

Giant Tortoise Initiative

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Independent Research

18th November 2025

Introduction

This project is done with the intention to help researchers measure whether the introduction of Española tortoises (*C. hoodensis*) benefit the ecosystem or local wildlife. In this study. In this study I have classified 100 images, tracking the species observed, their behavior/activity, and number.

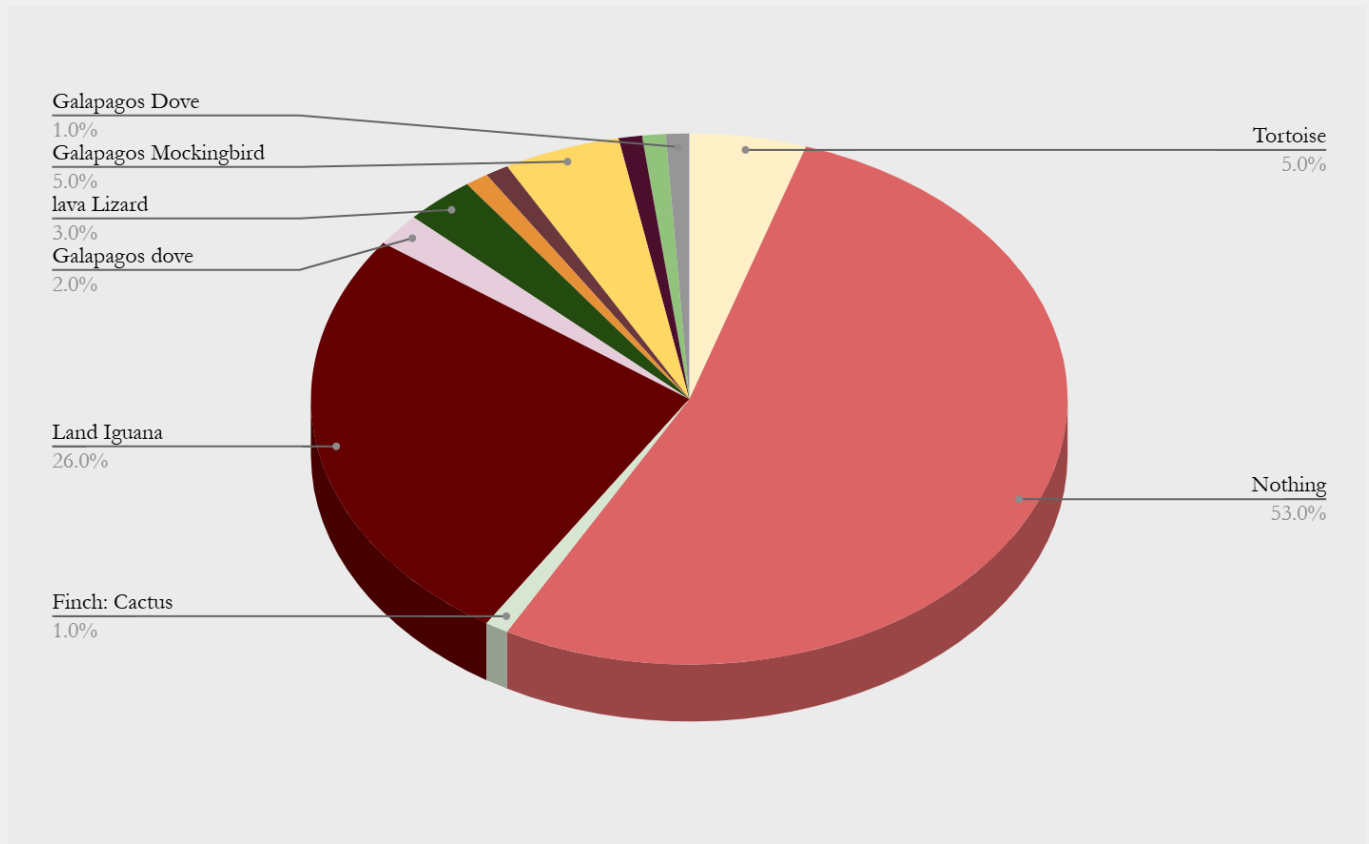
The project focuses on restoration of giant tortoises on Santa Fe Island, one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos Archipelago, uninhabited, and home to a suite of endemic species. The island's biota have suffered one prominent exception: the endemic Santa Fe giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis* sp.), driven to oblivion through overexploitation by seafarers in the 1700s and 1800s. The full recovery can be achieved through restoration of the giant tortoises. (Zooniverse. (2025). *Giant tortoise Initiative*. <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>)

Methods

Volunteers has to answer a few questions concerning the images like : What species is present in the image? How many and what are they doing?

In this project, observations on 100 images were recorded on Google sheet, and then organized properly in this paper.

Results



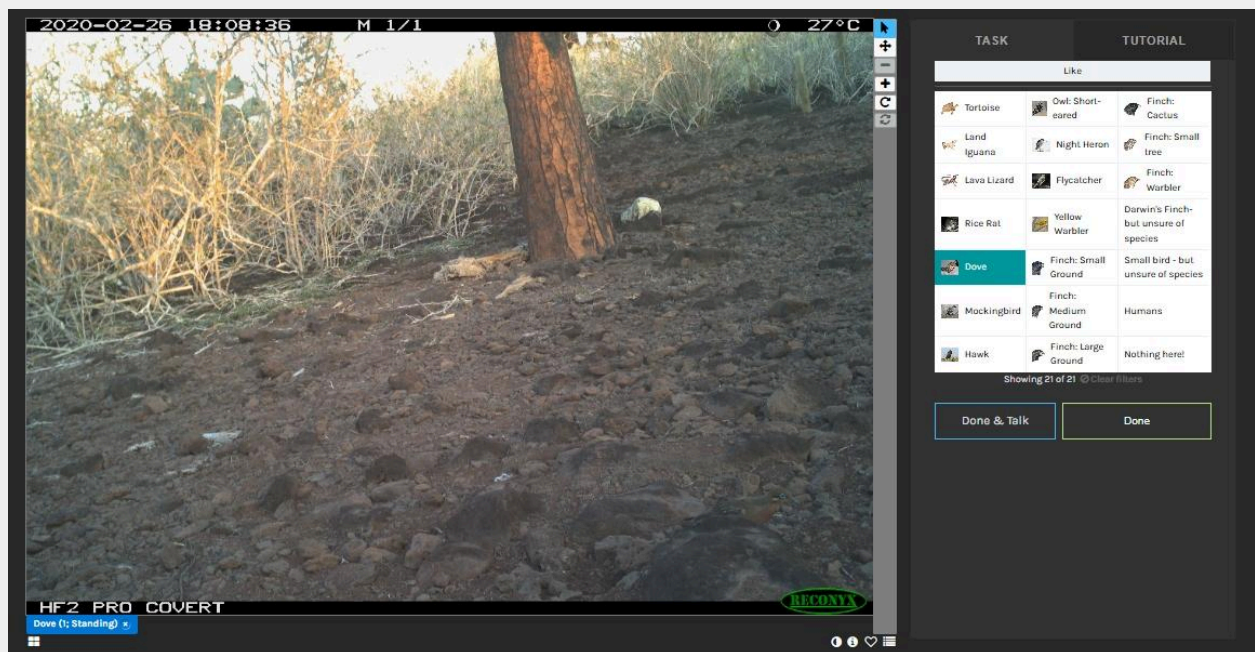
Animals were absent in most images due to reasons like: moving leaves or branches in the wind, shifting shadows or sunlight, raindrops close to the lens, insects flying nearby, or even temperature changes (like warm air moving past a cooler background), etc. accidentally triggering the motion cameras. It has been mentioned that those motion cameras are highly sensitive. (Zooniverse. (2025). *Giant tortoise Initiative*. [Giant Tortoise Initiative » About — Zooniverse](#))

Besides that, land iguanas were most observed (26.0%) among animals, with tortoise being around 5% — equal to galapagos mockingbird.

Discussion

Land iguanas were the most observed specie although many images were empty of creatures. The result from this volunteering can help researchers figure out whether the presence of ginat tortoise made any difference in the ecosystem, with their general hypothesis being that there will more individuals and a greater diversity of native wildlife in the presence than in the absence of tortoises.(Zooniverse. (2025). *Giant tortoise Initiative*.

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>)



References

Zooniverse. (2025). *Giant Tortoise Initiative*. [Giant Tortoise Initiative » About — Zooniverse](#)

