



HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION – VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Announcement

Volunteering opportunity in the area:

Application deadline: November 10, 2025

Start Date: January 12 until March 22, 2026

Duration: 69 days

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation is seeking a field volunteer for the Marine Turtle Project.

The selected person will support activities such as monitoring green turtle nests, installing temperature sensors in sand and turtle nests, monitoring emerging hatchlings, and assisting in the monitoring of nesting females in the Galapagos National Park.

Volunteer conditions

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) will provide the necessary equipment and materials for the development of the project, as well as logistical support for field trips to other islands. Technical guidance will also be provided by the CDF scientific team, in accordance with institutional policies and procedures.

The volunteer will be under the supervision of the project's responsible scientist and must adhere to the schedule assigned by the CDF. It is mandatory to respect the Internal Regulations, the CDF Procedures Manual, and strictly comply with the rules of the Galapagos National Park Directorate (DPNG) during all field activities.

Required profile

- Graduate or currently studying Biology, Marine Biology, Veterinary Science, or another related field, or with demonstrable previous experience in fieldwork with marine turtles.
- Field experience in remote locations under adverse weather conditions and ability to stay in a basic camp (no electricity, tents) for extended periods.
- Excellent health, compatible with the conditions and duration of fieldwork.
- Spanish as a first language, or excellent command of Spanish (spoken and written) if it is not your native language.

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- Good swimmer.
- No dietary restrictions; able to consume both animal and plant-based foods. Field meals mainly consist of canned and non-perishable foods, as there is no refrigeration system or access to fresh foods such as meat, fruits, or vegetables.
- Good disposition and tolerance for being unreachable and living in basic camp conditions. The study site is in a remote area of the archipelago, with very limited cell phone coverage, variable depending on weather (some days with no signal). Access to communication is restricted (only via mobile phone), with no internet and limited electricity (solar panel or generator, only for charging field equipment).
- Life insurance is required for foreign volunteers.

Desired competencies

- Ability to work in a team and maintain respectful and collaborative relationships in a multicultural environment.
- Scientific rigor and attention to detail in data collection and recording.
- Resilience and adaptability to work in adverse conditions, with changing schedules and physically demanding tasks.
- Organization and discipline, maintaining camp cleanliness and proper care of equipment and materials.
- Proactive attitude and willingness to learn, integrating into both technical and logistical project activities.
- Ability to stay awake and alert during night monitoring shifts, which are the main activity of the project.
- Previous experience in marine turtle nesting work is considered an advantage.

Responsibilities

The volunteer will support the following activities:

- Assist in the logistics and preparation of field trips.
- Install sensors in marine turtle nests and monitor nests.
- Maintain the camp.
- Support the Galapagos National Park staff in nesting monitoring tasks.
- Maintain delicate field equipment (computers, GPS units, dataloggers, etc.).

Benefits for the volunteer: Uniforms and insurance are mandatory.

- Uniform provided.
- Accident insurance.
- Accommodation provided at the CDF volunteer house for the duration of training and field trip preparation (approx. 4–5 days), as well as upon return from the study site (2–3 days). During the stay at the study site, accommodation will be in a basic camp (tents under a zinc roof), and field meals are covered by the project.

How to apply

Interested candidates must complete the online form available at: <https://forms.office.com/r/jf7Y7gAJfm>, attaching the required documentation as instructed in the form.

It is mandatory to follow the filling guidelines, meet deadlines, and use the required formats for attachments.

Only applications that fully meet all criteria regarding profile, format, documentation, and content will be considered.