



HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Announcement of Volunteer Opportunity

Natural History Collections

Application deadline: Open throughout the year

Start date: At the applicant's availability

Duration: 3 months (minimum)

Introduction

We invite you to apply for this volunteer position with our Natural History Collections. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the study of Galápagos biodiversity and the preservation of our collections, while working alongside a team committed to the research of native and endemic species. You will gain first-hand experience with the work carried out at the Charles Darwin Foundation, contributing to the knowledge and conservation of the biodiversity of the Galápagos Islands.

The four Natural History Collections (terrestrial invertebrates, herbarium, marine organisms, and vertebrates) curated by the Charles Darwin Foundation are essential for advancing knowledge of Galápagos biodiversity. This information is then used to support the planning and implementation of conservation activities. Therefore, the specimens are maintained under optimal conditions to preserve them over time, ensuring that they can provide biological, historical, and geographic information to current and future generations of researchers.

The Natural History Collections hold more than 135,000 specimens, making them the largest repository of Galápagos biodiversity in the world. Currently, the collections are engaged in diverse activities aimed at exploring and conserving Galápagos biodiversity, including:

- **Scientific research:** Development of studies and projects to better understand the biodiversity in the Galápagos ecosystems.
- **Curation:** Preservation of specimens and growing of the collections' holdings.
- **Documentation and cataloguing:** Organizing and digitizing the specimens' records and the list of the Galápagos taxa.

- **Outreach:** Organization of behind-the-scenes tours, talks on relevant scientific topics, and helping educational initiatives on the biodiversity of the Galápagos.

Volunteer Conditions

The volunteer will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, Ecuador, working under the supervision of the project's lead scientist and following the schedule assigned by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). The CDF will provide the necessary equipment and materials for the assigned activities.

A volunteer placement with the CDF does not imply an employment relationship or any commitment beyond the agreed duration of the assignment. The CDF will manage entry permits to the Galápagos Islands; however, the volunteer must cooperate with the corresponding Ecuadorian embassy to obtain the visa from their country of residence. The CDF will not process visas that exceed the duration of the assignment.

Required Profile

- Background, current studies, or a degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, or closely related fields.
- Strong scientific interest in any group of Galápagos biodiversity.
- Interest in reading scientific documents and conducting research.

Desirable Competencies

- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Previous experience working with natural history collections is highly valued.
- Experience in photography, as well as skills in Excel, R, or GIS, will be considered an asset.
- Highly motivated, with excellent interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in a multicultural and multilingual team is an advantage.
- Confidence in presenting to local audiences or visitors.

Responsibilities

- Assist with photographing and digitizing specimens.
- Contribute to the preparation of scientific publications.
- Assist with curation activities.



- Contribute to the development of outreach materials for the local community and visitors.
- Participate in field trips to collect specimens.
- Monitor and maintain required environmental conditions for the collections.
- Support the composition and delivery of presentations to local audiences or visitors.
- Assist with other activities related to the Natural History Collections, as needed.

Volunteer Benefits

- Uniforms
- Accident insurance

How to Apply

Interested individuals must complete the online form available at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/jf7Y7gAJfm>, attaching the required documentation as detailed in the instructions.

Applicants are reminded that it is mandatory to respect all instructions, deadlines, and required formats for attachments.

Only applications that fully comply with the profile, format, documentation, and content requirements will be considered.