

SARAH ATER

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EDUCATION

Ongoing	MEd (International Development and Education), Newcastle University
2004	Certificate in Soil conservation & fertility management, Selandia College
2003	Diplome de langue Francaise, Alliance Francaise
2001	Bachelor of Environmental Studies, Kenyatta University
1998	International Diploma in Computer Studies, National Computing Council

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I gained initial experience in conservation work volunteering at OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria), Uvumbuzi Club and Wildlife Clubs of Kenya while pursuing my degree in Environmental Studies at Kenyatta University.

Since January 2002, I have focused on marine and coastal awareness initially working at Wildlife Clubs of Kenya coordinating education and awareness activities in Coast Province working closely with member schools and other organizations. Later while at Baobab Trust, I worked with fisher folk promoting awareness on turtles and ensuring records of sightings, stranding, releases and nesting were maintained and forwarded to KESCOM. During that time, I also led training of self-help groups to promote sustainable practices such as organic farming, fish and poultry farming, biogas production and compost making. In addition, I got involved in a program training teachers in environmental education.

From 2005, I have been leading the teachers' training program in environmental education through the Environmental Education Initiative (EEI) while based at CORDIO East Africa. In addition, I am involved in a marine awareness program for schools dubbed 'Schools to the Sea' and working with women groups to promote adult education, information technology and alternative livelihoods in order to reduce reliance on fisheries.

August 2005 – September 2008 EEI Program Manager based at CORDIO

- Coordination and implementation of regional teachers training program in environmental education that has seen over 90% of the teachers certified after implementing projects in their schools. 66 teachers have been trained
- Coordination and implementation of schools to the sea program which has provided an opportunity for over 500 teachers and pupils (including those with special needs) to discover the marine environment in a practical way
- Implementation of adult education component in a project utilizing education and information communication technologies to enhance sustainable livelihood activities where eight women groups have learnt basic literacy skills and how to use computers and internet
- Fundraising, networking, evaluating and reporting programs progress to stakeholders

August 2004 – July 2005

**Teacher Training in Environmental Education
Project Assistant (Part time)**

- Steering the growth of teachers' training program from one location to five districts, and from one donor to a collaborative undertaking for over five institutions

August 2004 - July 2005

Baobab Trust

Environmental Officer & Agricultural Projects Coordinator

November 2003 – July 2004

Baobab Trust

Environmental Officer

January 2002 – October 2003

Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK)

Conservation Education Officer

Voluntary work experiences

I assisted in implementing follow-up of teachers training program between December 2003 and July 2004. In 2008, I volunteered at the Newcastle United Learning Centre working as a classroom assistant.

Some workshops attended

- National Environment Conference, Kenyatta University, 19th- 21st May 2008. Presentation on 'Marine Education in Kenya' and 'Empowering self-help groups in Kenya through ICT for better education and alternative livelihoods'
- 5th WIOMSA Symposium, Durban, 22nd-26th October 2007
Poster on 'Teachers' ranking of important topics in environmental education in Kenya'
- Coastal Ecology IV: People, Processes and Ecosystems, Plaza Beach Hotel, 28th-30th May, 2006
Poster on 'Environmental Education Initiatives'

Activities

- 2008/ 09 – Academic Students Representative, School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, Newcastle University
- 2003 – WIOMSA member to present
- 2002 - KESCOM member to present
- Active participant in implementation of Marine Environment Day and International Coastal Cleanup since 2002
- Keen interest in reading, poetry, photography, traveling and meeting people which has exposed me to different cultures allowing me to appreciate them