Governance and Financing

City Spotlight

A Forest That Heals: The Roha Medical Campus Miyawaki Forest, Addis Ababa

At the heart of the Roha Medical Campus in Addis Ababa, one of Ethiopia's most advanced healthcare developments, sits a one-hectare indigenous forest. Developed under the campus's ESG leadership, the project is grounded in the idea that nature is part of the healing process. Drawing on practices such as forest bathing, the forest is designed as a therapeutic environment where exposure to nature supports patient recovery and wellbeing. Research from around the world shows that patients in hospitals surrounded by natural environments heal faster and experience lower fatality rates.

The forest is embedded into the hospital's design. Patients have direct views into the canopy, and pathways allow visitors and staff to move through and rest within it. It also serves a protective function, acting as a buffer between the campus, a major highway, and a nearby airport, reducing exposure to noise and air pollution.

What distinguishes this project is the level of ecological intent behind its delivery. With very limited indigenous forest remaining in Addis Ababa, the team commissioned an ecological study to identify native species suited to the site. More than 50 species were selected, resulting in 12,500 seedlings planted using the Miyawaki method. Due to the lack of a commercial market for indigenous plants, sourcing required coordination with public nurseries, highlighting the role of institutional support in enabling private initiatives.

The project demanded significant upfront investment in soil restoration, planting, and early maintenance. However, after two years of intensive care, the forest now requires minimal intervention. Survival rates exceed 90%, and the site is already supporting birds, insects, and other species.

While privately led, the project operates within a broader system of environmental knowledge and local partnerships. It demonstrates how corporate actors can deliver high-quality green infrastructure when supported by technical expertise and clear long-term intent, contributing both to site-specific outcomes and to wider ecological restoration efforts.



Planting of Native Species the Roha Medical Campus in Addis Ababa



Completed planting of pocket forest in soon to be completed Roha Medical Campus



Egg nest from native in Pocket Forest