

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is seeking a Senior Researcher in Terrestrial Ecology and Conservation

Type of Position:	Senior Researcher
Role:	Principal Investigator or Project Manager–Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program
Type of work:	Full-time
Place of work:	Puerto Ayora, Galapagos, Ecuador
Supervised by:	Science Director
Supervises:	Junior Researcher(s), volunteers, undergraduate and graduate students

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is recruiting a **Senior Scientist** or **Project Manager** to lead our Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program (GTMEP) team and strengthen ongoing long-term research and conservation efforts for this iconic species. The Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program (GTMEP) has been operational for 13 years and is a collaboration among the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Galapagos National Park Directorate, the Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis University, the Houston Zoo, and the Galapagos Conservation Trust. The GTMEP aims to assist the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) to effectively conserve Galapagos tortoises by conducting cutting-edge applied science research while delivering an inspirational, tortoise-based outreach and education program. Over 180 tracking tags have been deployed on tortoises from four different species on three Galapagos Islands, ranging from hatchlings weighing 75 grams to 150-year-old adults weighing up to 300 kg. Field research in ecology, reproduction, health, and tortoise-human interactions complements our animal movement data. Scientific outputs are disseminated to communities through grassroots outreach activities, national and international multimedia products, and scientific publications. Funding sources have included private donors, NGOs, the US National Science Foundation, and the National Geographic Society.

The program is currently seeking a *Principal Investigator* or *Project Manager* who is willing to be based in the Galapagos Islands – a different set of criteria will be considered to evaluate applicants for each of these job profiles.

Position Objective

To maintain and grow an integrated research, conservation, and outreach program that: (1) seeks to better understand the causes and consequences of environmental change on giant tortoise ecology, health, and conservation status; (2) uses this understanding to develop, promote, and achieve science-based conservation solutions; and (3) better understands the mechanisms of human-tortoise coexistence for the benefit of both.

Required Profile

- Doctoral (Doctor or Ph.D.) or Master's Degree in Conservation Biology or related fields; a DVM or Ph.D. in Veterinary Science is strongly preferred for Principal Investigator applicants; an MS degree is sufficient for consideration as a Project Manager.
- A strong background in Conservation Biology, with demonstrable expertise (5-10 years) in one or more of the following disciplines: ecology, wildlife health/disease ecology.
- Author or co-author of at least eight publications in topics related to the disciplines mentioned above and published in internationally indexed peer-reviewed journals. Additional publications of edited or co-edited books, chapters, and/or Policy Briefs are assets.
- Ability/experience to coordinate, plan, and carry out fieldwork, during long-term periods, in extreme conditions, and very remote areas.
- Ability/experience in organizing and carrying out successful workshops, meetings, and other participatory methodologies with authorities and users of natural resources.
- Demonstrable experience at writing research grants and proposals, and at fundraising for scientific research.
- Successful experience at obtaining 'third party funding' is desired.
- Capacity/experience supervising and training junior staff and students.
- Excellent communication skills in both English and Spanish (oral, writing, reading).
- Ability to achieve and maintain positive relationships with local main actors and institutions.
- Proactive personality, able to work under pressure and fulfill tight schedules. A "Multi-tasking" approach is greatly desired, as is the capacity to integrate an interdisciplinary team in an isolated environment.

The ideal candidate:

Will encompass all aspects of research/conservation program leadership, including strategic planning, administration, personnel management, fundraising, communications with partners, donors, and a diverse array of communities, data management, analysis, and scientific publishing, and promote a science-based solid conservation agenda within the islands.

Activities and responsibilities

1. Lead the current GTMEP program and maintain an active role in accomplishing the objectives set out for the program.
2. Collaborate and develop a close coordinated relationship with other staff members within CDF and with local, national, and international partners and collaborators in activities related to this and other projects and activities of the institution.
3. Work alongside the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) and with other strategic local partners.

4. Coordinate outreach and education activities with local staff and partners. Additionally, the candidate must collaborate with the CDF Education team on education and outreach activities. Participate in preparing and celebrating CDF public events about giant tortoises and related thematic and other activities with community members and local schools.
5. Manage daily activities for the project, including the work plan and activities conducted by the staff, volunteers, and students.
6. Elaborate annual work plans to complete the Annual Operative Plan for CDF and submit the yearly research proposal for GNPD research permit approval. It includes staffing, schedules, and relationships with partners.
7. Design, organize, and lead fieldwork season planning, development, and implementation. It requires all regulations established by the GNPD, the biosecurity regulations dictated by ABG, and the safety protocols directed by CDF to be followed.
8. Improve funding strategies and lead, together with the fundraising team, the formulation of research proposals to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of the project.
9. Meet reporting and accounting requirements among donors and partner organizations.
10. Actively communicate the knowledge generated to local, national, and international audiences through different formats (outreach and education and scientific publications).
11. Lead publications of at least one peer-reviewed journal paper per year.
12. Ensure the correct management and maintenance of equipment and materials available for the project before, during, and after the field seasons.
13. Lead the updating, management, analysis, and interpretation of the databases and data sets generated by the project.
14. Conduct and supervise the collection, analysis, and storage of biological samples for genetic-based studies, always fulfilling the legal normative framework regulated by the Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition Ministry (MAATE) and the National Biodiversity Institute.
15. Coordinate the administrative-related paperwork for CDF as needed.

Employment Conditions

This position reports directly to the Charles Darwin Foundation Science Director. The candidate selected will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. The candidate must faithfully comply with the rules of the Internal Regulations and CDF's Code of Ethics and perform field work strictly following the laws and regulations of the GNPD.

The salary benefits package and holidays are commensurate with Charles Darwin Foundation policies and will be determined according to the candidate's qualifications. The benefits include private medical insurance and 30 30-day calendar of paid license (annual).

Due to the nature of the project, the working schedule for the person hired must be flexible to accommodate additional needs, such as field trips in Santa Cruz and throughout the Galapagos archipelago. The position will require frequent marine field expeditions and work during late evenings or weekends.

The Human Resources department at CDF will oversee all residency papers related to the hiring process. Candidates must obtain the necessary legal documents in their country of origin. For foreigners, a work visa is needed from the Ecuadorian government. If the applicant is an Ecuadorian resident, a valid RUC number is required.

Restrictions

Please note that the Galapagos Government prohibits domestic pets from being brought into the Galapagos Islands.

How to apply?

Those interested in this position should send the following by e-mail to pro.seleccion@fcdarwin.org.ec

- Up to date CV.
- A two-page letter of interest describing his/her competencies according to the minimal requirements for this position.
- The names and emails of three professional references. Letters will only be requested if a candidate progresses past the initial interview.
- PDFs of 2 or 3 relevant publications related to the matter of interest.

Kindly send all application materials as one PDF document. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email address.