



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

Position title:	Field Assistant
Type of work:	Fieldwork
Application deadline:	30/09/2026
Start date:	01/12/2026
Duration:	4 months

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is seeking to recruit a Field Assistant to join the “Marine Turtles” research team and participate in monitoring green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting at Quinta Playa, Isabela Island.

This position is primarily field-based and requires availability to remain for extended periods at a remote site, as part of a team responsible for monitoring nesting females, nests, and environmental variables associated with the species’ reproductive process.

Position objective

Support the continuous and standardized implementation of the green sea turtle nesting monitoring program at Quinta Playa, following the protocols and sampling effort established by CDF’s Marine Turtles Project.

The information collected will make it possible to assess reproductive parameters, record changes in the environmental conditions of the nesting site, and generate long-term data that contribute to knowledge and conservation of the green sea turtle in Galapagos.

Activities

The Field Assistant will work in coordination with CDF and Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) staff and volunteers during implementation of green sea turtle nesting monitoring at Quinta Playa, Isabela Island.

The main responsibilities of the position are:



Fieldwork

- Conduct night patrols to monitor nesting female green sea turtles, following the protocols established by the project.
- Tag, measure, and record biological information on nesting females, in accordance with established techniques and protocols.
- Carry out monitoring and follow-up activities for green sea turtle nests, including locating and checking nests and managing temperature sensors installed in them.
- Conduct daily surveys of monitored nests to detect signs of hatchling emergence and record flooding, predation, loss, destruction, or other events that may affect nests.
- Exhume nests and record the information required to determine hatching and emergence success.
- Support the inspection and maintenance of automated sensors used to record environmental variables in different areas of the beach.
- Clearly, accurately, and systematically record data obtained during monitoring activities, ensuring compliance with established protocols.
- Support the care and maintenance of equipment, materials, and basic camp infrastructure during field stays.
- Collaborate with the rest of the team on activities necessary for the daily operation of the camp and implementation of the monitoring program during each stay at Quinta Playa.
- Support logistics and preparation for field trips, including organizing equipment, materials, supplies, and provisions required for stays at Quinta Playa.
- Participate in the theoretical and practical training required for the correct application of monitoring methodologies and protocols.

Minimum profile:

Qualifications and experience:

- Be a permanent resident of the Galapagos Islands.
- Previous experience in fieldwork, wildlife monitoring, or conservation projects.
- Experience with extended stays at remote sites and basic camps, under variable weather conditions and with limited access to services.
- Physical condition compatible with the demands of fieldwork, including long walks, outdoor activities, and stays of approximately one month at a remote camp.
- Good swimming ability and confidence working in field activities that may involve entering the water.
- Ability to work as part of a team and interact effectively with people of different ages, nationalities, experience levels, and cultural backgrounds.
- Responsibility, commitment, autonomy, and willingness to learn, with the ability to carry out field activities without direct supervision, strictly following established protocols, schedules, monitoring effort, and project quality standards, as well as instructions from more experienced staff when applicable.

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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- Good communication skills to report clearly and promptly on activities carried out and any updates or relevant situations during fieldwork.
- Ability to adapt to and resolve practical situations associated with work and living at remote sites, requesting support or informing responsible staff when necessary.
- Availability to work demanding and variable schedules, including night patrols to monitor female green sea turtles during nesting.
- Ability to adapt to basic camp conditions, with limited access to electricity, Internet, and fresh food during field stays.
- Basic first-aid knowledge is desirable.

Preferred qualifications

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

Employment conditions

- **Contract type:** Temporary Contract
- **Position type:** Field Assistant
- **Work schedule:** Full-time
- **Work location:** Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island, for training and preparation of field trips.
- **Compensation:** Monthly Salary \$1,100
- **Contract duration:** 4 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/1FAIpQLSeDZIpRRhMU1_WD9LQg5O1zAGfTGY_RhEFSrDggE2bULPpNUA/viewform?usp=dialog

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

Application deadline: 30/09/2026

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