

Announcement

Professional Volunteer for the Shark Project

Application deadline: October 30th, 2019

Expected start date: January 8th, 2020

Duration: Initially for a period of 6 months with the possibility of extending for an additional 6 months

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) is looking for a candidate with experience in marine sciences to volunteer for the Sharks Project at our Research Station (CDRS) located in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos. The successful candidate will be an important team member of the Sharks Project, which conducts applied research with the aim to create knowledge used in the development of management actions that ensure the long-term conservation of sharks. This project actively carries out research on the fields of shark ecology, habitat use and migratory routes, population genetics, and has also been involved in socio-economic studies.

Key responsibilities

1. Analysis of videos obtained through the deployment of stereo Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVs) and surveys using Diver Operated Video Surveys (DOVS) to quantify the relative abundance and distribution of sharks and fish within the Galapagos Marine Reserve.
2. Contribute to the maintenance of the project databases.
3. Contribute to data analysis and assist with the preparation of scientific publications, reports for donors and drafting of outreach materials.
4. Assist in maintaining work equipment, and assist with the logistics of diving and shark tagging field trips whenever necessary.
5. Collaborate in the design and delivery of outreach and education events aimed at the local community and schools.
6. Support any other activities when requested by the Sharks Project coordinator.

Depending on the availability of funding and spaces in field trips, as well as previous field experience and certifications of the candidate, it is possible for them to participate in the fieldwork.

Required profile

Essential criteria

- Bachelor degree in marine biology or related fields.
- Advanced knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite, in particular MS Excel.
- Excellent social and interpersonal skills.
- Proficiency in Spanish and English.
- Proactive, able to integrate in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team in an isolated environment.
- Be physically fit and willing to work long days and weekends whenever necessary.

Desirable criteria

- Postgraduate degree in Marine Biology or related fields.
- Previous experience in the analysis of stereo-video footage and calibration of stereo-video cameras using Event Measure and CAL software.
- Knowledge of species of fish inhabiting the Tropical Eastern Pacific.
- Experience in programming (e.g., R or Python), GIS, and statistical software.
- Fluency in languages other than English and Spanish will be considered an advantage.

- If there is a possibility for the candidate to participate in fieldwork, they must have extensive and proven SCUBA diving experience. The minimum required certification is PADI Rescue Diver or equivalent, with at least 100 recorded dives. Dive conditions in the Galapagos Islands are very challenging, which frequently includes poor visibility, strong currents and thermoclines. The candidate must be used to and feel comfortable diving in these challenging conditions.

Conditions

The Shark Project Volunteer reports directly to the Sharks Project coordinator and the Marine Ecologist. The successful candidate will be based at the CDRS located on Santa Cruz Island in Galapagos, Ecuador. A volunteer assignment with CDF does not imply a continuing relationship with the volunteer beyond the expected duration of the assignment.

The volunteer is expected to work from 07:45 - 12:30 and from 14:00 – 17:15. Due to project activities, such as fieldtrips and outreach events, this schedule may vary. The volunteer placement may be extended by request of the volunteer based on volunteering performance and is subject to the approval of the project coordinator. Holidays and/or time off from the CDRS may be requested in advanced by the volunteer, but will be subject to the approval of the project coordinator.

The candidate is responsible for their own travel costs to and from the Galapagos Islands. Boarding and lodging costs could be covered by the CDF depending on the candidate's profile, and will be discussed during the interview process. Accommodation at the CDF campus dorms can be arranged if there is availability. The candidate must provide their own accident, dive and life insurance coverage for the entire duration of their assignment in the Islands.

The CDF will process the permit that allows volunteers to remain in the Galapagos, and it provides advice about the application process for the Ecuadorian visa. However, the visa application is a personal process that must be completed by the volunteer through the Ecuadorian Embassy closest to their country of residence.

How to Apply

All applications must include the application form and supporting documentation and they should be sent via e-mail to vol@fcdarwin.org.ec. The application deadline is October 30th, 2019.

Application forms are available on our website: <https://www.darwinfoundation.org/en/get-involved/vacancies/volunteers>. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.

Your application package must include the following documents:

- Updated copy of your CV in English or Spanish.
- Cover letter in English or Spanish.
- Two professional reference letters that include the names and contact details of referees.
- Name and contact details of two referees that can provide a personal reference.