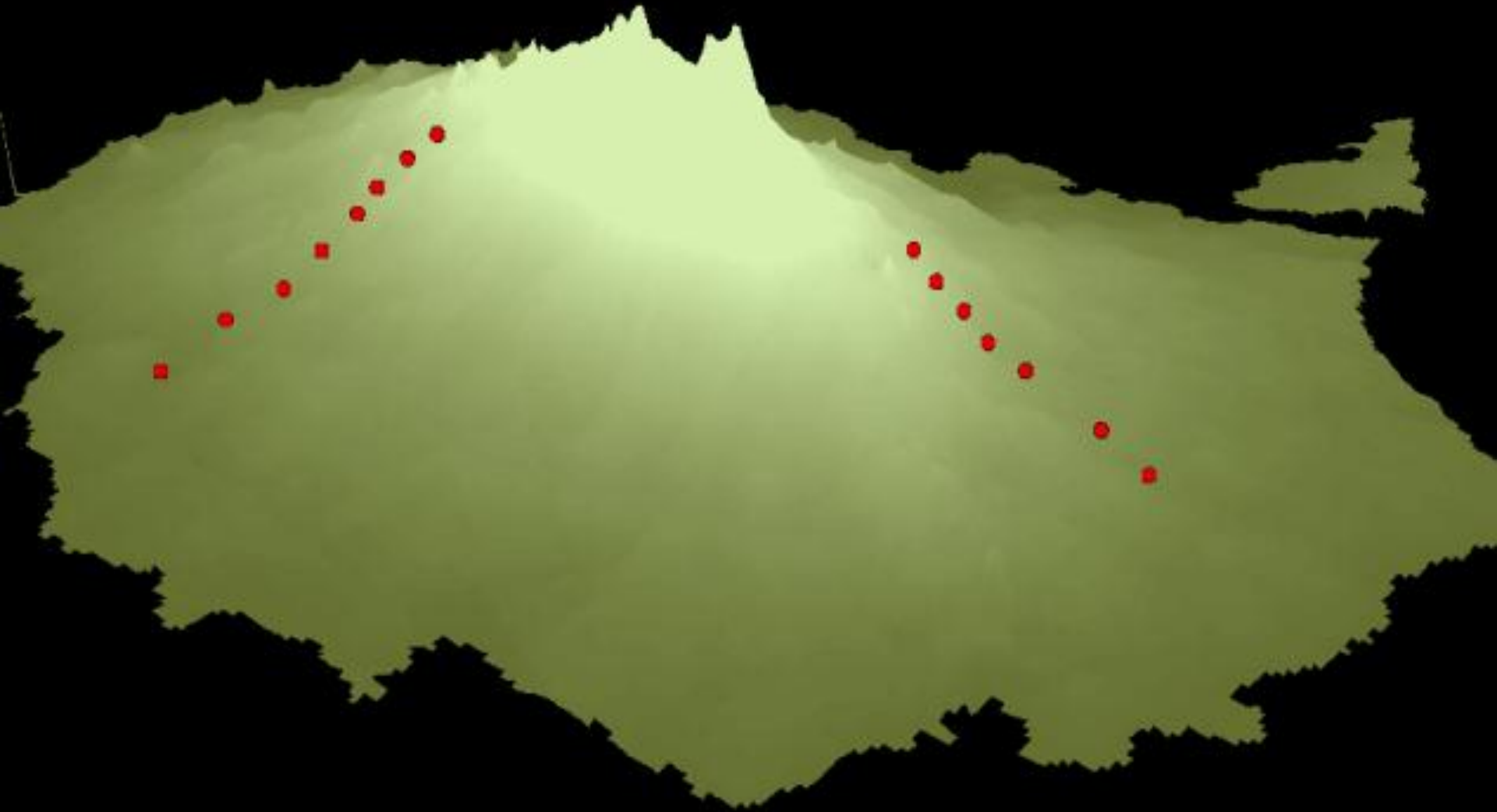




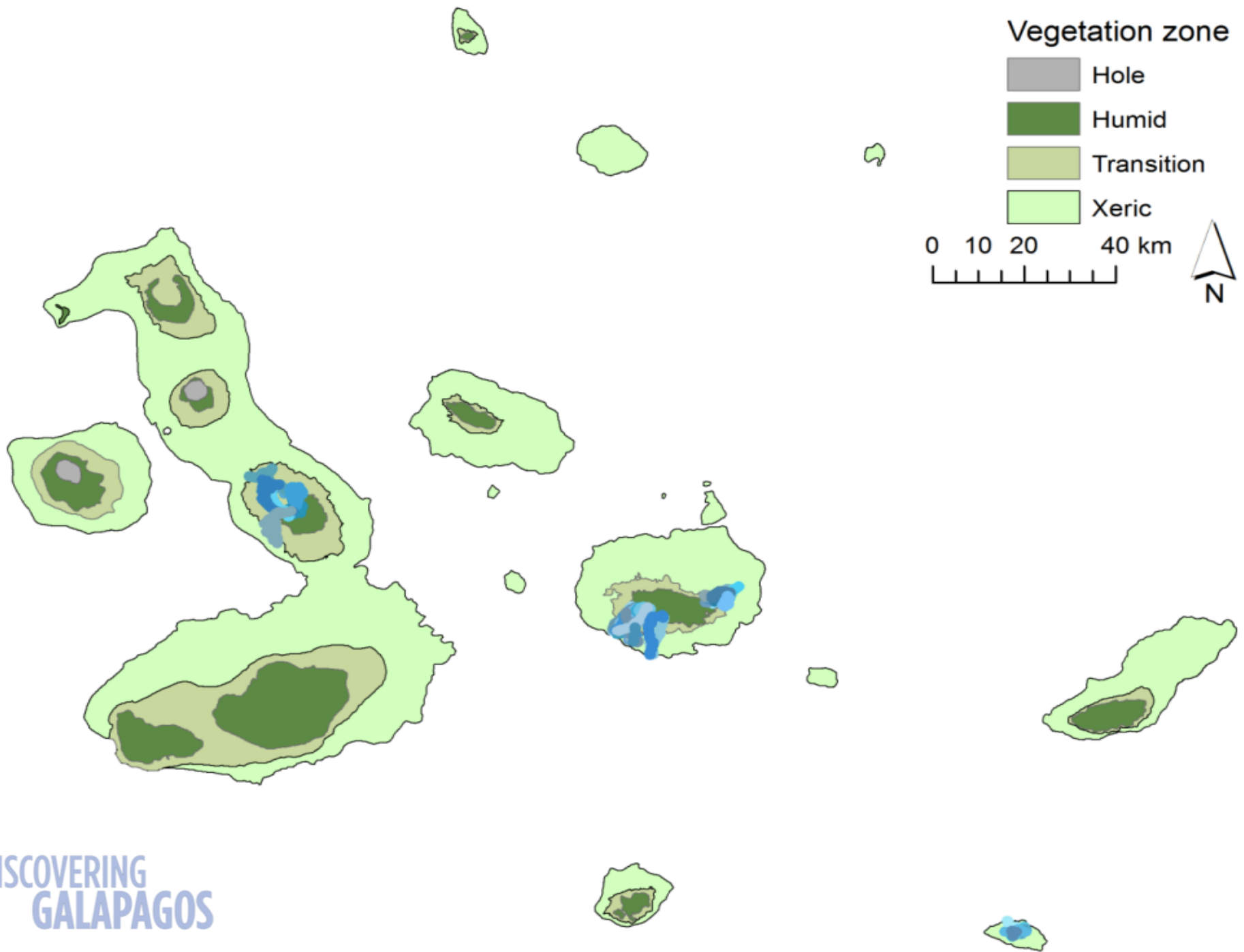
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# Scaling a Volcano

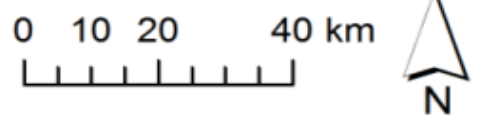






Vegetation zone

- Hole
- Humid
- Transition
- Xeric





# Measuring the Environment





Thank you for listening!

For more information visit:  
[www.discoveringgalapagos.org.uk](http://www.discoveringgalapagos.org.uk)



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