The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is recruiting a Scientist in Plant Ecology and Conservation.
Deadline for application: April 30th 2022

Title: Scientist in Plant Ecology and Conservation

Duration: Two years (possibility of renewal)

Introduction

One of the current research projects conducted by Charles Darwin Foundation for Galapagos Islands (CDF), is Galapagos Verde 2050 (GV2050). This is a long-term adaptive management initiative dedicated to terrestrial restoration and sustainability. Specifically, GV2050 works on developing efficient management protocols for the ecological restoration of degraded areas and conservation of endangered plant species. This is a key element dedicated towards increasing local livelihoods in Galapagos, as well as combating the effects of habitat degradation, invasive species, and climate change. The GV2050 leverages the use of large-scale experimental designs that evaluate water-saving technologies, novel tools that increase the efficient use of water in arid climates such as the Galapagos.

As a continuation of this research initiative, CDF is recruiting a Terrestrial Restauration, expert, ecologist, and plant conservation professional, for the GV2050 project.

This professional will be committed to the conservation of the terrestrial ecosystems of Galapagos by building an exceptional research program in ecosystem restoration in urban, rural, and protected areas of the Galápagos. Through this, they will contribute to the maintenance of sustainable local livelihoods and support long-term sustainability and environmental conservation of the Galapagos.

Position objective

The researcher to be hired will primarily be responsible to assist to the Project Leader for overseeing the development of the ecological restoration component of this project. Through their background in applied ecology, the successful candidate will have the ability to reconcile experimentation, implementation, stakeholder relations, and the delicate balance among these goals.

Required profile

- Doctorate/PhD in Ecology or related field, with research experience in both pure and applied science such as ecological restoration. Preferably with a Postgraduate degree and/or experience in plant restoration ecology and botany.
- Experience and knowledge of using R for data management, data analysis, and data visualization, preferably with ecological, climatological, and cost-benefit analysis, including methods such as mixed-model regression, Bayesian, and multivariate analysis. Experience with other design software such as Adobe CS is a plus.
- Experience analyzing climate data, as well as modelling ecosystem restoration, ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, and cost-benefit projections.
- Knowledge of or willingness to learn R Shiny for maintaining and building online applications in R used for managing and visualizing project data.
• Knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of pests and pathogens in plants including fungi, nematodes, viruses, and bacteria.
• Understanding of experimental design, power analysis, overall research project design demonstrated by at least two peer-reviewed scientific publications with at least one first author publication in which the research, writing, and analyses were completed primarily by the applicant.
• Previous experience in related projects and fieldwork (biodiversity monitoring, ecological restoration, plant pathology, etc.).
• Fluent in English with strong oral and written communication skills, and ability to generate scientific articles, technical reports, and grant proposals and communicate with the general public. Spanish language ability is desirable.
• Ability to endure harsh field conditions and maintain a cheerful attitude in remote sites that includes but is not limited to intense heat, hard physical labor, mosquitoes or other insects, thorns and spines, no internet access, and difficult boating conditions. Field trips may last for one day to more than a week and successful applicants must feel comfortable with camping and significant physical efforts, such as carrying and unloading heavy items and walking long distances whilst carrying personal items, camping equipment, water and food.
• Experience teaching and running workshops.
• Capacity to work as both part of a multi-cultural team, but also independently without requiring continuous oversight.

Activities

The selected candidate will report directly to the Principal Investigator (PI), leader of the GV2050 project. Throughout the duration of this position, the selected candidate will also work directly with the PI and the other members and volunteers of the GV2050 team. Other work may be required as directed by institutional or project objectives. The following are the primary activities for which the selected candidate will be responsible.

1. Assist in data analyses on the cost-benefits and efficacy of water-saving technologies, which are used for the main project components (i.e. ecological restoration and use of sustainable agricultural practices).
2. Managing and maintaining project databases with R and Shiny
3. Designing research experiments and methodologies for each of our components and subprojects in collaboration with the project leader and rest of the team.
4. Design and create illustrations, infographics, and informative materials based on results from both project components (ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture).
5. Creating data visualizations both for scientific purposes, but also for communicating our findings to stakeholders and the broader public
6. Present results/analyses/updates to the team as well as at local and national scientific conferences
7. Writing scientific manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals. Expected to write at least one peer-reviewed publication that is submitted per year of work, co-authored with the Galápagos Verde 2050 Project's Principal Investigator - Leader and other team members who have participated in the research process.
8. Write technical and scientific reports about the project for collaborating institutions and donors.
9. Inform private and public collaborating institutions and stakeholders about our project results and advancements through written reports or infographics and oral presentations.
10. Help with fieldwork on local and remote islands when needed, especially when planning and establishing new experiments and studies.

11. Advise other team members on experimental designs and overall scientific component of the project.

12. Provide assistance in all other activities that the GV2050 PI needs, as required for project advancement, focusing on strengthening all aspects of the project, and according to institutional goals.

Employment conditions:

The ecologist will be a full-time staff of the by Charles Darwin Foundation, working under a Business Line Wok Contract arrangement. The Scientist will report directly to the Principal Investigator-Leader of the Galapagos Verde 2050 Project. The selected candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. An employment contract per line of business contracted by the Charles Darwin Foundation does not imply a continuous relationship for a duration greater than that established in the contract.

The ecologist 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 ecologist 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 Directory (GNPD).

How to apply:

Applicants should submit the following documents as a single document in PDF via e-mail to:

(gv2050@fcdarwin.org.ec, patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec).

- Updated resume/CV.
- A letter of interest, describing your competencies according to the minimum requirements for the announced position.
- Three professional letters of reference, including the names and email addresses of referees.
- Name and email addresses of two other references that can be contacted for further inquiry.