The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands
is recruiting a Senior Researcher in the Marine Sciences Area

Deadline for application: 30 April 2020
Latest starting date: 01 June 2020
Duration: One year (possibility of renewal)

Introduction

As a continuation of the long-lasting research conducted by Charles Darwin Foundation for Galapagos Islands, about shark populations in the Galapagos Islands, CDF currently is recruiting a Senior Scientist who will strengthen the ongoing ‘shark’ project. This position is intended to extend the scope within the marine sciences dimension at CDF, with a clear vocation of strengthening and improving the current research agenda. CDF is seeking a senior outstanding professional committed with the conservation of the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve ecosystems which also is UNESCO World Heritage Site. The research conducted by this Senior Scientist will greatly contribute to the generation of state-of-the-art scientific information, which will provide stakeholders and decision makers with knowledge to inform decisions, actions and public policies, for the Galapagos Islands conservation.

Position Objective

The person to be hired will be the Principal Investigator of the “Sharks” Project at the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF). This requires for this person to have experience in marine sciences research and related jobs. The selected person will lead, supervised by the Science Director, the “Sharks” Project, which main objective is to develop applied scientific research in order to contribute to the decision and policy making, resulting in adequate management and conservation measures and actions, for these threatened species.
In summary, this project involves varied studies about shark’s ecology, habitat use and migratory routes and the effect of ENSO over their populations. It also addresses population genetics, socio-economic studies, and education and community outreach, about sharks.

Required Profile

- Doctoral degree (Doctor or PhD) in Ecology, Marine Biology, Conservation Biology and/or related fields.
- Documented experience (for at least 3 years) on research about sharks and/or rays (Elasmobranchs).
• Author or co-author of at least three publications in international indexed peer-review journals. Additional publications of edited or co-edited books, chapters and/or Policy Brief are assets.
• Ability/experience to coordinate, plan and carry out field work, during long term periods, in extreme conditions, and in very remote areas.
• Advanced experience (at least five years) of scientific diving (Rescue Diver or higher level, with at least 100 scientific diving experiences. Ability and/or certification on “apnea” diving is a great advantage.
• Previous experience with capture, manipulation and marking of sharks is a great advantage.
• Ability/experience organizing and carrying on successful workshops, meetings and other participatory methodologies with authorities and users of the socio-ecological systems in Galapagos.
• Demonstrable experience at writing research grants and research proposals and at fundraising for scientific research.
• Successful experience at obtaining 'Third party funding' is desired.
• Capacity/experience at analyzing data, at writing field reports and technical reports. Demonstrable experience at writing scientific literature, papers, reports, others.
• Capacity/experience supervising and training junior staff and undergrad and post-grad students.
• Fully fluent in English/Spanish (oral, writing, reading).
• Proficient / advanced level of knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, MS Access and PowerPoint), 'R' Statistic Package, Arc GIS.
• Previous experience in doing research in Galapagos Islands (Galapagos Marine Reserve) would be desirable.
• Ability to achieve and maintain positive relationships with government officers, fishers, tour operators, guides, and other productive sectors (ideally of Galapagos).
• Excellent social and interpersonal relationships, at both social and work-related environments.
• Proactive personality, able to work under pressure and able to fulfill tight schedules. “Multitasking” approach is greatly desired and the capacity to integrate an interdisciplinary team, within an isolated environment.

Activities

The selected candidate will maintain a close and active interaction with the current Principal Investigator of the Sharks Project, who will maintain a collaborator/advisor role within the project. The selected person will also collaborate in close relationship, with other staff members of CDF, in activities related to the project and to the institution. Additionally, the selected candidate will develop collaborative initiatives with local national and international institutions, and will be closely related to the Galapagos National Park Directorate and with other strategic partners.

1. Lead the research conducted by CDF, about sharks in the Galapagos Marine Reserve, and within the Tropical Eastern Pacific region, in collaboration with the already stablished, and potential new, expert network, al local, regional and international scale.
2. Manage the daily-basis activities for the project, the work plan and activities conducted by the staff, volunteers and thesis students.
3. Maintain a close relationship and collaboration with the GNPD, which is the co-executor of the project, and also with other strategic partners, in order to facilitate the participatory nature of the research conducted in the project.

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The “Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands”. In French “Foundation Charles Darwin pour les Îles Galapagos”, Association International sans but lucratif, has its registered office located at Droîve du Fleurû 19,1160 Brussels, and is registered under the trade registry of Brussels under the number 0499.359.103, (the “AISBL”).
4. Elaborate research proposals, on a yearly basis, to complete the Annual Operative Plan and the proposal to be submitted for the GNPD approval, who issues the research permit.

5. Lead, together with the fundraising team, the formulation of research proposals in order to search for funding which ensure the economic sustainability of the Project, on a long-term basis.

6. Collaborate with the GNPD counterparts, and with national and international collaborators, in the development of new research methodologies, and experimental design, in order to ensure the advance of the research and the achievement of the Project’s aims.

7. Collaborate actively, with the former Principal Investigator of the Project, who will keep a collaborator/advisor role, about current and future activities of the sharks Project.

8. Design, organize and lead the planning, development and implementation of the field work campaigns, along the year. This requires that all the regulations established by the GNPD, the Galapagos Biosecurity Agency’s regulations, and the safety protocols directed by CDF, be accomplished.

9. Ensure the correct management and maintenance of the equipment and materials that the sharks projects utilize, before, during and after the field seasons.

10. Lead the updating, management, analysis, and interpretation of the databases and data sets generated by the project.

11. Conduct and supervise the collection, analysis, and storage of biological sampling, for genetic-based studies, always fulfilling the legal normative framework that is regulated by the National Biodiversity Institute.

12. Conduct the data analysis and lead and/or collaborate with the production of scientific publications, reports to donors, and education and communication materials.

13. Write technical reports, including Legal Appraisals, within requested administrative and penal processes.

14. Collaborate, together with the CDF Education team, in the education activities and their distribution of materials and in the preparation and celebration of events about sharks, shark’s conservation and related thematic, and other activities with community members, and local schools.

15. Coordinate the administrative-related paper work, needed for the Project, according the necessities.

**Employment Conditions**

The Researcher responds directly to the Science Director of the CDF. The Researcher selected will 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 a CDF salary scale. The benefits include private medical insurance and 30 day calendar of paid license (annual). Some compensation will be provided for relocation.

The working schedule for the CDF is from 07:30-12:00 y de 13:30 - 17:00. However, due to the quality of the project (field work, unexpected activities) the working Schedule could be flexible. In fact, this position will require long-lasting journeys, even during late evenings or weekends. The extension of the contract will initially be for one year. The possibility of extension, however, exists.
Once the candidate will be recruited, and in case she/he is not Ecuadorian, all the migration-related process will be supported by the Human Resources Department at CDF. The visa and other documents will only be processed after the documentation, provided by official representation of the country of the applicant will be issued. CDF is not responsible for the visa obtaining process, but could offer some advice and support. Concerning the special regulations on migration issues in Galapagos, CDF will be in charge of processing the residence permits for the selected candidate.

**How to apply?**

Interested persons on this position should send the following information by e-mail to sharks2020@fcdarwin.org.ec, with the subject: “PI – Sharks + Last name + name applicant”

- CV updated.
- Letter of motivation, describing his/her competences according to the minimal requirements for this position.
- Three professional recommendation letters, that include names and e-mails of the references.
- Names and e-mails of two references that could give personal recommendation of the candidate.

Kindly send all the application material as one .pdf document. If more details are needed, please, do not hesitate to contact the provided e-mail address.