# OUR MID-2023 UPDATE



Africa Amini Secondary School in Sustainable Tourism



## **OUR CURRICULUM**

Our high-achieving students study normal secondary school material, in addition to our custom-created curriculum for vocational training in sustainable tourism.

We blended VETA course content for housekeeping, food & beverage services, culinary arts, front office, and computer studies with our own topics: health and wellness, permaculture, soft skills and sustainability.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

Hands-on experience is a curriculum requirement, and each student must complete an average of 5 weeks' internship per year in order to graduate. These take place every June and December, and we have completed three rounds of internships so far: August and December 2022, and June 2023.

## **SCHOOL UPDATES**

Our Form 2 students each mentor a Form 1 student to ensure as much transmission and sharing of experience and knowledge as possible. We have expanded our curriculum to include German lessons for all students, and we're working on sponsorship for laptops to elevate our computer studies lessons.

# **VETA Registration**

We are immensely proud to have been awarded VETA registration! This approval from Tanzania's National Council for Technical and Vocational Education (NACTVET) qualifies us to educate, train and certify students according to the national standard.

We are the only secondary school in the country to achieve this honour. Securing the government's approval and support is an invitation to join VETA's mission: 'To ensure quality vocational skills by providing, promoting and financing vocational education and training for socio-economic development'.

Our objective is to provide our students with everything they need to attain gainful employment after secondary school. No need for expensive colleges or additional certification: our graduates will be able to begin their careers immediately. Our aim is not only to open the door of possibility for them, but to serve the tourism industry by

providing high-quality candidates

to employ.



We are piloting a brand new model for Tanzania, and to be officially endorsed by the government is a momentous milestone. Our hope is that the school will provide an example that can be replicated countrywide, transforming the future of Tanzania's youth.

We are making history, not just by shaping the industry's next generation, but by pioneering a new model of education - and it wouldn't be possible without you. You have helped shape our curriculum, you have supported us by bringing guests for Lunch Under the Tree, you have hosted our interns, sponsored students, and taught Saturday Seminars. Thank you - we are deeply grateful.



We couldn't do it without you!

## KiliFair 2023

AASSIST attended KiliFair this year! We had a bustling food stand, selling wraps and goulash. Our students prepared and served nutritious, delicious meals to hundreds of people, and on their breaks, they went around the Fair meeting as many tourism players as possible.

We made some wonderful new connections, and even had requests from hoteliers for chef trainings and regular supplies of our bread, which we took as a considerable compliment.

The fair gave the students an invaluable exposure to the industry and marketing, and helped them realise the scope of Tanzania's tourism.



Watch our rideo to get a flarour of how it went!















# June 2023 Internships

We completed our third round of internships, thanks to partners old and new. This time it was a mixture of students from Form II who had been on internship before, and Form I whose first time it was. Everyone learned from the experience - students, hosts, and school!

Two saw the sea for the very first time - now they want to learn how to swim

'He was a pleasure to have as a studemt. He is very hard workin g motivated amd willing

They learned to problem-solve, fixing mistakes and speaking out about issues before they caught the guests' attention

'She is always smiling and knows how to attend to quests

They shared their knowledge, teaching their hosts new recipes

Joining game drives allowed them to absorb a wealth of wildlife knowledge, which they used in conversation with guests

'What a kid. She spoke with such com gidemce'

They challenged assumptions, showing they were capable of more than everyone expected

'At the begin min g we thought he was just a small boy, but mow we see a juture Serem geti guide

They learned how to work as part a team of professionals in a busy, fast-paced environment





















## **BIRTH CERTIFICATES**

Because our students come from rural Maasai communities, most do not have birth certificates. A few of our partners requested proof of age, and we realised that it might promote peace of mind if we make it standard practice to share a copy of birth certificate and photo of each student prior to the internship.

So, we have engaged with local authorities to provide birth certificates to all students who don't have one, and making this part of the annual intake process when each new batch of students joins the school.

## **EMPOWERMENT FOR OUR GIRLS**

Internships necessitate a month away from school and home, often in co-ed staff quarters in camps and lodges. We were asked whether we equip our girls with the knowledge and confidence to conduct themselves in environments where their youth and innocence might be taken advantage of.

We are proud to say that sex education, family planning, menstrual health and hygiene, and soft skills are a key component of our curriculum, and open conversation around these topics is encouraged. To inspire our girls even further, we are making a point of inviting women in the industry to give Saturday Seminars, to share their experiences and advice.

## YOU WON'T CATCH US SLACKING

We've introduced slack-lines at the school, so that students can take their skills to the next level. As you can see, they are taking their waitering very seriously!











## Wall of Fame

We've had to expand our Wall of Fame where we proudly display the logos of all our partners - and we think you'll agree it's looking rather good.



We are deeply grateful to all of those who have supported us on our journey.

# Join the Wall

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!

# Looking to December

### **INTERNSHIPS**

Exciting news: our Form II students are available for two months from 8th November to 8th January! We know this will be a plus for many of our partners, so please get in touch if you'd be open to hosting.

That means we're looking for:

- 8th Nov 8th Jan: 40 placements
- 8th Dec 8th Jan: 40 placements

Because our first intake of students are older and more experienced, we will be expanding our scope to include Zanzibar, which is further from home and offers a different perspective on tourism. We have already had some wonderful responses from partners willing to host - and we are so excited for our students to broaden their horizons.

## A NEW WEBSITE

We have decided to create a specially dedicated website for the school, and plan to have this up and ready to launch by the end of they ear. we want it to be a rich resource for sharing with partners, prospective donors and guests, so that they can see what they're supporting. If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see up there, let us know - we love to have your input.

#### **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.

Thank you for your support!