Volunteer with experience in PCR techniques for the Tortoise Health Project
Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme

Deadline: April 15th, 2021

Expected start date: As soon as possible

Duration: 2-3 months

Introduction
The Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme is a transdisciplinary team of professionals devote to protect the Galapagos tortoises by using cutting-edge applied science. One of our main research priorities is to better understand the health status of these giants and how human activities may affect their health and well-being. To achieve this goal, we have conducted an extensive sampling of free-living tortoises across the archipelago. A professional volunteer with experience in PCR and molecular techniques is needed to assist with sample analyses of potential pathogens that may threat tortoise conservation.

Requirements
- Essential criteria:
  - Bachelor degree in Veterinary Medicine, Biology, Biotechnology or related fields.
  - Minimum of 6 months of experience working in laboratory facilities, with special emphasis in DNA extraction and PCR techniques.
- Knowledge and experience in:
  - Diagnostic laboratories.
- Skills and abilities to:
  - Work in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams.
  - Initiative, organization and ability to work by its own and within a team.
  - Ability to adapt, creativity and flexibility to work on an island where not all the resources are always available.
- Additional:
  - Passion for nature, conservation, and the environment.
  - Patience and good mood.

Responsibilities
- Samples' processing: DNA extraction, conventional PCR, molecular techniques, etc.
- Additional tasks might be assigned, according to the volunteer’s qualification, motivation, and professional development.
Volunteering conditions
The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) will provide the necessary equipment and materials to develop all project tasks. CDF will also provide to the selected candidate with technical advice and support, according to the policies and procedures of the institution.

The selected candidate will be under the supervision of the project leader and will be based on Santa Cruz Island. The volunteer is expected to work 40 hours per week, from 7:45-12:30 and 14:00-17:15. The working schedule could change according to the field trips.

The volunteer will faithfully comply with the rules of the Internal Regulations and the CDF Procedure’s Manual, as well as perform its field work strictly following the rules and regulations of the GNPD.

The volunteer will be responsible for the travel expenses to and from Ecuador and must have travel insurance if he/she comes from a foreign country. The Program may cover the expenses for the national ticket from Quito / Guayaquil to the Galapagos Islands. The volunteer will be responsible for accommodation and living expenses during the stay on the islands. The CDF will provide a bicycle to the volunteer. 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. The CDF will not process a visa longer than the expected duration of the volunteering.

Application process
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 April 15th, 2021.

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 CV.
• Cover letter.
• Two professional reference letters that include the names and contact details of referees.