The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is recruiting a Senior Researcher in Marine Sciences (Sharks)

Type of Position: Senior – Co-Principal Investigator
Marine Sciences – Shark Ecology

Type of work: Full time employment

Place of work: Puerto Ayora, Galapagos Island, Ecuador

Supervised by: Science Director

Supervises: Junior Researcher(s), volunteers, under- and/or post-graduate students (thesis)

Deadline for application: April 2022

Duration: One year with possibility of renewal based on performance and funding

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is recruiting a Senior Scientist to join our Shark team and strengthen ongoing long-term research on shark population ecology conducted by the CDF. This position is intended to extend the scope of the Marine Sciences dimension at CDF, with a clear vocation of strengthening and improving the current research agenda. CDF is seeking an outstanding senior professional committed to the conservation of the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve ecosystems which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The research conducted by this Senior Scientist should generate state-of-the-art scientific information and knowledge that will provide stakeholders and decision makers with scientific-based knowledge to make informed decisions for the conservation of the Galapagos Islands.

Position Objective

CDF is a non-profit research institute founded in 1959 with a mission to provide knowledge and assistance through scientific research and complementary action to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity in the Galapagos archipelago. The Marine Sciences department recently inaugurated a new state-of-the-art marine research complex and conference center on its campus and this position is one of two open recruitments to expand marine research at CDF. The person hired will be the co-Principal Investigator of the “Sharks” Project. Extensive experience in marine sciences research and related areas is essential. The selected person will co-lead the Shark Ecology project, whose main objective is to enhance our understanding of the population ecology of key iconic shark species through scientific research in order to contribute to decision and policy making that results in better management and conservation measures.
and actions for these threatened species. The project involves various studies about shark ecology, including habitat use and migratory routes, as well as the effect of ENSO on population dynamics. It also addresses population genetics and socio-economic studies about sharks.

**Required Profile**

- Doctoral degree in Marine Ecology, Marine Biology, Conservation Biology or related field.
- At least 3 years experience in shark and/or ray research (Elasmobranchs).
- Author or co-author of at least 8 publications (at least two as first author) in international indexed peer-review journals. Additional publications of edited or co-edited books, chapters and/or Policy Brief are assets.
- Ability/experience to coordinate, plan and carry out field work, during long term periods, in extreme conditions, and in very remote areas.
- Advanced (at least five years) experience in scientific diving (Rescue Diver or higher, with at least 100 scientific diving trips). Ability and/or certification in "apnea" diving is an advantage.
- Previous experience with capture, manipulation, and marking of sharks is encouraged.
- Ability/experience organizing and carrying out successful workshops, meetings and other participatory methodologies with authorities and users of natural resources.
- Demonstrable successful experience in writing research grants and proposals, and at fundraising for scientific research.
- Successful experience in obtaining 'third party funding' is desired.
- Demonstrable experience to analyze data, write field and technical reports.
- Ability/experience at supervising and training junior staff and students.
- Fluent in English and Spanish (oral, writing, reading).
- Proficient / advanced level of knowledge in use of the R Statistic Package and ArcGIS or similar GIS software (e.g., QGIS).
- Previous experience at doing research in the Galapagos Islands (Galapagos Marine Reserve) desirable.
- Ability to achieve and maintain positive relationships with government officials, fishers, tour operators, guides, and other productive sectors (ideally of Galapagos).
- Excellent social and interpersonal skills in both social and work-related environments.
- Proactive personality, able to work under pressure and in remote and isolated locations under rough weather and sea conditions.
- Able to fulfill tight schedules. “Multitasking” approach is greatly desired and the capacity to integrate with an interdisciplinary team.

**Activities**

The selected candidate will maintain a close and active interaction with the current Principal Investigator of the Sharks Project. The selected person will also collaborate in close relationship, with other staff members of CDF, in activities related to the project and to other activities of the institution. Additionally, the selected candidate will co-develop collaborative initiatives with local national and international institutions, and will work alongside the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNDP) and with other strategic partners.

1. Co-lead the research conducted about sharks in the Galapagos Marine Reserve, and regionally throughout the Eastern Tropic Pacific, in collaboration with already established networks, as well as
potential new ones, at the local, regional and international scale.

2. Collaborate actively, with the Principal Investigator of the Project, about current and future activities of the sharks Project.

3. Manage the daily activities for the project, including the work plan and activities conducted by the staff, volunteers and students.

4. Elaborate annual research proposals to complete the Annual Operative Plan for the CDF and submitted a research proposal for GNPD research permit approval.

5. Lead, together with the fundraising team, the formulation of research proposals for funding to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of the Project.

6. Maintain a close relationship and collaboration with the GNPD as the co-executor of the project, and also with other strategic partners, in order to facilitate the participatory nature of the research conducted in the project.

7. Collaborate with GNPD counterparts, with national and international collaborators, in the development of new research methodologies and experimental design, in order to advance the research and achieve the Project's aims.

8. Design, organize and lead the planning, development and implementation of field work seasons. This requires that all regulations established by the GNPD, the biosecurity regulations dictated by ABG, and the safety protocols directed by CDF, be accomplished.

9. Ensure the correct management and maintenance of the equipment and materials that the sharks projects utilize, before, during and after the field seasons.

10. Lead the updating, management, analysis, and interpretation of the databases and datasets generated by the project.

11. Conduct and supervise the collection, analysis, and storage of biological sampling, for genetic-based studies, always fulfilling the legal normative framework that is regulated by the National Biodiversity Institute.

12. Conduct the data analysis and lead and/or collaborate with the production of scientific publications, reports to donors, and education and communication materials.

13. Collaborate, together with the CDF Education team, in education activities and distribution of materials and in the preparation and celebration of events about sharks, shark conservation and related thematic, and other activities with community members, and local schools.

14. Coordinate the administrative-related paperwork, needed for the Project, as needed.

**Employment Conditions**

The Researcher selected will based at the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.
The Researcher will fulfill faithfully the norms, regulations and manuals of procedures of the CDF; in addition, he/she will observe and follow strictly the norms and regulations set by the GNPD.

The working schedule for the CDF is from 07:45-12:15 and 14:00 - 17:00. Due to the nature of the project (field work, unexpected activities) the working schedule for the person hired must be flexible. Position will require extensive marine field expeditions, as well as work during late evenings or weekends. The extension of the contract will initially be for one year and is renewable based on performance and funding.

All residency papers related to the hiring process will be overseen by the Human Resources department at CDF but will require the assistance of candidate to obtain necessary legal documents. In the case of foreigners, a work visa must be applied for and issued by the Ecuadorian government. CDF will be also overseeing processing of the residence permit for the selected candidate.

How to apply?

Interested persons should send the following information by e-mail to pro.seleccion@fcdarwin.org.ec

**NOTE: Make reference in the subject to the position that applies.**

- Updated CV
- A two-page letter of interest, describing his/her competencies according to the minimal requirements for this position.
- The names and emails for three professional references. Letters will only be requested if a candidate progresses past an initial interview.

Kindly send all the application material as one .pdf document. If more details are needed, please, do not hesitate to contact the provided e-mail address.