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## **Establishing Transformative Learning, Research and Community outreach and Capacities in Agroecology (LINK)-P351**

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COORDINATING INSTITUTION: Bahir Dar University (BDU)

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS: University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (Phillipp Dietrich)

**PARTNER COUNTRIES:** Ethiopia

PROJECT DURATION: 1 May 2024 – 30 April 2027 (36 months)

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The Lake Tana Basin in northern Ethiopia is the second largest sub-basin of the Blue Nile and the most important regional source of fresh water providing economic, social, political, environmental, ecological and religious benefits for the inhabitants in its surroundings. However, there are tremendous environmental challenges accompanied with poverty and food insecurity.

Current modes of research and Higher Education have been criticized not to provide adequate approaches in response to solve these actual problems. Bahir Dar University (BDU) offers with its MSc curriculum in Agroforestry (AF) a basis to form alumni capable to target these actual challenges even there are gaps to engage and improve the performance: Applied Agroecology (AE) components are missing and there is a lack in epistemic pluralism and localized research capacity resulting in neither trained staff to sufficiently handle the complex challenges, nor graduates enabled to engage and interact meaningful with complex real world phenomena in an Ethiopian setting.

The LINK project therefor is designed to implement activities building capacities and leading to following outcomes:

- 1. Staff training in transformative learning (teaching) and participatory research** including the approach of *Green Pedagogy*
- 2. Evaluation of the existing curriculum in AF** and development of **add-on Modules in AE**
- 3. Establishment of a stakeholder platform** facilitating **transformative learning and research** to enable the inclusion of local epistemology for inclusive and legitimate approaches towards existing challenges and policy influence
- 4. Establishment of an AE demonstration site** and **lead farmers** to act as a mutual learning laboratory linking staff, students and farmers