



# FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

## NPA Environment Centre

### June 8, 2018

## Environmental Threats on the Galapagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands are both beautiful and bizarre. The 14 major and many smaller islands spanning the equator, 990km off the coast of Ecuador, remains the world's most biologically intact tropical archipelago. But pollution, overfishing and development are harming efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife. These environmental threats will be discussed by **Valentina Cruz at Friday Environment Forum on June 8.**



Bartolome Island

Around 30,000 people live in the Galapagos and the Islands receive almost 240,000 visitors a year. This is putting pressure on resources and is increasing many environmental threats.

The humid zones which are the areas of highest plant biodiversity have been affected by humans since the islands have been colonized by the

Ecuador government. This includes land clearing for farming, which reduces biodiversity.

Invasive plant species have also been introduced to Galapagos, many of which aggressively out-compete native species or negatively impact on the Island's habitats. There are also many problems with introduced animals from insects such as the parasitic fly, and fire ants to mammals such as rats, cats, dogs, pigs and goats. These are often introduced accidentally being carried unwittingly on boats and planes, and can be difficult to eradicate once they arrive.

Native and endemic Galapagos populations have declined as a consequence of invasive species population growth. Many of these are now critically endangered.

Join the audience at **Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre at 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** on Friday June 8 to learn more. The forum starts at 10.30am with coffee available from 10am.



Frigate bird

You are invited to join Valda and the Interpretive Birding group at 8.30am. Meet in the car park. All are welcome.