Chief Curator for the Galapagos Natural History Collections at the Charles Darwin Foundation, Galapagos

Deadline for application: December 2021
Start date: February 2022
Duration: One year (possibility of renewal)

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is the custodian for the Government of Ecuador of the largest Natural History Collections in the Galapagos. The collections are maintained under a comprehensive management policy and collection records are all managed by means of an electronic web-based database. There are separate curators and/or collection assistants working in each of the four principal collections housed at the Charles Darwin Foundation including invertebrates, vertebrates, botanical and marine specimens. We are seeking a Chief Curator to join our team, develop a broad vision for the collections, oversee management and curation, and seek and secure funding options to expand the reach and scope of our collections. The Chief Curator must have broad experience in database management and taxonomy, and an interest in capacity-building and challenging environments.

Our role is to provide science-based advice to the Government of Ecuador for the conservation of the Galapagos Islands. The Natural History Collections provide essential tools to conservation managers for the identification of species, to understand their ecology and historic and current habitat range, and ultimately, find the best strategies for conservation management.

Position objective

The Collections Manager will be responsible for the technical supervision, management and maintenance of the Natural History Collections housed at CDF.

Required profile

The ideal candidate would:

- Have at least 8 years demonstrated experience in curation and/or management of natural history collections.
- S/he should have a profound knowledge and understanding of taxonomy and be an expert in at least one of the taxonomic groups of the collections.
- The candidate should be proficient in the use of databases and have the ability to resolve computer issues with support from IT and programming staff.
- Fluency in both spoken and written Spanish and English is essential as well as an interest in building local capacity.
- Our reference collections need a practical hands-on person who has proven excellent people skills in team management.
• Ideally the candidate will be willing to participate in field work, including collecting expeditions and in other research when able.

Academic requirements

• Minimum of a MS in systematics (preference toward PhD) preferably in one of the key taxonomic groups housed at the CDF, or a degree in ecology or related field. Preference will be given to applicants with a PhD.

Activities

1. Oversee execution of the Collections Management Policy and establishment of action plans for each of the collections.
2. Supervise curators and assistants that work in each collection to ensure that priority activities are carried out in accordance to plans.
3. Collaborate with database programmers (IT department) to ensure maximum functionality of the database and online actualization of information through the CDF dataZone.
4. Develop and implement a strategic plan to fill gaps in knowledge of Galapagos biodiversity.
5. Prepare and assist in the preparation of grant proposals for all collections.
6. Coordinate with national and international experts to encourage local work by taxonomic experts.
7. Invite leading specialists to work on under-represented groups or taxa in order to address the existing taxonomic bias in conservation management in Galapagos.
8. Promote the scientific and educational value of the Natural History Collections through the development of promotional material and exhibitions that are open to the public.
9. Enhance the use of citizen science applications with support from virtual curators and science projects.
10. Coordinate with national state agencies.
11. Train collections personnel and volunteers.
12. Prepare annual reports with the work team for donors, funding agencies, and others and to the Environmental Authorities for the maintenance and renewal of the collections patent permit.

Employment conditions

The Chief curator will be a full-time staff of CDF and will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

The Chief curator will report directly to the Director of Science. The contracted by the Charles Darwin Foundation does not imply a continuous relationship with CDF, for a duration longer than that agreed up in the contract.

The Chief curator is expected to work 40 hours a week from 07:45-12:30 and 14:00 - 17:15. Due to certain project activities, however, such as field trips, this schedule may be changed.
The Chief curator will work according to the regulations and Manual of Procedures of the CDF, and will complete their field work strictly following the rules and regulations of the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD)

**How to apply:**

Applicants should submit the following documents via e-mail to: (pro.seleccion@fcdarwin.org.ec)

- Current resume/CV.
- Letter of interest (no more than 2 pages), describing your competencies according to the minimum requirements for the announced position.
- The names and email addresses of three referees who could write professional letters of reference.

Please send all the necessary documents in a single PDF file. If you need additional information, you can contact the same e-mail.