

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

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| Type of Position: | Principal Investigator |
| Role: | Senior Scientist in Conservation Sustainability Research |
| Type of work: | Full-time employment |
| Place of work: | Puerto Ayora, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador |
| Supervised by: | Science Director |
| Supervises: | Junior Researcher(s), volunteers, undergraduate, and graduate students |
| Deadline for application: | Until filled |
| Duration: | Two years, with the possibility of renewal based on performance |

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is recruiting a **Senior Scientist** to expand our sustainability research portfolio and strengthen the CDF research agenda. The scientist in this position is expected to develop research with the clear vocation of enhancing 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, including the newly decreed Hermandad Marine Reserve, which is considered a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The research conducted should generate state-of-the-art scientific outputs that generate accurate, published, peer-reviewed articles and policies designed to be implemented within the sustainable development and conservation framework of the Galapagos Islands and enable informed decisions by policymakers.

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 the Galapagos achieve responsible, equitable development and conservation aims.

The scientist's area of interest and specialization should include at least one of the disciplines/themes described here: sustainability in tourism, human dimensions of conflicts within protected areas, economics for conservation (e.g., nature-based solutions, financing for protection, circular economy), and related topics.

Required Profile

- Doctoral degree in any discipline related to the above-mentioned thematic lines or related fields.
- At least five years of experience in sustainability-related research within one or more of the fields mentioned above.
- 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 fieldwork in isolated and remote areas during extended periods.
- 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 in supervising and training junior staff and students.
- Fluency in English and Spanish (oral, writing, reading).
- Proficient/advanced knowledge in software packages, with interest/relevance for the topic/theme their expertise relates to.
- Previous experience in conducting research in island-related environments is desirable.
- Ability to achieve and maintain positive relationships with government officials, fishers, tour operators, guides, and other productive sectors (as relevant to the applicant's field of specialization).
- Excellent interpersonal skills in 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. The selected person will also work closely with other staff members of CDF in activities related to their research and other activities of the institution. Additionally, the selected candidate will develop collaborative initiatives with local, national, and international institutions and 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 Tropical 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
 - Human Dimensions of Conflicts in PAs
 - Economics for Conservation (e.g., Nature-based Solutions)
 - 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 on annual research proposals to complete the Annual Operative Plan for CDF and submit a yearly research proposal(s) for GNPD research permit approval.
6. Lead, together with the CDF fundraising team, the formulation of research proposals to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of this research program.
7. Maintain a close relationship and collaboration with the GNPD as the executor of the program (depending on the theme) and with other strategic partners to facilitate the participatory nature of the research.
8. Collaborate with GNPD counterparts, with national and international collaborators, in developing new research methodologies and experimental designs to achieve the program's aims.
9. Lead the planning, development, and implementation of fieldwork. 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 the projects utilize before, during, and after the field seasons (if applicable). Lead the management and analysis of the program's data and produce scientific publications, reports to donors, and education and communication materials.

11. Collaborate with the CDF education team in activities and distribution of materials and preparing and celebrating events 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 faithfully fulfill the norms, regulations, and manuals of procedures of the CDF; in addition, he/she will observe and follow strictly the standards and regulations set by the GNPD.

The salary will be fixed according to the candidate's qualifications and the current CDF salary scale.

The working schedule for the CDF is from 07:45-12:30 and 14:00 - 17:15. Due to the nature of the position (fieldwork, unexpected activities), the hired person must be flexible. The position may require field expeditions and 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 candidate's assistance to obtain the necessary legal documents. For foreigners, a work visa must be applied for and issued by the Ecuadorian government. CDF will also oversee the processing 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, no later than Tuesday, February 28th, 2023.

- Updated CV
- One-page letter of interest describing his/her competencies meeting or exceeding the minimum 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 proposed research objectives, theoretical and methodological framework, expected outcomes, and a timeline.
- The names and emails of one personal reference and three professional references. Letters are only requested if a candidate advances to an initial interview round.

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.