

# Fully funded PhD scholarship in Socio-economics for the Ethio-Nature project

We invite applications for a fully funded PhD scholarship in **Socio-economics** as part of the research project **Ethio-Nature**, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and managed by the Danida Fellowship Centre. The project supports nature-based solutions for groundwater management using a multidisciplinary approach, combining geophysical surveys, remote sensing, deep learning, ecohydrology, and socio-economic analysis. The research will focus on the Lake Hawassa catchment-identified as a priority area under the Danish-Ethiopian Strategic Sector Cooperation on Water.

## Research focus

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) leveraging eco-hydrological processes offer promising pathways to address interconnected water, climate, and biodiversity crises. While their biophysical functioning is increasingly studied, the critical socioeconomic dimensions remain inadequately understood and often hinder effective implementation and equitable outcomes.

This PhD project addresses this crucial gap, focusing on the socio-economic aspects of nature-based eco-hydrological solutions. The PhD project will contribute to the development of eco-hydrological nature-based solutions for enhancing groundwater recharge by investigating how the benefits of nature-based solutions are quantified and valued, *what* governance arrangements enable equitable and sustainable nature-based solutions implementation for mainstreaming nature-based eco-hydrological approaches. The successful candidate will specifically assess valuation & trade-offs, study equity & distributional justice, governance & institutional analyses, understand stakeholder perceptions & social acceptance: Integration & Policy Relevance of the solutions to enhance their legitimacy and impact.

## Host institution

The PhD position will be hosted at Hawassa University, with close collaboration with Aarhus University (Denmark) and other international and local partners. The candidate will have strong technical supervision from Hawassa University researchers specializing in eco-hydrology/nature-based solutions, and socio-economics.

## Eligibility Criteria

We seek a highly motivated and talented candidate with:

- A Master's degree in a relevant field (Natural Resources Economics and Policy, Agricultural Economics, Ecological Economics, Social Sciences, or related disciplines).
- Proven experience in socioeconomic aspects of natural resources management, ecosystem services, or sustainability.
- Understanding of core concepts in ecohydrology, ecosystem services, and Nature-Based Solutions.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively within an interdisciplinary team.
- A valid NGAT (National Graduate Admission Test) score
- Admission/enrolment at Hawassa University

ok  
yes

Tafesse Matewos Karo (PhD)  
Research & Collaboration  
Vice President

## Application requirements

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Motivation letter (max 1 page)
- Academic transcripts and degree certificates (BSc and MSc)
- Two letters of academic recommendation

## Financial support

The scholarship covers:

- Full tuition fees
- Monthly stipend for living expenses
- Research costs (including fieldwork, travel, and computing resources)
- A fully funded 3-month research stay at Aarhus University (Denmark) for training, knowledge exchange, and capacity building
- Additional targeted support for applicants with specific needs, including caregiving responsibilities
- An opportunity for a postdoctoral position upon successful completion of the PhD, valid until the end of March 2030.

## How to apply

Please send the following documents in a single PDF to:

- [mulugetadadi@hu.edu.et](mailto:mulugetadadi@hu.edu.et)
- Email subject line: "PhD Application – Ethio-Nature Project"

## Application documents:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV) with academic background and publications
2. Motivation letter (max. 2 pages) describing research interests, relevant experience, and fit with the Ethio-Nature project
3. Academic transcripts (BSc and MSc; unofficial copies accepted initially)
4. Contact details of two academic referees
5. NGAT exam result

## Diversity and inclusion

We strongly encourage applications from women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to promote inclusive research and equitable capacity building in water resources management.

**Deadline: July 15, 2015**



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