



FELLOWSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY 66 YEARS CHARLES DARWIN FOUNDATION

For over 65 years, the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) has generated knowledge and scientific evidence to promote the conservation of the Galápagos Islands. The ecological and evolutionary processes of unique species have been studied for decades, both in marine and terrestrial ecosystems, as well as the control and eradication of invasive species, the conservation of iconic species such as marine iguanas and land tortoises, and endangered species such as the mangrove finch, *Scalesia* forests, and the hammerhead shark. In recent decades, the CDF has expanded its thematic scope, including in its research agenda studies linked to social phenomena, such as human settlements, productive sectors, and the dynamics of tourism, a sector that has triggered several social processes such as the displacement of residents in urban areas, congestion of visitor sites, socio-spatial segregation, and its relationship to conservation. This shift reflects the CDF's interest and priority in better understanding the rapidly changing context of society and human phenomena in Galápagos, and calls for exploring innovative solutions to complex problems. All of this is intended to enable Galápagos to adapt to change and continue providing ecosystem services, allowing for the continuity of productive activities on which the majority of the human population depends.

The CDF's "Sustainability for Conservation" research area incorporates a holistic, and interdisciplinary vision and seeks to consolidate research initiatives that help address these challenges. It is hoped that we can explore and understand the Galápagos Islands as a living lab, a socio-ecological system that illustrates, for present and future generations, the meaning of the notion of "unlimited growth" that prevails in today's society. Therefore, the CDF, aware of the urgency of rethinking the Galápagos Islands and the need to integrate the natural and social sciences in this transition, is seeking to consolidate interdisciplinary research lines and teams within the *Sustainability Fellows Program*.

The CDF *Sustainability Fellowship Program* seeks researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds with experience in areas related to issues relevant to the Galápagos Islands. The CDF aims to support the development of research projects over two years; initiatives that comprehensively articulate transdisciplinary research questions, creative and innovative ideas and proposals, and collaborative approaches, incorporating diverse participatory methods, including, among others, artistic methods, citizen science, and/or co-creation with different local stakeholders and sectors.

To complete the application process, the applicant must submit a solid research proposal (maximum 2 pages of the concept, not including bibliographic references, timeline, and detailed budget) with emphasis on the reality of the archipelago and demonstrating autonomy in conducting the research. The applicant is expected to have relevant academic training, demonstrated by a postgraduate degree (PhD), in disciplines related to the social sciences (e.g., economics, sociology, anthropology, geography), applied sciences (e.g., conservation biology,

environmental science, data science), humanities (e.g., history, anthropology), or their intersections (e.g., sustainability, urban studies).

Three to five years of experience working in interdisciplinary research groups is required. A track record of academic publications (at least three) in peer-reviewed, indexed journals is expected (at least two of these as first author, published within the last two years), and in one of the thematic areas specified in the call for applications. Proficiency in diverse methodologies, data interpretation, and analysis is necessary. The ability to provide counterpart funding to complement or expand the research is desirable. Full oral and written proficiency (C3) in both Spanish and English is required. Research experience in countries of the Global South, preferably Latin American countries and particularly the Galápagos Islands, will be considered an asset.

The selected fellows will work closely with the CDF research teams, especially under the supervision of the Principal Investigator of the Conservation Sustainability Studies Program and the CDF Director of Science. They will have close interaction with representatives, stakeholders, and local sectors, as well as CDF partner institutions in the Galápagos, at the national and global levels.

The Charles Darwin Foundation is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion in all its forms. Women and people from minority groups are welcome to apply. Fellows will be hosted at the Charles Darwin Research Station to conduct fieldwork for a period of 3-6 months per year. However, proposed projects requiring a longer stay in the islands to achieve their objectives will also be considered.

The research grant covers airfare (domestic and international), a monthly stipend of USD 2,000, and accommodation at the Charles Darwin Research Station for up to four months per year. The CDF will also provide administrative support regarding visa applications, transit permits for entry to the Galapagos Islands, and other related procedures.

Selection Process: The CDF selection committee will choose the best proposals based on the guidelines of this call for proposals: professional experience, feasibility, and potential of the proposed project. The committee will be chaired by the Executive Director, the Director of Science, a member of the General Assembly, and the Director of Human Resources.

Application: Submit your application by **February, 15, 2026**, including: 1) a research proposal, 2) a *curriculum vitae*, and 3) three letters of recommendation (two professional and one personal). Submit your application as a single PDF file clearly labeled with your name and surname (e.g., *Name_Surname_Sustainability*), using the following link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/MAnDnV6DZ?origin=lprLink>.
Inquiries can be sent to andrea.munoz@fcdarwin.org.ec