The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is recruiting a Researcher in the Terrestrial Conservation Area

Deadline for application: 15th May 2020

Latest starting date: 1st June 2020

Duration: One year (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 studying terrestrial restoration and sustainability. Specifically, GV2050 works on a) developing efficient management protocols for the ecological restoration of degraded areas and conservation of endangered plant species, and b) developing sustainable agricultural practices among local farmers. These two components are integrated as key elements dedicated towards increasing local livelihoods in Galapagos, as well as combating the effects of habitat degradation, invasive species, climate change.

As a continuation of this research initiative, CDF is recruiting an Applied Ecologist, with extensive experience in Sustainable Agriculture or an Agronomist with extensive experience in Applied Restoration Ecology, for the GV2050 project.

This professional will be committed to the conservation of the terrestrial ecosystems of Galapagos National Park by building an exceptional research program in both experimental agriculture and the restoration of farmland. 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 person to be hired will primarily be responsible for overseeing the development of the sustainable agriculture component of this project, though other responsibilities will include aspects of the ecological restoration component. The successful candidate will be fluent in Spanish and English and will have excellent written and oral communication skills in both languages, including the ability to write technical reports, scientific publications, and to communicate with the public. This person will also have a background in applied scientific research, experimental design, and data analysis. Physically fit, they will have a cheerful, positive, and self-driven commitment towards both labwork and fieldwork. Finally, through a strong background in applied ecology, the successful candidate will have the ability to reconcile experimentation, implementation, stakeholder relations, and the delicate balance between these goals.

Required profile
• Postgraduate level (Masters or Doctorate level) in the fields of applied ecology with extensive working experience in sustainable agriculture or of sustainable agriculture with extensive working experience in ecological restoration.
• At least three years of previous working experience in applied ecology (plant conservation, adaptive management, ecological restoration), and research in sustainable agricultural practices.
• Proficiency in advanced statistics, data analysis, and data visualization using R and other design software.
• Experience analysing climate data, as well as modelling ecosystem restoration, ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, and cost-benefit projections
• Completely professional fluency in written and spoken English and Spanish.
• Have at least two peer-reviewed scientific publication published.
• Impeccable oral and written communication skills, and ability to write scientific articles, technical reports, and grant proposals, both for a scientific audience and the general public.
• Complete understanding of the scientific method and experimental design.
• Experience teaching and running workshops.
• Due to the nature of GV2050 activities, the senior researcher must be able to provide significant physical efforts, such as carrying and unloading heavy items and walking long distances whilst carrying personal items, camping equipment, water and food.
• Previous experience working among multicultural teams of people.

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. Conduct projects for testing adaptive management in sustainable agriculture by designing experiments, organizing, coordinating, and executing field work with the GV2050 team, volunteers, and interns, and managing all associated logistics and follow-up reports.
2. Manage a monitoring regime for all existing sites as well as implementing novel study sites when necessary for the sustainable agriculture component of our project.
3. 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).
4. Design experiments and collect data to analyse ecosystem restoration goals related to ecosystem services such as carbon-sequestration, biodiversity, and cost-benefit analysis for alternative sustainable practices in agricultural and natural settings.
5. Design and create illustrations, infographics, and informative materials based on results from both project components (ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture).
6. Write technical and scientific reports about the project for collaborating institutions and donors.
7. Participate, and/or organize professional meetings and workshops with collaborating institutions and groups working on the sustainable agriculture component of the GV2050 project.
8. Identify and select local farmers or institutions interested in implementing GV2050 project components in private areas.
9. Inform private and public collaborating institutions and stakeholders about our project results and advancements through written reports or infographics and oral presentations.

10. Initiate women’s empowerment, strength, and role within the agricultural sector in the populated islands of the Galapagos by organizing, promoting, and overseeing workshops focused on working with and teaching women farmers sustainable agricultural practices.

11. Provide assistance in all other activities that the GV2050 PI needs, as required for project advancement, focusing on strengthening the sustainable agricultural practices project component, and according to institutional goals.

**Employment conditions:**

The ecologist/agronomist will be a full time staff of CDF, working under a “consultant” format. They will directly report to the Galapagos Verde 2050 Principal Investigator. The selected candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. A consultancy contracted by the Charles Darwin Foundation does not imply a continuous relationship for a duration longer than stated within the contract.

The ecologist/agronomist 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/agronomist 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 via e-mail to: (ecologo.agronomo@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.