

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is recruiting a Senior Researcher in Conservation Sustainability Studies

Type of Position:	Principal Investigator
Role:	Scientist in Conservation Sustainability Research
Type of work:	Full time employment
Place of work:	Puerto Ayora, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
Supervised by:	Science Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation
Supervises:	Junior Researcher(s), volunteers, under- and/or post-graduate students (thesis)
Deadline for application:	July, 2022
Anticipated starting date:	September, 2022
Duration:	Two year with possibility of renewal based on performance

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is recruiting a **Senior Scientist** to expand our research portfolio within the 'sustainability' framework, and by doing so, strengthen the CDF research agenda. The scientist in this position is expected to develop a sustainability line of research, with a clear vocation of strengthening and improving the current CDF interdisciplinary research agenda. We seek an outstanding senior professional committed to advancing the conservation of the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve and the newly decreed Hermandad Marine Reserve, which together form the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The research conducted should generate state-of-the-art scientific outputs that will enable informed decisions by policy makers and generate accurate, published, peer-reviewed articles and policies designed to be implemented within the sustainable development and conservation framework 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. CDF recently inaugurated a new state-of-the-art marine research complex and conference center on its campus in 2021 and this position is one of a series of related recruitments to expand and strengthen interdisciplinary research. The person hired will be a Principal Investigator, thus extensive experience in sustainability-related research and associated areas is considered essential. The selected person will lead the research agenda, whose main objective is to explore opportunities and enhance our understanding of sustainable practices, outcomes, visions, and innovative ideas, that help Galapagos to achieve responsible, fair development and conservation aims.

The scientist area of interest and specialization should include at least one of the disciplines/themes described here: sustainability in tourism, sustainable food systems, human dimensions of conflicts within protected areas, economics for conservation (e.g., nature-based solutions, financing for conservation, circular economy), water security, or smart architecture (e.g., smart cities, smart infrastructure), and related topics.

Required Profile

- Doctoral degree in any discipline, related to the above mentioned thematic lines or related fields.
- At least 5 years of experience in sustainability-related research, within one or more of the above-mentioned fields.
- Author or co-author of at least a dozen publications (at least five as first author) in internationally indexed peer-review journals. Additional publications of edited or co-edited books, chapters and/or policy briefs are considered assets.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate, plan and carry out field work, during lengthy periods, in isolated conditions, and in remote areas.
- If related to marine-research, the applicant should have advanced experience (at least five years) in scientific diving (Rescue Diver or higher, with at least 100 scientific diving trips). Ability and/or certification in “apnea” diving is a plus.
- Demonstrated ability to carry out successful workshops, meetings, and other participatory methodologies with authorities and local stakeholders.
- A successful record in writing research proposals and securing funding for scientific research, especially from external agencies.
- Demonstrated ability to analyze data, write research papers, and produce 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 the use of software packages, with interest/relevance for the topic/theme his/her expertise relates to.
- Previous experience at conducting research in island-related environments desirable.
- Ability to achieve and maintain positive relationships with government officials, fishers, tour operators, guides, and other productive sectors (as relevant to field of specialization of applicant).
- Excellent interpersonal skills in both social and work-related environments, plus the ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Proactive personality; able to work under pressure.
- Able to work well with tight schedules.

Activities

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the position, the selected candidate is expected to develop a close and productive working relationship with existing CDF PIs working in the Galapagos Islands. The selected person will also work closely with other staff members of CDF, in activities related to their research 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 (GNPD) and other strategic partners. In short, the successful candidate will:

1. Lead sustainability-focused research in the Galapagos National Park, Marine Reserve, and/or Hermandad Marine Reserve, and/or develop regional research projects that encompass the Eastern Tropic Pacific, in collaboration with already established networks, as well as potential new ones, at the local, regional and international scale.
2. Develop a research program in one or more of these sustainability-related areas:
 - Sustainable Tourism
 - Sustainable Food Systems
 - Human Dimensions of Conflicts in PAs
 - Economics for Conservation (e.g., Nature-based Solutions)
 - Water Security
 - Smart Architecture (e.g., smart cities, smart infrastructure)
 - Related Topics
3. Collaborate actively and promote interaction with Principal Investigators of other projects at CDF.
4. Manage the daily activities for the research program, including the work plan and research conducted to achieve outcomes.
5. Elaborate annual research proposals to complete the Annual Operative Plan for the CDF, and submit an annual research proposal(s) for GNPD research permit approval (depending on the theme).
6. Lead, together with the CDF fundraising team, the formulation of research proposals to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of this work.
7. Maintain a close relationship and collaboration with the GNPD as the executor of the program (depending on the theme), and also with other strategic partners, to facilitate the participatory nature of the research.
8. Collaborate with GNPD counterparts, with national and international collaborators, in the development of new research methodologies and experimental designs, to achieve the program's aims.
9. 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 met or exceeded (as applicable).
10. Ensure the correct management and maintenance of the equipment and materials that the projects utilize, before, during, and after the field seasons (if applicable).

11. Lead the management and analysis of the databases generated by the program, and in the production of scientific publications, reports to donors, and education and communication materials.
12. Collaborate, together with the CDF Education team, in activities and distribution of materials, and in the preparation and celebration of events about topics related to sustainability, and other activities with community members, and local schools.

Employment Conditions

The Researcher will be 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 salary will be fixed according to the qualifications of the candidate and based on the current CDF salary scale. Benefits include private health insurance and 30 calendar days of vacation (annual).

The working schedule for the CDF is from 07:45-12:30 and 14:00 - 17:15. Due to the nature of the position (field work, unexpected activities) the working schedule for the person hired must be flexible. The position may require field expeditions, as well as work during late evenings or weekends.

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 also oversee processing of the Galapagos 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

- Updated CV.
- One-page letter of interest describing his/her competencies meeting or exceeding the minimal requirements for this position.
- A two-to-three-page research concept outline, within the thematic lines described above, including a clear description of the problem(s) to be addressed, the research proposed, objectives, theoretical and methodological framework, expected outcomes, approximate budget (3-year) and a timeline.
- The names and emails for one personal and 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 us at the e-mail address provided above.