

THELMA ARKO

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Location: 2nd Exhibition Street Dansoman

CAREER OBJECTIVE/PERSONAL PROFILE/PERSONAL STATEMENT

Thelma is an ingenious, resourceful, lifelong learner and a hardworking young lady who relishes challenges and strives to achieve the highest standard possible at any given task. Her extensive experience as an educator, researcher, and administrator makes her a natural trailblazer with a penchant for starting a near-improbable project to completion. Her academic records reflect the tradition of diligent pursuit of excellence.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Environmental Science	08/2017-12/2021
Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Planning, Sanitation and Waste Management	09/2015-Nov 2016
University of Ghana, Legon MPhil Zoology (Parasitology option)	09/2007-March 2010
University of Ghana, Legon BSc Zoology	09/2002-Nov 2006

WORK EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH FELLOW

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY-INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (UNU-INRA)
January 2022 to Present

Achievements/Tasks

- Coordination of a project on Just Energy Transitions in the informal sector (JUSTIS) across four African countries: Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia and Namibia.
- Part of the core research team working on the Economic Implications of Stranded Assets to African Economies and supporting the production of the 3rd report on stranded assets and other related knowledge products.
- Play a key role in resource mobilization as part of the core team, involved in concept development and research proposal development.

PHD RESEARCH FELLOW

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE IN AFRICA (UNU-INRA)
Nov, 2017- to Dec, 2021

Achievement/Task

- Involved in field research on stranded assets
- Co-authored first stranded assets reports: Africa's Development in the age of stranded assets.
- Authored a policy brief titled: Cleaner Cooking Solutions: Moving from Charcoal to Natural Gas in Tanzania. (2019)

- Part of a core research team that worked on a project Green Transition Pathways project and co-authored two reports from this study: 1) Bridges of Opportunity: Partnering for Africa – Europe. May. 2) Building Forward Better Towards Africa’s Green Transformation
- Part of the core research team that worked on Co-authored the 2nd Stranded report titled: “Blind Alleys and Bright Prospects”.

PHD INTERN

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE IN AFRICA (UNU-INRA)

Sept 2017- to Feb 2018

Achievement/Task

- Led a research team to study bamboo biomass energy uptake in Ghana
- Led a research team to study bamboo biomass energy uptake in Ghana
- Co-authored a report on Bamboo biomass energy, and energy transitions
- Co-authored a policy brief titled; “Coordinating a project across three African countries on just energy transitions”.

GRADUATE COORDINATOR

KNUST-AFRICA INSTITUTE OF SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

01/2015-08/2018

Achievements/Tasks

- Securing Partnerships and support for students’ projects
- Tutor Chemical Foundation for Environmental Engineers
- Coordinate and Supervise Student's Thesis
- Pioneered a rural development ecological sanitation project in Yaw Duodu Village in the Eastern Region
- Pioneered capacity development program for sanitation guards in the country

COUNTRY MANAGER

KEY MERCHANDISING COMPANY LIMITED

August 2014-Present

Achievement/Task

- We developed a brand for the product and a promotional strategy for acceptance of the product nationwide.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

EAST AIRPORT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

09/2011-11/2014

- Tutor: Chemistry, Biology and Coordinated Science Teacher

CERTIFICATES

- MPhil Zoology (University of Ghana, Legon)
- BSc Zoology (University of Ghana, Legon)

- Postgraduate Diploma in Sanitation and Waste Management (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)
- Civic Ecology: Reclaiming Broken Places (Cornell University)
- CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science – South Africa 09 May – 15 July 2022, South Africa
- CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science – South Africa 03 May – 09 July 2021
- Introduction to Urban Geoinformatics (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
- The Integration of the SDGs into National Planning (UNESCAP)
- Sustainable Cities (SDG Academy)
- Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking (SDG Academy)
- Statistical Analysis using R (Pan African Doctoral School)
- Natural Resources for Sustainable Development (SDG Academy)
- From Source to Sea to Sustainability (U.N. Environment)
- Climate Action: Solutions for a Changing Planet (SDG Academy)
- Advanced Ecosystem Approach and Systems Thinking (U.N. Environment)
- The Ecosystem Approach and Systems Thinking (U.N. Environment)
- Introduction to Environmental Governance (InforMEA)
- Circular Economy-An Introduction (Delft University of Technology)
- National Adaptation Plans: Building Climate Resilience in Agriculture (UNITAR)
- Managing the Doctoral Process (Including Managing the Literature Review) (Pan African Doctoral School)
- From the Ground Up: Managing and Preserving Our Terrestrial Ecosystems (SDG Academy)
- Planetary Boundaries and Human Opportunities (SDG Academy)
- Green Fiscal Reform Changing Incentives-Transforming Economies (UNITAR)
- Introductory Course on Environmental Legal Framework on Environmental Impact Assessment (InforMEA)
- Children and Climate Change (UNITAR)
- REDD+ e-academy (UNEP/UNITAR)
- Human Health and Climate Change (UNITAR)
- Cities and Climate Change (UNITAR)
- Introductory e-course on climate change (UNITAR)
- Green Economy and Trade (UNITAR)

- Evaluation and Managing for Sustainable Development Impact (Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation-Netherlands)
- Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management (UNESCAP)
- Low-Carbon Green Growth roadmap (UNESCAP)
- Proposal Writing and Research Writing (AuthorAID)
- Grant Proposal Writing (AuthorAID)
- Research Writing (AuthorAID)
- Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries (Eawag-Sandec)
- Child Protection: an introduction by the National Society for preventing cruelty to children (NSPCC)

MAJOR COMPETENCIES

- Resilient
- Multitasking
- Resourceful
- Tenacious
- Enquiring
- Trail blazer

RESEARCH INTEREST

- Energy transitions
- Climate change
- Ecological Footprint

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| Word Resources Forum 2021 | “Green Energy Minerals and Africa’s Development” |
| 7th School of Social Sciences International Conference | “Rising Inequalities and Disproportionate Impact of Covid- 19 On Women-A Closer Look at Africa” |

PUBLICATIONS

- FIRST CHOICE SERIES BIOLOGY STUDENTS COMPANION
- Thesis: University of Ghana, Legon. MPhil Zoology (parasitology option).
Detection and Genotyping of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Pregnant Women in Ghana
- Thesis: University of Ghana, Legon. BSc Zoology.
Screening for Wolbachia in termites.

- Thesis: KNUST-Africa Institute of Sanitation and Waste Management
Characterization of Urban Solid Waste in Accra: A Case Study of Osu Klotey
- Policy Brief: Nje, D., Stewart-Unuigbe, N., Twum, E., & Bortey, H. (2019, February). Greening The Wood Fuel Sector of Ghana: The Role of Bamboo Charcoal. United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa. <http://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:7280>
- Cleaner Cooking Solutions: Moving from Charcoal to Natural Gas in Tanzania. (2019)
http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:7673/Policy_Brief_CLEANER_COOKING_SOLUTIONS.pdf
- Africa Beyond Oil and Gas: Low-Carbon Technologies and The Fourth Industrial Revolution Opportunities for Africa. (2021). <https://inra.unu.edu/publications/articles/low-carbon-technologies-and-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-opportunities-for-africa.html>
- Report: UNU-INRA. (2019). Africa’s Development in the Age of Stranded Assets. United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa.
https://i.unu.edu/media/inra.unu.edu/publication/5247/Discussion-paper-Africas-Development-in-the-age-of-stranded-Assets_INRAReport2019.pdf (**contributing author**)
- Report: UNU-INRA. (2021b). Bridges of Opportunity: Partnering for Africa – Europe. May.
<http://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:8127#viewAttachments> (**contributing author**)
- Report: UNU-INRA. (2021a). BLIND ALLEYS AND BRIGHT PROSPECTS.
<http://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:8486>
- Briefing Note: UNU-INRA. (2021c). Building Forward Better Towards Africa’s Green Transformation. May 1–20. <https://inra.unu.edu> (**contributing author**)

IN THE PROCESS OF PUBLICATION

Special Issue of the <i>Ghana Social Science Journal</i>	“Rising Inequalities and Disproportionate Impact of Covid- 19 On Women-A Closer Look at Africa”
Journal of Circular Economy and Sustainability	“Opportunities For Africa's Mineral Wealth in The Green and Digital Transition”

REFERENCES

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