



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A POSTDOC POSITION ON HEALTH OF AQUATIC RESOURCES: ECARESA NORHED NORAD PROJECT 2021 – 2026

### Background

Aquaculture in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA) is on the rapid increase with projections of 60% growth by 2030. In addition, Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique possess Indian ocean coastlines that serve as good locations for development of marine aquaculture that is almost absent in Africa today. Aquaculture production provides an important source of protein and contributes to food security and economic development. This potential is underexploited in SSA and governments of several countries including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique have prioritized aquaculture production through strategic development plans. The growing industry however faces various challenges such as fish diseases and aquatic contamination that threaten profitability and sustainability. The quality of fish products in terms of pathogens and chemical contaminants have implications for human health and sustainable environmental development. Sustainable aquaculture production requires thorough understanding of disease control with prevention and biosecurity as cornerstones. The use of quality feed, access to farmed species with optimal genetic background, and protection of the production environments and a balanced use of natural resources are required in order to prevent fish diseases and to secure healthy food. In many regions, aquaculture has been sufficiently profitable to permit strong growth. With Intensification, aquaculture may on the other hand cause harm to the environment because of the release into water bodies of organic effluents or disease treatment chemicals and antibiotics, and genetic contamination for wild species. Experience has shown that one of the challenges that higher institutions of learning in Africa face in relation to lack of human capacity is -drain, where highly trained personnel leave the institutions for better pastures. *This practice has to be discouraged if Africa is to be self-sufficient.*

### Project Goal and Intended outcome

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Norway in collaboration with the University of Dar-es Salaam's Institute of Marine Science (IMS) and Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Tanzania; University of Nairobi (UoN) and Egerton University (EU) in Kenya; Makerere University (MU) in Uganda; University of Zambia (UNZA) in Zambia; Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi and Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique is undertaking a collaborative research project entitled ***“Enhanced Capacity for Aquatic Resources in East and South Africa (ECARESA)”***. The project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED II). The goal of the project is to strengthen education and research capacity in aquatic and environmental health in Sub Saharan Africa. The project intends to achieve the above through training of human resources at masters, PhD and Post Doc levels while generating the information to fill the knowledge gaps.

### Call for Application

Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) is pleased to announce one POSTDOC position for a period of two years within the field of health of aquatic resources. The Postdoc will be funded under the ECARESA project and the employed candidate will be involved in research in aquatic and environmental health. He will also be required to assist with, teaching and supervision of MSc and PhD students.

#### Eligibility

MUST has a strategic ambition of being a leading research institution. Candidates for this fellowship will be selected in accordance with this, and is expected to be in the upper segment of their class with respect to academic credentials.

We ask applicants to provide a numbered list in their application letter corresponding to these criteria, explaining whether and how they meet each point

- i. Be an employee of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)
- ii. Holders of a PhD or equivalent in veterinary sciences or ecotoxicology in relevant fields of health of aquatic organisms
- iii. Good academic qualifications (grades and relevant research experience)
- iv. A good background and/or strong interest in undertaking research in health of aquatic resources.
- v. Willingness to work in a team and a strong ambition to accomplish the research goals of the project.
- vi. Strong practical and analytical skills.
- vii. Ability to perform high quality laboratory and field work, chemical analyses and statistical data treatment.
- viii. A former involvement in TRAHESA Project as an added advantage
- ix. Excellent communication skills.
- x. Good command of spoken and written English.
- xi. Personal suitability and motivation for the position.
- xii. Good social and collaboration skills and ability to work independently and in an interdisciplinary scientific environment
- xiii. A person recruited will be bonded to the MUST for an equivalent number of years employment as Postdoc

The application must include:

- Application letter including a statement of interest, briefly summarizing your scientific work and interests, and a personal assessment focusing on how you fit the description of the person we seek;
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work, scientific publications and other qualifying activities);
- Copies of educational certificates, transcript of records and letters of recommendation.
- List of publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee;
- Names and contact details of 2-3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number) and
- A short text that outlines the candidate's motivation and ideas for a project within the described field of research (1-2 pages).

How to apply

Potential candidates are hereby invited to submit the requested by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Successful applicants will be notified by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Applications should be submitted MUST through the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research and Publication whose contact details are shown below:

1. Dr. Ashery Mwidege; E-mail: [dpsrp@mustnet.ac.tz/amwidege2020@gmail.com](mailto:dpsrp@mustnet.ac.tz/amwidege2020@gmail.com)
2. Dr. Frederick Ojija; E-mail: [fojija@mustnet.ac.tz](mailto:fojija@mustnet.ac.tz) / [fredrick.ojija@yahoo.com](mailto:fredrick.ojija@yahoo.com)