



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

**PhD BURSARY:  
Conservation, access and benefit sharing  
– the case of *Pelargonium sidoides***

**Department of Environmental and Geographical Science  
University of Cape Town, South Africa**

**[Closing date for applications: 27 August 2021](#)**

Applications are invited for a PhD bursary centred on access and benefit sharing (ABS) and the conservation of *Pelargonium sidoides*, beginning as soon as possible. The position falls under the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and will be funded and completed in collaboration with TRAFFIC (The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network) and the SARChI Bioeconomy Research Chair. The PhD study on *Pelargonium sidoides* forms part of the larger Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's - UNDP/GEF 6 project entitled, “*Development of Value Chains for Products derived from Genetic Resources in Compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy*”.

We seek a suitably qualified scholar to join a dynamic team of researchers in the [Bioeconomy Research Chair](#) exploring critical concepts relating to *Pelargonium sidoides* and access and benefit sharing.

Through the lens of *Pelargonium sidoides*, and with fieldwork in both Lesotho and South Africa, research will be focused on the following thematic areas:

1. Investigating social and economic benefits arising from the use of *Pelargonium sidoides*, and their relationship to conservation.
2. Exploring the interface between access and benefit sharing (ABS) and conservation.
3. Conducting an ethno-botanical study centred on local uses, cultural significance and the extent of subsistence use.
4. Investigating the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks for conservation, access and benefit sharing (ABS) in South Africa and Lesotho, including implementation gaps and challenges.

The bursary is for three years of full-time study, with the second and third year subject to satisfactory progress. The total value of the bursary is R170,000 per annum, with additional funding available for fieldwork costs. The bursary does not include benefits or travel/relocation costs.



**forestry, fisheries  
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## Requirements

- A Masters degree in a relevant field (such as environmental science, conservation, anthropology, sociology, development studies, geography), awarded within the last five years
- Evidence of strong scholarly performance (e.g. publications, participation in research projects, networks, conference presentations)
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Community-based fieldwork experience in Lesotho and South Africa
- Knowledge of access and benefit sharing and experience in its implementation
- Skilled in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Good interpersonal skills
- Strong presentation and communication skills
- Fluency in English (spoken and written), with a strong recommendation for Xhosa (for Eastern Cape) and Sesotho (southern Sotho)
- Computer literacy, including ability to use Microsoft office and common analytical packages
- Driver's licence

The PhD is strongly interdisciplinary and will suit applicants who have a background in both natural and social sciences.

## Applications

Applications should be sent to [Fahdelah.Hartley@uct.ac.za](mailto:Fahdelah.Hartley@uct.ac.za) and should include:

1. A detailed letter of motivation describing why you are a suitable candidate
2. A comprehensive CV
3. An example of recent, written work
4. The names and contact details of two referees

Applicants will need to apply separately for PhD study to both the University of Cape Town and to the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science. The scholarship is subject to acceptance of the candidate for PhD study at the University of Cape Town.

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Further information can be obtained from [Rachel.Wynberg@uct.ac.za](mailto:Rachel.Wynberg@uct.ac.za)



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