【公募】ガラパゴス諸島チャールズ・ダーウィン研究所科学研究滞在

日本の科学者のみなさまへ

この度、エクアドル政府から、日本人科学者５名に対し、ガラパゴス諸島のチャールズ・ダーウィン研究所における６０日間の研究滞在のご招待を頂きました。

５名の方々は、公募により選考させて頂きますので、公募に関する以下の詳細案内をご覧の上、是非ご応募ください。

公募期間は、２０２６年１２月３１日（木）中（エクアドル時間）までです。

多くのみなさまの応募をお待ちしております。

在エクアドル日本国大使館

GOBIERNO DEL ECUADOR

Embajada del Japón
Ecuador

The Government of the Republic of Ecuador and the Embassy of Japan in Ecuador invites Japanese professionals to apply for a research fellowship at the Charles Darwin Foundation.

1. Background:

The Galápagos Islands, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in September 1978, are located approximately 1,000 kilometers off the mainland coast of Ecuador. Recognized for their extraordinary biodiversity and their fundamental contribution to the study of the evolution of species, the Galápagos Islands are one of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet and are subject to a special protection regime established by the Ecuadorian government.

In this context, the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), an international non-profit organization founded in 1959 and headquartered in the Galápagos Islands, plays a fundamental role by producing scientific knowledge for the conservation of the archipelago. Through research programs conducted at the Charles Darwin Research Station (ECCD), the CDF seeks to identify and address the main threats and challenges affecting the Galápagos through scientific research and the implementation of conservation actions aimed at preserving one of the world's most important natural heritage sites.

The implementation of the CDF's scientific agenda is based on collaboration and networking with national and international researchers, specialists, and institutions, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and technical expertise. Within this framework, the "*Galápagos Conservation Science Initiative: Strengthening Research Projects of the Charles Darwin Foundation*" constitutes a strategic component of the Foundation's research programs, as it integrates specialized knowledge, scientific expertise, and shared interests to strengthen the generation of evidence that contributes to the conservation and sustainable management of the archipelago.

The research fellowships contemplated within this initiative aim to foster collaboration between CDF experts and international professionals with recognized scientific and academic backgrounds. The fellowships will contribute to strengthening research capabilities, promoting the exchange of knowledge, and supporting the development of projects that contribute to the conservation of the Galápagos Islands' unique biodiversity.

2. Name of the Initiative: Galápagos Conservation Science Initiative: Strengthening Research Projects of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

3. General Objective of the Research Fellowship:

The fellows are expected to enhance scientific research in the Galápagos Archipelago by supporting projects led by the Charles Darwin Foundation, including:

a) the Galápagos Giant Tortoise Movement Ecology Program,
b) the Shark Ecology and Movement Program in the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR),
c) Studies on Ecological Restoration and Resilience of Terrestrial Ecosystems and Species.

The participation of Japanese professionals will contribute to CDF's mission towards the generation of high-quality scientific knowledge that will become the basis for data-driven decision-making and support biodiversity conservation in terrestrial and marine ecosystems throughout the archipelago.

4. Specific Objectives:

Sharks Program Objective:

- To contribute to the "Sharks Program" at CDF, which characterizes the main shark populations in the GMR, assess their conservation status and the effectiveness of the reserves in conserving them.

Giant Tortoise *Objective:*

- To contribute to the "Giant Tortoise Program" at CDF, which describes the migratory patterns of Galápagos giant tortoises in relation to ecological, reproductive, and socio-ecological factors, including health status.

Ecological Restoration of Endangered Terrestrial Ecosystems and Species Objective:

- To contribute to the "Ecological Restoration Program" at CDF, which promotes the restoration and resilience of terrestrial ecosystems and species in the Galápagos Islands.

5. Main research areas:

- Shark Ecology
- Giant Tortoise
- Restoration of Terrestrial Ecosystems and Species

6. Scope of Work. Priority research areas:

- Conservation Biology, Ecology, Environment, Bioeconomy, Data Science, Knowledge Management, Climate Change, and related fields.
- Coastal Marine Ecosystems, Socio-Ecological Systems, Connectivity, and Technologies for Conservation.

7. Activities. Fellowship work plan:

A work plan will be defined based on the arrival date of the research fellows; however, in general, the following activities will be carried out:

- Support field research activities,
- Support in data analysis,
- Support at organizing and executing research activities,
- Discuss future collaborations.

8. **Deliverables:** Manuscript (draft / final document) or Technical Report.

9. **Fellowship duration:** 60 days.

The start and end dates of the fellowships will be determined according to the implementation periods of the projects that align with the research areas preferred by the selected candidates.
It is estimated that the first fellowships may begin in the second half of 2027.

10. **Number of vacancies:** 5 Japanese researchers.

11. **Qualifications and experience. Researcher Profile:**

- *Academic requirements:*

The fellowship program is ideally suited for recent PhD graduates, offered as a short postdoctoral program. As such, applicants must attach a copy of their PhD diploma from the institution where their doctoral research/study was conducted.
Even though priority will be given to postdoctoral candidates, the application of those candidates who have completed graduate studies and meet all the requirements may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- *Scientific production / publications:*

A minimum of three (3) peer-reviewed papers (at least two as first author), indexed in Q1 and Q2 journals.

- *Specific technical competencies by research line:*

Prior experience in a field related to the CDF research program in which the fellows are interested.
Accordingly, each candidate must attach one (1) letter of recommendation from his/her PhD supervisor.

- *Additional requirements*:
    - Advanced level of English (mandatory).
    - Availability for on-site fieldwork, reporting, and collaborating with CDF staff.

12. How to apply?

Candidates must send the following documents in English, as a single PDF file, by email to: embapon@gi.mofa.go.jp and CDFfellowship@fcdarwin.org.ec

* Email subject line: "*Application for Research Fellowships at Charles Darwin Foundation*"
* The email must be drafted in English.
* The total size of the email attachment(s) must not exceed 10 MB.
* Deadline: **Thursday, December 31, 2026**

* Required documentation:

- Updated CV (three pages maximum).
- A one-page motivation letter describing the researcher's interest in the fellowship program (ideally mentioning the preferred research area) and their competencies in meeting or exceeding the minimum requirements outlined.
- One (1) copy of the doctoral diploma/certificate issued by the institution where the doctoral research/study was conducted.
- One (1) letter of recommendation from the supervisor or head department.
- The names and emails of two professional references.
- Between two (2) and three (3) relevant publications (If possible, include them in the same PDF file that contains the documentation listed above; otherwise, attach them in the same email as separate files).

13. Terms and Conditions:

The fellows will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador.

The fellows will comply with the norms, regulations, and procedures of the CDF; in addition, they will strictly observe and comply with the standards and regulations set by the Galápagos National Park Directorate.

13.1 Financial Coverage:

The fellowship includes coverage of food, accommodation, participation in the research programs in which the researchers are enrolled, local transportation on the island, as well as the administrative process for joining the research teams. In addition, the program will cover round-trip flight tickets, travel insurance, the researcher’s visa, and the Galápagos Islands entry authorization documentation.

If the researcher would like to make additional trips or travel (for personal reasons) during the fellowship period, he/she must cover the corresponding costs directly; as long as those are not included in the categories covered by the fellowship.

13.2 Intellectual Property and Research Results:

a. The parties agree to safeguard and respect the intellectual property rights that may result from the protocols, work, studies, research, and reports produced. To this end, they declare that any input, material, or other product generated shall be the exclusive property of the party that produced it, except in cases where such materials or products have been jointly generated, in which case the parties may, as they consider appropriate, use, disseminate, transfer, or license the intellectual property rights to third parties.
b. If the parties decide so and with the appropriate authorization, they may register the products they have produced, in accordance with the applicable regulations.
c. The parties agree that they may register intellectual property as their own, in accordance with each party's respective contribution to the development of such intellectual property. It is also agreed that neither party may independently register with the National Service for Intellectual Rights (SENADI) any intellectual property generated.
d. In any case, if the results obtained will be disseminated, the corresponding materials shall expressly state that such results are the product of cooperation between the participating parties. Accordingly, the parties agree to act in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Code of the Social Economy of Knowledge, Creativity, and Innovation.

13.3 Noncompliance and Termination of Research Fellowship:

a. Due to failure to fulfill the project's objectives;
b. By mutual agreement of the parties, if the implementation of the project cannot continue for technical, economic, legal, social, or physical reasons; in which case the parties shall execute a mutual termination agreement;
c. Due to failure to meet deadlines, which is linked to failure to fulfill the purpose of the project;
d. Due to duly justified force majeure or unforeseeable circumstances that make it impossible to fulfill the purpose of the agreement or make it unenforceable;
e. By unilateral termination due to a breach by either party. Before proceeding with unilateral termination, the party deciding to do so shall request in writing that the breach be corrected or remedied within a maximum period of ten (10) days. If the breach persists, the other party shall be notified of the declaration of breach within a maximum period of thirty (30) days.

14. Contact information:

For applications and inquiries, please contact us at the e-mail addresses provided below:

embapon@gi.mofa.go.jp and CDFfellowship@fcdarwin.org.ec