

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Africa Amini
Secondary School
in Sustainable Tourism



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WE ARE A PILOT PROJECT

AASSIST is aligned with the Tanzanian government's policy to incorporate vocational training into secondary education, by offering vocational training as electives.

In our school, all vocational subjects are compulsory – and because we are NACTVET-registered, graduates will leave with VETA certificates in housekeeping, food & beverage preparation, culinary arts, front office, computer studies and more. Our focus on sustainability – a core concept that is interwoven into all our teachings – is what truly sets us apart.

OUR MODEL

We believe in the possibility of youth. Our model harnesses potential by moulding the next generation of tourism players at a young age. By specifically focusing on those early teen years, we are afforded the possibility of shaping our students' attitude and approach. It's the perfect time to foster soft skills and shape them into confident professionals.

The challenge? Finding internship placements for our younger students. Our solution: we train them to a standard where we are confident that they will do us proud, before sending them out to our partners.

2023 Internship Report

We started the year buzzing from our biggest round of internships yet. 79 students went out to camps, lodges, and resorts to test their skills in real-life working environments, putting theory into practice alongside true hospitality professionals.

Internships are usually just one month, but our Form II's were out in the field for November and December, doubling the learning opportunities. We expanded our geographic scope: 12 of them went to Zanzibar and experienced the seaside for the first time. We are deeply grateful to the mentors who hosted them – you truly make a world of difference to our students. Thank you!

YOU SAID...

'Good behaviour and fast learner. Honestly, she did an excellent job.' - Gibb's Farm

'She was great and always busy. Able to adopt different tasks. Her future looks so bright.' Alex Walker's Serian

'She contributed positively to the team and consistently met her performance goals. She is proficient in deescalating challenging situations and making customers feel heard and understood.' - Mvuvi Boutique Resort

'We love her. Very perfect, she did very well and hope to see her again. She is excellent.' - Mount Meru Game Lodge

THEY SAID...

'At the beginning we were not allowed to do anything but then we showed them, and they realized that we have a lot of knowledge. And we worked everywhere. Then I got so many opportunities. In the kitchen they wanted to keep me and not let me go to another place because the chef had some resting time when I was there. 'When Pascal is here, you can go on holiday.'

'We have a plastic recycling machine, but in the traineeship, I learnt how to recycle glass. I want to teach my fellow students. Because throwing glass away is a pity.'

'When electricity at night went off, no one could turn on the generator. I read the instructions in English and the light went on.'

'I learnt enough self confidence that I could speak openly to the manager of the lodge.'

'When I was cutting vegetables, they said: wow where did you learn to cut so fast? And I helped them and taught them how to cut vegetables. I feel proud I could tell the chefs how to cut vegetables.'

*We can't thank you enough for
their fantastic experiences!*



Wall of Fame

We have had to extend our Wall of Fame to make space for all our incredible new partners – we couldn't be more delighted!



OUR NEW PARTNERS

Aqua Beach Resort & Spa
Chumbe Island Coral Park
Entara Lodges & Camps
Gibb's Farm Tanzania
Boutique Hotel Matlai
Moivaro Lodges
Mvuvu Boutique Resort
Upendo Beach Resort
Wildlife Explorer



2024 Internship Dates

As we took in another new batch of Form I's this month, our school now numbers 119 students! We are looking for more internship places than ever before, and we're so excited to send our eager learners out to new partners and old. Here is our 2024 schedule so you can begin to get ready to host:

JUNE: 2nd June to 2nd July 2024

NOVEMBER: 10th November 2024 to 3rd January 2025

DECEMBER: 8th December 2024 to 3rd January 2025



What's New?

FORM I UPDATE

To ensure our Form I's are truly ready before we send them into the world for internships, we start them out in our own properties: the Africa Amini restaurant, Hillside Retreat, Original Maasai Lodge and, of course Africa Amini Homes.

This way, we are sure that each student we send out to our partners is genuinely prepared. For those who aren't, we keep them back. In the June holidays, we split them into two groups: one studies German, computer literacy and soft skills while the others gain experience in our properties – then we switch them halfway through. We continue with training until we are happy that they can make us proud in any workplace.

FORM II UPDATE

We talk a lot about our vocational training, but you'll be pleased to know we take the academic side of things just as seriously. Our Form II students proved this in the recent national exams: AASSIST came 9th out of 75 schools in the district!



FORM III UPDATE

Our Form III students will sit their national VETA exams (NVA Level 3) at the end of this year. 66% of their result is made up by practicals and internships, and the rest is theory. The curriculum we created has been accepted by VETA, and exam questions will be set accordingly. We are proud to be setting new standards in vocational education!

FORM IV UPDATE

We are formulating a Form IV Internship Programme that will allow our students to make up their internship hours, if they haven't reached the requirement by the time they sit their exams. We will be offering our partners the opportunity to take our students for 3 months' probation, with no strings attached. This way, our students gain valuable experience and make up their hours – and partners have the opportunity to hire them directly after, should they wish.



Want to assist AASSIST?

Support comes in many shapes and sizes:

LUNCH UNDER THE TREE

By sending your clients to enjoy lunch under the Africa Amini tree, you are supporting our students by providing valuable experience in catering for and hosting guests.

STAY AT AFRICA AMINI HOMES

Your clients will enjoy a stay hosted by our students in the heart of the Africa Amini projects - and our students will gain hands-on experience, taking their lessons from theory to action.

GIVE A SATURDAY SEMINAR

We want our students to have direct contact with the people who shape the tourism industry - and to give YOU the opportunity to teach them what you think they need to know.

1. Choose a topic: anything you feel would benefit our students.
2. Book a Saturday that suits you.
3. Give your seminar in the morning.
4. Follow with Lunch Under the Tree.
5. Check out Africa Amini Homes and
6. Africa Amini Hillside Retreat.
7. Spend a night at Original Maasai Lodge, free of charge.

Want to bring the family? We would be delighted to offer them complimentary lunch and accommodation at Original Maasai Lodge too. Karibuni!

We'd Love Your Input

We are working on introducing a new subject for our Form IV students, focused on guiding – but through the lens of sustainability. We would love to hear what you would suggest, and whether you have any material you would like to share.



Contact Us

Get in touch on assist@africaaminialama.com, or come and visit us for a tour of the school - our students would love to meet you. We are located just outside Arusha National Park's Momella gate, and we'd be delighted to host you for lunch.