



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteer Call for professionals who want to leave their mark on the conservation of the Galapagos Islands

Project:

Creation of a CDF E-Commerce & Drop-shipping

Area: Marketing and Communications

Application deadline: 18 September 2026

Start date: Flexible start date in 2026 / early 2027

Duration: 3 months

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation is an international nonprofit conducting scientific research and conservation work in the Galápagos Islands. Our merchandise store is an important, growing revenue stream that funds our work and our scientific station — and connects nature lovers and Galápagos visitors around the world with our mission.

We have a physical donation point on our Station grounds, which includes a variety of merchandise which visitors can purchase in exchange for a donation. We currently sell merchandise online only through [Bonfire](#) and want to expand into a proper e-commerce operation using a print-on-demand / drop-shipping model. Our team is small and does not handle fulfilment in-house, so the setup needs to be efficient, largely outsourced, and low-cost to launch.

We're looking for a volunteer with hands-on e-commerce experience to help us think through and set up this operation. The selected volunteer will work closely with both our institutional promotion and marketing teams.

This is a primarily on-site opportunity based at our research station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos. You'll work alongside our team in person, experience the islands firsthand, and get to know the conservation work your expertise is helping fund.



Volunteer placement conditions

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

The volunteer will be supported by the CDF staff member responsible for the project, who will be designated at the start of the placement. Timelines for collaboration and for the delivery of outputs will be agreed together with the selected volunteer.

The selected volunteer is expected to comply with the CDF volunteer regulations and with the Foundation's other policies and procedures, as well as to strictly observe the regulations of the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) during field activities.

Desired profile and competencies

- E-commerce / Shopify implementation experience, ideally with drop-shipping or print-on-demand models
- Familiarity with US/EU consumer fulfillment and shipping logistics
- Bonus: SEO or performance marketing experience, nonprofit or DTC merchandise background
- Competencies: initiative, innovation, results orientation, flexibility, ease of working in a culturally diverse environment, and teamwork.

What the volunteering involves

Working alongside our team, the volunteer would help with:

- Recommend and help configure a platform (we're leaning Shopify, incl. the Shopify for Nonprofits program)
- Identify and help set up print-on-demand / dropship suppliers for our core product categories: apparel, accessories, calendars, plush toys, books
- Advise on fulfillment logistics for shipping to our primary markets: United States and Europe
- Provide a foundational SEO and marketing strategy to reach two audiences: past Galápagos visitors/existing supporters, and new nature/conservation-minded audiences who haven't yet traveled there or heard of us
- Recommend upsell/donation mechanics for checkout (e.g., round-up donations, suggested add-ons, project-linked collections)

What we hope to achieve together

- A platform and supplier recommendation, shaped together with our team
- An online store built and ready to launch
- First marketing and SEO campaigns live



- Transfer of the technical knowledge needed to a member of the CDF team, so that they can sustain and continue the operation

Time Commitment & Format

We are open to a hybrid engagement, ~3 months total:

- **Remote phase (2–3 weeks):** initial research, supplier/platform shortlisting, and prep work done from home
- **On-site phase (2-3 months, flexible):** based at our Research Station, working directly with our team to build the store, launch it, run initial marketing campaigns, and train a CDF staff member to sustain the operation after you leave

Why This Matters

Every donation received through this online store will directly fund the CDF's work in the field, as well as the activities of the research station and its staff in Galapagos. Beyond the project itself, you'll spend real time on the islands — visiting the research station, seeing our conservation work firsthand, and experiencing one of the most extraordinary ecosystems on Earth. Your expertise would help turn an underused sales channel into a sustainable, scalable source of nonprofit revenue — with global reach and lasting impact.

Benefits:

- Support towards accommodation, living costs and/or flights during the on-site phase will be provided, to be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- Uniform provided.
- Accident insurance.
- Residency card fee.

We recognize that's a real commitment, and we're looking for someone for whom the experience itself — living and working in Galápagos, direct access to our research station and our researchers, and taking part in a meaningful project for a globally recognized scientific conservation organization — is their main motivation. The volunteer will receive a certificate of participation in the CDF Volunteer Programme, together with the possibility of sharing a public testimonial or case study of their work, and introductions within our network.

This is a defined, time-bound placement — long enough to see the store through from setup to launch, and a good fit for someone on a sabbatical, between roles, or looking for an extended, high-impact experience in an extraordinary place.

How to apply?

Interested applicants can complete the online form available at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jf7Y7gAJfm>

- Please attach the required documentation in accordance with the instructions



provided in the form.

- Applicants are reminded that they must follow the completion guidelines, established deadlines, and required formats for all attachments.
- Only applications that fully meet all established criteria regarding profile, format, documentation, and content will be considered.

Do you have any general questions about the volunteer opportunity?

For further information about the volunteer opportunity, please send your questions to the following email address so that we can respond appropriately:

✉ vol@fcdarwin.org.ec

Do you have any project-specific questions?

For further information about the project or the activities related to the opportunity for which you are applying, please send your questions to the following email address so that we can respond appropriately:

✉ ambre.tanty@fcdarwin.org.ec