



## The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is seeking to hire

|                              |                                   |
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| <b>Position title:</b>       | Research Assistant                |
| <b>Type of work:</b>         | Research assistance and fieldwork |
| <b>Application deadline:</b> | 30/09/2026                        |
| <b>Start date:</b>           | 01/11/2026                        |
| <b>Duration:</b>             | 7 months                          |

### Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is seeking to recruit a Project Assistant to join the “Marine Turtles” research team. The position is primarily field-based and will support green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) monitoring activities conducted in nesting and foraging areas throughout the archipelago.

The selected candidate will join a multidisciplinary team and participate in research and conservation activities that require commitment, responsibility, adaptability, and willingness to work under remote and demanding field conditions.

### Position objective

Support the implementation of green sea turtle monitoring programs in nesting and foraging habitats in Galapagos, ensuring compliance with field protocols and the systematic and rigorous collection of data.

The data collected will contribute to improving knowledge of the species' population dynamics, assessing threats and changes in its habitats, and generating scientific information to support decision-making and the development of conservation actions in the archipelago.

### Activities

The Research Assistant will work closely and actively with volunteers and field staff from both CDF and the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) who implement green sea turtle nesting monitoring at a remote site on Isabela Island.

The main responsibilities of the position are:



### **Fieldwork:**

- Participate in field trips to green sea turtle foraging areas in Galapagos.
- Implement field activities for monitoring green sea turtle nests, including the use and installation of temperature sensors.
- Conduct daily surveys of monitored nests to detect signs of hatchling emergence, loss or destruction events, and subsequently exhume nests to determine hatching and emergence success.
- Support the monitoring and maintenance of automated sensors that record environmental variables in different areas of the beach.
- Support the maintenance of field equipment and materials, as well as the camp in general.
- Actively support theoretical and practical training workshops for GNPD and CDF staff and volunteers in Puerto Ayora.
- Support the practical training of new staff at the study site, ensuring the correct application of monitoring methodologies and protocols.

### **Office work:**

- Support logistics and preparation for field trips, including local purchases of materials, supplies, and provisions required for monitoring activities.
- Keep databases up to date with information collected during the field phase.
- Update inventories of field equipment and materials at the end of the season.

### **Minimum profile:**

### **Qualifications and experience:**

- At least 2 to 3 years of demonstrable experience in fieldwork in remote areas, including extended stays in basic camps, work under adverse weather conditions, and the ability to carry out activities independently with limited supervision.
- Experience in handling and safely managing wildlife, including the application of protocols for capture, tagging, morphometric measurements, and recording biological information. Previous experience with sea turtles or other reptiles will be considered an advantage.
- Previous fieldwork experience in Galapagos is desirable, particularly in remote sites and under the environmental and climatic conditions of the archipelago.
- Intermediate knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and experience with tools such as QGIS or ArcGIS will be considered an asset (not mandatory), especially for recording, locating, and mapping nests and other spatial field data.
- Physical condition compatible with the demands of fieldwork and good swimming ability.
- Ability to adapt to working conditions in remote areas/camps, including limited access to electricity, Internet, and fresh food.
- Availability and ability to work demanding and variable schedules. Monitoring activities include night patrols to record and monitor female green sea turtles coming ashore to nest,

**Quito:** Francisco Andrade Marín E6-122 y Av. Eloy Alfaro. + 593 (2) 2 231 174 **Galápagos:** Av. Charles Darwin s/n, Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora. + 593 (5) 2 526 146 The 'Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands', in French 'Fondation Charles Darwin pour les îles Galapagos', Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL), has its registered office at 54 Avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Trade Registry # 0409.359.103  
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so availability to work at night and adjust rest schedules according to monitoring needs is required.

- Ability to work as part of a team with people of different ages, nationalities, experience levels, and cultural backgrounds.
- Good communication skills, with the ability to communicate clear, precise, and objective information about activities, updates, and situations occurring in the field to the project's general coordination team based in Puerto Ayora.
- Responsibility, autonomy, and commitment to completing planned activities, with the ability to carry out fieldwork without direct supervision while adhering to established protocols, schedules, monitoring effort, and project quality standards.
- Ability to solve problems and make decisions in unforeseen or emergency situations inherent to work at remote sites, promptly communicating any relevant situation to project coordination.
- Organizational and mentoring skills, including coordinating daily activities and supporting staff and volunteers with less experience.
- Ability to teach and transfer knowledge, supporting the practical training of new team members and promoting the correct application of monitoring techniques, methodologies, and protocols.
- Rigor in the collection, recording, and review of field data, ensuring the quality, accuracy, and consistency of the information collected and compliance with established protocols. Experience using R/RStudio for data organization, initial review, and quality control, including identifying possible errors, missing values, or inconsistencies before analysis.
- Knowledge of first aid in remote areas is important.

### Preferred qualifications

Degree in Marine Biology, Biology, or a related field.

### Employment conditions

- **Contract type:** Business Activity Contract
- **Position type:** Assistant
- **Work schedule:** Full-time
- **Work location:** Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island, for training and preparation of field trips.
- **Compensation:** Monthly Salary \$1,200
- **Contract duration:** 7 months
- **Mobility and fieldwork:** Field activities will take place primarily at Quinta Playa, Isabela Island. Stays at the study site will last approximately one continuous month, followed by the corresponding days off, according to project planning and the field staff rotation system.
- **Regulatory compliance:** The selected candidate must comply with the Charles Darwin Foundation's internal regulations, biosecurity protocols, and regulations applicable to scientific work in Galapagos, including the provisions of the Galapagos National Park.



- **Benefits:** Statutory benefits and those established by the Charles Darwin Foundation's internal policies.

### **Why join the Charles Darwin Foundation?**

- Be part of a mission-driven, globally respected organization dedicated to preserving one of the planet's most iconic ecosystems;
- Help advance vital research and conservation in the Galapagos Islands, with regional and global impact.
- Strengthen your professional and technical skills by participating in research, monitoring, and conservation activities under unique field conditions.
- Gain hands-on experience in long-term conservation projects, working directly with species and ecosystems of high conservation importance.
- Be part of a multidisciplinary and multicultural team, with opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience with researchers, technicians, park rangers, volunteers, and national and international collaborators.

### **Interested in applying?**

Interested candidates should follow the link below to submit their application and the required documentation:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSco32f7qSKEH9P4OluGLBp3pyqy86rFvp2iI0pNJaoqJyd3SQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

- A cover letter detailing relevant experience (maximum 2 pages).
- Updated CV.
- Contact information for up to three professional references (names, email addresses, and contact numbers).

**Application deadline: 30/09/2026**

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