

# Research Associate Opportunity with the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India

## Theme – Environmental Flows

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The Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India (Forum to be brief) is happy to announce that it is on the lookout for a Research Associate for one year for its ongoing thematic work on environmental flows in the Mahanadi river basin.

### The Forum and its work

The Forum is a dynamic initiative of individuals and institutions that has been in existence for the last eight years. Initiated by a handful of organisations that had come together to document conflicts and supported by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), it now has more than two hundred individuals and organisations attached to it. It has completed two phases of its work, the first centring on documentation, which also saw the publication of 'Water Conflicts in India: A Million Revolts in the Making', and a second phase where conflict documentation, conflict resolution and prevention were the core activities. Presently the Forum is in its third phase where the emphasis is on backstopping conflict resolution. Apart from the core activities like documentation, capacity building, dissemination and outreach, the Forum would be intensively involved in right to water and sanitation, agricultural and industrial water use, environmental flows in the context of river basin management and groundwater as part of its thematic work. The right to water and sanitation component is funded by WaterAid India. Arghyam Trust, Bangalore, which also funded the second phase, continues its funding for the work of the Forum in its third phase and the resources required for the internship programme come from the Arghyam support. The Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune anchors the work of the Forum and Forum's secretariat is located at SOPPECOM.

### The Forum's Vision

The Forum believes that it is important to safeguard ecology and environment in general and water resources in particular while ensuring that the poor and disadvantaged population in our country is assured of the water it needs for its basic living and livelihood needs. The Forum is committed to the core values of equity, environmental sustainability, efficiency, livelihood assurance for the poor and democratisation.

### The Forum's Mission

The Forum's mission is to influence policies and actions at all levels and work towards resolving, and preventing water conflicts in an environmentally and socially just manner, and creating

awareness for achieving participatory, equitable, and sustainable water use. The Forum aims to carry out these through stakeholder interactions, knowledge creation, policy advocacy, training, networking and outreach.

### **Present focus of Forum's work**

Presently the Forum is in its third phase of work. The work of the present phase is primarily grouped into two: core activities and thematic activities. The core activities include research and documentation, training, dissemination and outreach, internship and policy dialogue. Under the thematic work the four themes of Right to water and sanitation, Environmental flows, Agricultural and Industrial water use and Groundwater are included. These themes would be taken up in the Mahanadi river basin (primarily in the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha).

(For details of Forum's work see [www.waterconflictforum.org](http://www.waterconflictforum.org)).

### **The Work Expectations of Research Associate**

The Research Associate (RA) will be working on the theme of Environmental Flows in Mahanadi river basin. The Forum's Environmental Flows ( E flows) theme is led by Latha Anantha, Shripad Dharmadhikary, Partha Jyoti Das, Gorky Chakraborty and Malavika Chauhan.

The main objectives of the E flows theme are

1. Development of important principles and modalities for evolving an inclusive, participatory, bottom up approach to river basin planning with dams and environmental flows in focus
2. Development of important criteria/indicators for the allocation of environmental flows based on a multi stakeholder process
3. Study and critique existing policy and legal instruments and institutional set up to explore an institutional and basin management framework that will work within the Indian context in conformity with the desired approach to river basin planning

The RA is expected to work on the second objective. Some of the expected activities include, understanding the concept of e flows, hydrological analysis of the flows in Hasdeo sub basin, Identification of the sites ( river stretch) for carrying out the e flows assessment based on different river uses, organize stakeholder meetings in the selected sites for understanding the interventions affecting river flows, data collection on river dependence / river water use in the selected sites and understand flow requirements for different needs and discussion with experts to arrive at the flow regimes required for ecology and social needs, organizing multi stakeholder meetings for setting of objectives of e –flows.

## Eligibility

- Masters' level degree from any University/academic institution in India or abroad on Hydrology / Civil Engineering or Environmental Science / IWRM

OR

- Activists and/or NGO personnel who have an interest in research focused on environment or river management
- Proficiency in English. Knowledge of Hindi is essential since the field work is in Chattisgarh and Odisha
- Capability of independent writing in English is essential

## To Apply

Interested candidates please send their CV (that also mentions the names of two references) to [manthan.shripad@gmail.com](mailto:manthan.shripad@gmail.com) and [latha.anantha9@gmail.com](mailto:latha.anantha9@gmail.com) with a copy to Craig Dsouza at [waterconflictforum@gmail.com](mailto:waterconflictforum@gmail.com)

Please send at least one paper or article written on the subject of interest

## Process of Selection

Selection would be based on interview over skype or in person at Pune. The selected RA would be based in Pune. The details of honorarium would be discussed during the interview.

**The last date for sending in the application is 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2015.**

Sd/-

Latha Anantha and Shripad Dharmadhikary