



The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands
is seeking to hire
Junior Researcher – Ecological Restoration Program

Position title:	Junior Researcher
Employment type:	Full-time
Application deadline:	November 30, 2026
Start date:	January 4, 2027
Duration:	1 year, with annual renewal based on performance.
Reports to	Principal Investigators

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) is an international nonprofit organization founded in Belgium in 1959, with its operational base in the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located 1,000 kilometers off the coast of Ecuador. All research projects operate from the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, with the mission *of addressing the greatest threats and challenges facing Galapagos through scientific research and conservation action to safeguard one of the world's most important natural treasures.*

Position Overview

The Charles Darwin Foundation conducts several terrestrial ecosystem restoration projects focused on restoring ecological resilience. These projects implement a range of restoration measures, including species reintroductions, invasive species control, and assisted natural regeneration. They also establish biodiversity baselines and monitor ecological resilience indicators across several areas of the Galapagos Islands.

Position Objective

The objective of this position is to support ecosystem monitoring and the assessment of restoration interventions in the Galapagos Islands through an ecological resilience approach, with a focus on Floreana Island.

Responsibilities

The selected candidate will be responsible for three main areas:

- a. Support for administrative work
- b. Support for fieldwork
- c. Support for data analysis, interpretation of results, and publications.



a. Support for administrative work

- Work as part of a cohesive team.
- Document field activities in reports and assist with preparing reports for donors and public institutions.
- Support other activities assigned by the Co-Principal Investigators.
- Create, maintain, and update databases for statistical analyses and reporting.

b. Support for fieldwork

- Contribute to the development of research methodologies and experimental designs for projects focused on restoring Galapagos ecosystems.
- Conduct field trips to collect information on flora and fauna across the Galapagos Islands.
- Establish permanent quadrats and monitor vegetation within them.
- Comply with all regulations and field permit requirements established by the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD).

c. Support for data analysis, interpretation of results, and publications.

- Statistically analyze the data collected and prepare results for publication.
- Contribute to peer-reviewed publications on restoration efforts undertaken within the project.
- Support education and outreach activities related to projects in invasive species management and ecological restoration.
- Participate in scientific events to share project results.

Minimum Candidate Profile

Qualifications

- Postgraduate qualification in Biology, Ecology, Conservation, or a related field. A master's degree is preferred.
- At least 2 years of demonstrated experience in biodiversity monitoring and fieldwork, preferably in tropical or island environments.

Requirements

- Full proficiency (fluency) in spoken and written Spanish and English.
- Excellent writing skills in both languages.
- Authorship or co-authorship of a scientific publication (desirable).

Specific Skills

- Ability to work independently and organize field trips, preferably with experience working in remote locations.
- Ability to develop research methodologies and experimental designs for projects focused on restoration in the Galapagos Islands.
- Experience establishing and conducting biodiversity monitoring.
- Ability to create and curate ecological databases.
- Experience managing and analyzing ecological data using tools such as Excel, R,

Quito: Francisco Andrade Marín E6-122 and 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 Galápagos', Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL), has its registered office at 54 Avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Trade Registry # 0409.359.103

www.darwinfoundation.org cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec



and QGIS (desirable).

- Experience presenting work at academic forums, workshops, courses, or outreach activities.
- Experience writing funding proposals (desirable).
- Experience writing and publishing scientific papers (desirable).
- Ability to manage assigned activities and materials effectively and efficiently, in accordance with CDF policies, procedures, and rules and those of the respective donors.

Soft Skills

- Ability to work in a dynamic environment offering numerous opportunities as well as unforeseen events and challenges, with limited logistical resources and geographical isolation.
- Willingness to travel frequently and, at times, for extended periods in isolated environments and challenging field conditions.
- Teamwork and interpersonal relationship skills.
- Strategic thinking and strong organizational skills.
- Initiative and creativity.
- Adaptability and a strong ability to prioritize tasks.
- Flexibility to take on different tasks and respond to emerging needs.

Working Conditions

- The Junior Researcher in Ecological Restoration will be based in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos, Ecuador.
- Salary and benefits will be negotiated according to the candidate's qualifications.
- The successful candidate is expected to work 40 hours per week, from 07:45 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 17:15. This schedule may change depending on project activities, such as field trips.
- The researcher must observe and comply with the rules and regulations of the Galapagos National Park.

Why Join the Charles Darwin Foundation

- Join a globally respected, mission-driven organization dedicated to preserving one of the planet's most iconic ecosystems.
- Support a **unique, innovative, and ambitious restoration initiative** alongside key partner institutions.
- Collaborate with scientists, conservationists, and philanthropists from around the world.
- Help advance vital research and conservation in the Galapagos Islands, with regional and global impact.

Restrictions

Please note that the provincial government of the Galapagos Islands prohibits bringing domestic pets (companion animals) into the Galapagos Islands.



Interested in Applying?

Interested candidates should use the following link to submit their application and the required documents: <https://forms.gle/Kf1ZzkvfNdv6sdM79>

- A cover letter detailing relevant experience (maximum 2 pages).
- An updated CV.
- Contact details for three professional references (names, email addresses, and telephone numbers).

For further information, please contact us at: recursos.humanos@fcdarwin.org.ec

Application deadline: November 30, 2026.

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