

PERSONAL DATA

Full Names: Miss Grace Muthoni Mwaura

Qualification: MPhil Candidate –Geography & Environment (Nature, Society & Environmental Policy), University of Oxford, 2013;
Bsc. (Honors) Environmental Sciences, 2009, Kenyatta

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Date of Birth: 23rd April 1986

Marital Status: Single

Languages: English, Swahili, and French

PERSONAL PROFILE:

An enthusiastic, assertive and result oriented young environmentalist with a desire to get things done and serve society. Driven by the desire to communicate, network, and achieve; is flexible, fast learner, and able to multi task.

PROFESSIONAL GOALS: -

- 1) To develop and utilize my skills in problem solving and innovation of sustainable actions in the society;
- 2) To be an active participant in the production of new knowledge needed to address the complexity in the governance of the environment and;
- 3) Actively engage with the world’s young generation in re-thinking the future of the planetary systems.

CURRENT AREAS OF ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

1. Youth, Environment & Development- Policy nexus
2. Science and policy communication
3. Environmental Governance in Africa

WORK EXPERIENCE

Period: **June 28th- July 21st 2012**

Organization: **Oxford Study Courses (OSC), Oxford, UK**

Position: **Academic Dean, Oxford Pre-IB Summer Courses**

Main Duties

- Responsible for managing Personal Career Consultations and Private Tuition for Pre-IB students
- Organizing the Enrichment Programme workshops, weekly lectures and University Fair
- Playing an office administrative role in the OSC office at the Somerville College

Period: **January 2011- September 2011**

Organization: **World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)**

Position: **Research Assistant in the Office of the Director General**

Main Duties

- Developing an Evergreen Agriculture Youth Programme;
- Documentation of best practices in Agroforestry education among the young people;
- Developing scaling up methodologies for the Evergreen Agriculture technologies;
- Assisting in the development of a joint programme at on Agroforestry in the Dry lands and;
- Developing and Coordinating Exchange programme on agroforestry education between Kenyan schools and Ohio State University students.

Period: **February 2010 – September 2012**

Organization: **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

Position: **Appointed Global Council Member of the IUCN**

Main Duties

- Main Council responsibilities to: Oversee Secretariat Operations; Fiduciary responsibilities; and Review of Programme Implementation;
- Specific responsibility to present youth concerns in the Council and develop a youth programme for the Union;
- Participation in the IUCN Council meetings and decision making process and its work with member organizations and commissions;
- Member of the Commission on Education and Communication, and World Commission on Protected Areas;
- Member, Governance Committee, Policy and Programmes Committee of the IUCN

Council and;

- Member, Resolutions Committee of the 2012 World Conservation Congress.

Period: **December 2009- Current**

Organization: **African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)**

Position: **Advisor, Policy & Communications**

Main Duties

- Advising the movement on establishing and strengthening of national youth networks and their work on climate change in Africa;
- Advising the movement's involvement in climate change policy process from local to international levels;
- Developing and maintaining effective internal and external communication within the movement, its members, and partners and;
- Ensuring smooth running of the movement including capacity building, mentoring, fundraising, and overall management

Period: **August 2010- December 2010**

Organization: **Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) Kenya**

Position: **Consultant on the Healthy Learning Programme**

Main Duties

- Assess the progress of Healthy Learning models schools in relation to natural resource management and environmental sustainability;
- Advise on the further integration of environment and gender as cross-cutting themes into the implementation of Healthy Learning programme activities;
- Provide support and advise to tree planting programmes in schools;
- Compile information and practical guidelines on fuel-efficient stoves;
- Advise the programme on sustainable school gardens and orchards with low external input;
- Develop a plan for covering some Healthy Learning schools in a short promotional video;
- Provide relevant input to training workshops, seminars and programme meetings;
- Assist in identifying and maintaining effective communication with other natural resource management actors;
- Recommend the procurement of relevant educational materials related to education, natural resource management and environment, with a focus on arid and semi-arid lands and;
- Support training workshops and seminars for the Ministry of Education officials on environmental issues.

Period: **February 2010-August 2010**

Organizations: **World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB)**

Ministry of Education

Position: **Professional Intern**

Main Duties

- Assessing the progress of the Healthy Learning programme in relation to agro forestry and environmental sustainability; and advising on integration of environment as a cross cutting theme into its implementation;
- Contributing to technical sheets and guidelines on tree planting in schools, energy efficiency for schools, sustainable school gardening, and fruit orchards;
- Developing plans for covering the programme in short documentary videos;
- Providing relevant input to training workshops and conferences including writing papers, facilitation, organizing, poster presentation, and social reporting;
- Identifying and maintaining effective communication with other natural resource management actors;
- Recommending the procurement of relevant educational materials related to agro forestry and natural resource management and environment with a focus on arid and semi arid lands and;
- Assessing the coverage of climate change adaptation and mitigation in primary and secondary school education in Kenya and or other countries (audit of curriculum, syllabus and learning materials).

Period: **January 2009- December 2009**

Organization: **African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)**

Position: **Regional Secretary and Policy Advisor**

Main Duties

- Recruitment of new members and facilitating their participation in youth and climate change work in Africa
- Representing AYICC in the International Youth Climate Movement and the Global South Youth Movement on international climate change policy work
- Fundraising for youth and climate change activities around Africa and coordinating the delegation attending the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark and related activities in 2009.

Key achievements while in this role:

- Establishing national youth networks on climate change in over 20 African countries
- Fundraising for 50 African youth to attend the international climate negotiations of the UNFCCC COP 15
- Working with international youth to ensure and empower the participation of over 500 youth from the global south in the UNFCCC COP 15 processes

- Supporting the Kenyan chapter of AYICC to participate in the national climate policy process including development of the national climate change response strategy.
- Organizing the 2nd and 3rd National Youth Conference on Climate Change in Kenya
- Advisory role to the leadership team since 2010.

CONSULTANCIES:

February - January 2012- Consultant, **Young Professional Platform in Agriculture for Research for Development** developing a Peer -to -Peer Mentoring programme for young professionals in ARD.

October- December 2011- Volunteer Consultant, **the Rhodes Scholars Southern African Forum (RSSAF)** for grassroots organizations in Sub Saharan Africa on environment and development issues.

September- December 2010- Consultant on Education for Sustainable Development with the **Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) Kenya:** Assessing progress of Healthy Learning model schools.

SELECTED EVENTS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS/CONFERENCES

IUCN 5th World Conservation Congress, 5-15th September 2012. Member of the IUCN Council, Resolutions Committee & Facilitator at the Youth Journey events at the Congress.

Trainee at the '*Youth Encounter on Sustainability*' Course at Hosei University, 24th March - 10th April 2012, Tokyo, Japan.

Conference Speaker on 'Enticing Young People into Agriculture through education, training and mentoring' at the '*Youth People, Farming and Food*' conference on 19-21st March 2012 in Accra, Ghana.

Speaker on 'Food and Rural School Children in Kenya' at the *Annual Green Feast Seminar* on 7th March 2012 at St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Training Eastern African countries on *Communications in the National Biodiversity Action Plans under the CBD* (Convention on Biological Biodiversity- June 2011, Rwanda.

Speaker on '*Investing in a Passion*' at the 26th Pecha Kucha Night in Brussels, Belgium on the 26th May 2011. The 6 minutes speech focused on young -passion nexus.

A social reporter and facilitator for a focused group session *Youth and Agknowledge in Africa* during the Agknowledge Share Fair, 18-21st October 2010, Ethiopia.

A panelist in a Conference on the *Role of African Youth in responding to Climate change and sustainable development* during the Seventh African Development Forum on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Africa, 10-15th October 2010, Ethiopia

International Youth representative from Africa at the Global reporting Initiative (GRI) Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency, and Readers Choice Awards, 26-28th May 2010, Amsterdam Netherlands.

Keynote Speaker on “*Youth responses to Climate change in Africa*” at the 3rd Scientific Conference on ‘Climate Change and Natural Resource Use on Eastern Africa’, 19-21st May 2010 organized by Ecological Society of Eastern Africa (ESEA).

Workshop facilitator on ‘*Youth leadership and climate change in Africa*’ at the UNEP TUNZA International Children and Youth Conference, South Korea, August 2009.

Other short term vacation experiences

From - To	Professional Work Experience
August 2012	Intern at the Rhodes Trust, Oxford, assisting in administrative and communication work of the Trust’s Development Office
January - April 2009	Intern at ERMIS Africa developing Education, <i>Training and Public Awareness</i> tools, for promoting environmental conservation.
August 2009	Facilitator during the UNEP-TUNZA International Children and Youth Conference in South Korea.
July- September 2008	Intern at the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)
April- May 2008	Intern at - KENRIK at the National Museum of Kenya
October 2005-August 2007	Volunteer at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust as an Ecotourism guide
June- December 2006	Organizing the 2 nd International Conference of Youth (COY 2); African youth participation in UNFCCC COP 12, and founding of an African youth movement on climate change (AYICC).

Professional Courses and Degrees:

From- To	Type of course	Institution	Certificate Obtained
October 2011-2013	MPhil –Geography & the Environment	University of Oxford	MPhil through DPhil
March- April 2012	International Sustainability Course on ‘Youth Encounter on Sustainability’	Actis ETH & Hosei University, Japan	Certificate
July 2010	Web 2.0 Technologies- Social Media for Development	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA)	Certificate
August 2005- December 2009	Bsc. in Environmental Sciences	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Degree (First Class Honors)
July 2008-April 2009	Community Based Conservation Filmmaking	Darwin Initiative and Leicester University	Certificate
January- November 2008	Youth Leadership Development Training	Journey Leadership Training School-	Certificate
August 2008	Pollination Ecology and Bee Biology	Biota and National Museums of Kenya	Certificate
2006-2007	Project Management in Community Development	Kenyatta University	Audited Degree Course

Awards/Appointments

1. Steering Committee Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, 2012-2016.
2. Board Member (Science & Education), Society for Conservation Biology, Africa Section, 2011-2014.
3. Rhodes scholar 2011- Oxford University, reading MPhil in Geography & Environment
4. Appointed Council Member in IUCN, 2010- 2012.
5. AFEW-Giraffe Centre 2007 National Environmental competition for the Best Colleges Essay.
6. The best Student in Environmental Sciences (First Class Honors), Class of 2005

Professional Membership

1. IUCN, Commission for Education and Communication (CEC)
2. IUCN, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
3. Society for Conservation Biology
4. Ecological Society for Eastern Africa-ESEA
5. African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
6. Nature Kenya, Youth Committee
7. Intervarsity Environment Network-IVEN

8. Kenyatta university environmental club-KUNEC

Publications, Articles and Films

- *'Creating opportunities and developing competencies for young people in agrifood sector: a constraint for Africa'* Oxford 2012 Graduate Essays
- *'Can National Reporting Systems Manage Regime Complexes: The Case of Biodiversity and Climate Change Regime Interplay'* 2011 Oxford Graduate Essays
- [Growing talents](#) on ICT KM Website in December 2010
- How to [Build and Animate Youth Networks](#) written for IUCN- CEC
- Undergraduate Dissertation on *'Conservation Challenges in Lake Naivasha Catchment-Kenya, Kenyatta University 2009.*
- [Agroforestry for Healthy Learning](#), an article published on ICRAF website:
- [Inspiring Action on Climate Change](#) -8 minutes film:
- [Kenyan Climate Youth Blog](#) -An editor & contributor

Extra-curricular activities and Hobbies

Writing; Networking; Adventure; Lawn tennis; and board games.

REFEREES

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