



The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is recruiting
Junior Social Scientist

Role:	Junior Social Scientist
Area/Department:	Science
Supervised by:	Senior Bioeconomist
City:	Manta, Manabí
Deadline for application:	March 20 th , 2026
Starting date:	April 1, 2026
Duration:	1 year with possibility of renewal based on performance

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) is an international non-profit organization founded in 1959, headquartered in the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located 1,000 kilometers off the coast of Ecuador. Research programs operate from the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) under the CDF's mission to address the most significant threats and challenges facing Galapagos through scientific research and conservation action, with the goal of safeguarding one of the world's most important natural treasures.

Within the framework of CDF-led projects, the Interdisciplinary Fisheries Project is expanding its geographic scope to include the mainland coast of Ecuador, specifically aiming to foster fairer, more prosperous, and resilient food systems within the artisanal fishing communities of the Manabí province. To achieve this, the project seeks to enhance the livelihoods of populations linked to artisanal fisheries by integrating the Gender Inclusive Approach (GIA) and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (IPwD) into the *EmprendeMar* program. Consequently, the recruitment of a Junior Social Scientist is required to provide the necessary technical and analytical support in the field, ensuring that these social inclusion frameworks are effectively implemented and monitored within the local community dynamics.

This is an operational and technical support position. The Junior Social Scientist serves as the primary visible face of the project within the intervention zone. Their role involves collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, facilitating logistics, and providing basic mentorship to local entrepreneurs in coordination with the project's Bio-business field advisor. The incumbent will ensure that the vision for transforming the marine food system—including an increasing supply of responsible and traceable seafood—is communicated clearly and effectively to stakeholders.

Position Objective

To support the operational and technical implementation of the Blue Galapagos 2.0 project in Manta, acting as the direct field liaison for the execution of on-site activities, data collection, and the facilitation of social inclusion and business development processes. The incumbent will be responsible for: boosting the participation of coastal communities under the GEDSI framework (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion), ensuring that the *EmprendeMar* Program tools effectively reach beneficiaries, and encouraging the adoption of traceability technologies to enhance the value of the catch.



Activities

- Coordinate the field execution of Blue Galapagos 2.0 project activities, ensuring timely and efficient collaboration with local stakeholders within the artisanal fisheries value chain on the mainland coast.
- Facilitate institutional and interpersonal engagement throughout the project's execution with local fishing sector stakeholders in coastal Ecuador, including representatives from the Vice-Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries, the Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources, other local provincial authorities, and project-affiliated businesses.
- Maintain daily contact with local artisanal fishing stakeholders and their value chains to streamline the implementation of Blue Galapagos 2.0 activities and events. This includes socio-economic data collection, logistical coordination for local meetings, drafting project-related documents (e.g., technical reports), and disseminating progress updates in various formats.
- Support the on-site implementation of the *EmprendeMar* program and strategies aimed at fostering the adoption of traceability in artisanal fisheries.
- Organize and coordinate training sessions, workshops, and working meetings.
- Closely monitor and ensure the successful execution of project activities on the mainland, while cultivating strong relationships with the public and private sectors, as well as civil society actors.
- Generate data and information to support scientific research regarding the socio-ecological fishing system and the food system on the mainland coast.

Specific Activities

- Build and maintain trust with local stakeholders (both institutional and individual) within the mainland artisanal fishing sector relevant to the project.
- Implement the GEDSI approach and participation tactics to ensure that women, youth, and persons with disabilities are actively engaged in training sessions and professional networks.
- Collect socio-economic data in the field (qualitative and quantitative) regarding the mainland fishing sector, following protocols designed by the senior team, and perform subsequent data analysis and interpretation.
- Draft technical reports (progress and final) and prepare at least one manuscript based on research findings related to the mainland fishing sector's status as part of the project's scope.
- Serve as the focal point for project execution, overseeing operational, administrative, executive, and communication management within mainland Ecuador.
- Coordinate participation logistics for local stakeholders from the mainland fishing sector in all project-related activities.
- Collaborate with and support the work of project consultants and research teams conducting activities in mainland Ecuadorian fishing areas of interest.
- Attend meetings related to the mainland fishing sector that pertain to the project's objectives.
- Comply with the administrative and expenditure policies of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

Required Profile

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, Economics, Sustainable Development, or a related field.

Postgraduate Degree (Preferred): A Master's degree (Level 4) in a relevant discipline is highly desirable.

Professional Experience & Requirements

- 1 to 3 years of relevant professional experience (high-impact internships or field-based thesis projects are included).
- Minimum of two years of experience in community management and development.



- Basic understanding of gender-based approaches and qualitative/quantitative research methodologies. Familiarity with the GEDSI framework is highly desirable.
- At least two years of experience in project management related to artisanal fisheries or marine conservation in Ecuador, the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP), or other regions is highly desirable.
- Previous experience in rural business development and rural entrepreneurship is a plus.

Languages & Skills

Languages:

Spanish: Fluent (native or equivalent).

English: Written and spoken proficiency is desirable.

Technical Skills:

- Proficiency in social research methodologies, including data collection, systematization, and analysis of field information.
- Proficiency in the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) and the development of Logical Framework Matrices.
- Familiarity with the Theory of Change (ToC) methodology is highly desirable.
- Ability to track indicators and contribute to evidence-based reporting.
- Strong technical writing skills for reports, briefs, and other official documents.
- Public speaking and presentation skills.

Competencies & Soft Skills:

- Empathy and assertive communication.
- Proven experience engaging with vulnerable groups and local authorities.
- Conflict resolution and organizational skills.
- Proactivity and readiness for intensive field work.
- Ability to work effectively within interdisciplinary, multicultural, and diverse teams.
- Ability to set autonomous goals and work with minimal supervision.

Employment Conditions

The Junior Social Scientist will be contracted by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and will report directly to the Senior Bioeconomist. This role requires consistent and direct interaction with research teams, co-executors, and consultants to ensure project alignment. Compensation, including salary, benefits, and vacation packages, will be commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience, following CDF internal policies. This is a full-time remote position (approximately 40 hours per week) with a required schedule of 07:45–12:30 and 14:00–17:15; please note that work performed outside these hours is not eligible for overtime pay. Additionally, the incumbent must be available for frequent field travel to coastal communities within the intervention zone. Finally, the professional must strictly comply with the CDF Procedures Manual and all regulations established by the Ministry of Environment (MAE) regarding Ecuador's Protected Areas.

- **Interested in Applying?**

Interested candidates must submit the requested information through the following Google



Forms link:

<https://forms.gle/VR2UzDNhba7aV11L9>

- A cover letter (maximum 1000 words) describing your interest in the position and your skills and experience in relation to the requirements mentioned above.
- Updated CV.
- The names and email addresses of three professional references.

Application deadline: March 20th, 2026

The Charles Darwin Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.