

# ABDI ZEILA DUBOW

Correct as of April  
2015

## PERSONAL INFORMATION



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**Nationality:** Kenyan

## OBJECTIVES

To be a conscientious, world-class scientist committed to the application of cutting edge science in the eradication of hunger, want and deprivation in Kenya and Africa.

## EDUCATION

2011 – 2015                      **Kenyatta University**  
Doctor of Philosophy, Integrated Soil Fertility Management – *thesis writing ongoing*

2006 – 2010                      **Kenyatta University, Nairobi**  
MSc Environmental Science

Aug – Oct 2007                **Tongji University, Shanghai, P. R. China**  
Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)

2000 – 2003                      **Kenyatta University, Nairobi**  
Bachelor of Environmental Science  
▪ Second Class Hons. Upper Division

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Competences in M&E e.g. results-based framework, PIPs, project evaluation, SWOT(C) analysis, strategic planning, coordination, collaborations, finance and budgeting, proposal development, grants-making, and effective communication

Conversant in the use of database management packages such as MS Access and MS Excel; conversant and trained in the use of Logbook 2.0 schema tool, an electronic data publishing and management; Conversant and proficient in Internet applications including website management (uploading using FTP protocols)

Proficient in the use of statistical packages such as the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and Genstat; Conversant with spreadsheet packages such as MS Excel and Word processors such as MS Word, WordPerfect as well as MS PowerPoint

Trained, conversant and experienced in the use of Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems in environmental management issues; Licensed as a Lead Expert in EIA/EA by NEMA Kenya

Trained in community-based climate change adaptation (CBA) paradigms, including participatory scenario planning (PSPs)

Conversant with the design and preparation of project progress reports (quarterly, yearly) to donors and media communication/liaison

Proficient in desktop publishing systems, especially Adobe PageMaker 7.0 and Microsoft Publisher 2007

Trained in PCM (project cycle management)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **March 2013 – present Embu University College (University of Nairobi)**

#### **Tutorial Fellow, Department of Land and Water Management**

- Undertaking research activities in smallholder food security, soil health, water and sanitation and sustainable land management at Embu University College (a constituent college of the University of Nairobi)
- Teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in the School of Agricultural Sciences
- Responsible for convening and meetings on land and water management
- Supervising the research activities of BSc and MSc students on land and water management

### **August 2010 – February 2013 Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)**

#### **Consultant, Proposal Development**

- Developing fully-fledged proposals for the Soil Health Program of AGRA
- Setting up of key performance indicator values for grants funded by the SHP in eastern and southern Africa;
- Training grantees in monitoring and evaluation plans;
- Responsible for mapping of the Soil Health Program's project locations on Google Earth and Google Maps platforms and integration with SHP website;
- Responsible for impact scoping and characterization of Soil Health Program investments in eastern and southern Africa;
- Evaluating incorporation of gender programming issues in grant management frameworks;
- Oversee collection of baseline surveys for soil health projects;
- Review monitoring and evaluation tools in use in Pillar I and Pillar II countries and develop user-friendly and systematic data collection instruments;
- Develop guidelines for project documentation;
- Undertake policy review in Pillar I and Pillar II countries to determine policy gaps and develop policy briefs;

- Train SHP project managers in conducting research in soil health/food security issues;
- Work with country project teams to develop communication strategies

### **Aug 2009 – Aug 2010 Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives**

#### **Programmes Coordinator**

- Overall coordination and management of CSDI programs and projects in Garissa, Wajir, Makueni and Kisumu districts, including strategic management, finance oversight, budgeting, handling organizational change, ethics and integrity;
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- Provide leadership for DMI/CSDI collaborative programs on dryland agriculture, renewable energy, conflict resolution and climate change in northern Kenya and the North Rift;
- Responsible for backstopping the Kenya Strategic Plan 2008-2012;
- Resource mobilisation for CSDI's programmatic activities;
- Developing yearly plan of work and budget (POWB);
- Supervision of technical personnel from partner organizations and student interns assigned to the project;
- Organizing the planning, design and conduction of training and capacity building efforts in relation to CSDI mandate (training farmers in improved agronomic practices, dryland agroforestry, energy-saving technologies, etc);
- Media liaison on behalf of the project and regular briefings (seminars) for CSDI partners and bodies such as the District Steering Groups (DSGs).

### **June 2008 – July 2009 Veterinaires Sans Frontieres (VSF) Germany**

#### **Food Security and EWS Coordinator**

- Responsible for developing and managing Livestock/Drought Early Warning System (EWS) for multiple project areas covering Uganda (Karamoja), SW Ethiopia, Northern Kenya and parts of Somalia;
- Prioritization and collection of information necessary for EWS and communication of the information to the policy stakeholders and vice versa to the resident communities;
- Coordinate Radio Broadcasts of EWS Information for the ICRD Consortium.
- Setting up consistent strategies and guiding ICRD consortium partners on sustainable natural resource management

### **Jan 2007 – Dec 2007 Technology and Development Solutions (TDS)**

#### **Drylands Science Specialist**

- Responsible for developing science-based approaches for improving land management methodologies;
- Preparation of journal articles for publication in scientific journals;

- Developing technology-based cost-effective solutions for client organisations dealing in science research;
- Developing consolidated electronic data management systems such as Logbook 2.0;
- Policy analysis on economics and demographic profiling;
- Monitoring and evaluation of client projects.

**Jan 2004 – Dec 2006 World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Nairobi  
Project Officer, Agroforestry for Livelihoods Improvement in the Drylands (ALID) Project**

- Responsible for managing the implementation of the ALID Project, a 2-year pilot project jointly funded by ICRAF and Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) of the Office of the President, including monitoring and evaluation;
- Resource mobilization for diversification of funding base and ensuring project continuity through communication with donor;
- Responsible for developing an agroforestry strategy for the drylands of Eastern Africa;
- Developing funding proposals for programmes and projects that target the arid and semiarid lands of Kenya, with options for scaling out to the rest of Eastern Africa drylands;
- Development and maintenance of a database of institutions dealing in dryland research and development in Eastern Africa;
- Developing manuals, technical working papers and booklets on dryland research and development issues and posting them on the ICRAF-ECA website;
- Administration (including uploading) of ICRAF-ECA website (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/eca/>)

**May – August 2003 UNOPS Lake Baringo Project  
Baringo**

**Intern**

- Field intern responsible for developing and helping in the implementation of land rehabilitation measures for the world-important Lake Baringo as well as designing integrated land and water conservation programmes from the lake's catchment area (Baringo and Koibatek districts); facilitating knowledge transfer to agricultural extension staff in the two districts through holding short courses and seminars.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Bashir Jama, Rebbie Harawa, Abednego Kiwia, Marie Rarieya, David Kimani, and **Abdi Zeila** (2013) *Improving Soil Health in Africa: Challenges and Promising Solutions African in African Agriculture Status Report*

**Abdi Zeila** (2012) “Doubling the yield with Lime: Farmers in Nyamagabe singing all the way to the market!” [impact story filed from Rwanda, available at [http://shp.agra-alliance.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=112%3Adoubling-the-yield-with-lime-farmers-in-nyamagabe-singing-all-the-way-to-the-market&catid=1%3Alatest-news&Itemid=50](http://shp.agra-alliance.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=112%3Adoubling-the-yield-with-lime-farmers-in-nyamagabe-singing-all-the-way-to-the-market&catid=1%3Alatest-news&Itemid=50)] [AGRA impact story, April 2011]

**Abdi Zeila** (2012) “Charting the Heights of Food Security in Mozambique: a story of success from Gorongossa” [impact story field from Mozambique for AGRA, December 2010]

**Abdi Zeila** (2011) *Characterization and Impact Scoping of Soil Health Projects in Africa: the case of AGRA SHP investments* SHP Technical Report

Bashir Jama, Abednego Kiwia, James Mutegi, Rebbie Harawa and **Abdi Zeila** (2011) *Adapting to climate change and variability: adaptation lessons for Africa* Occasional Paper, SHP

**Abdi Zeila** (2010) “Use of Landsat satellite imagery in mapping and monitoring the spread of the invasive alien species *Prosopis juliflora* in Garissa district, Kenya” [MSc thesis for award of Master of Environmental Science, Kenyatta University]

**Abdi Zeila** (2009) *Managing the Prosopis menace in drylands of Kenya: issues, options and challenges* CSDI Working Paper, Nairobi, co-authored with Dr Bashir Jama (UN Millennium Project, USA), Dr Steve Anyango (Kenyatta University) and George Aike (ICRAF), 2008]

Bashir Jama and **Abdi Zeila** (2005) *Agroforestry in the drylands of eastern Africa: A call to action* [ICRAF Booklet, Nairobi]

**Abdi Zeila** (2005) “Rapid survey of mango production and marketing in Garissa, Tana River and Baringo districts” [ICRAF Working Paper, Nairobi, March 2005]

**Abdi Zeila** (2005) *An Agroforestry Strategy Paper for Land Rehabilitation and Improved Livelihoods in the Arid and Semiarid Lands of Kenya* ICRAF Technical Report

**Abdi Zeila** (2004) *Land Reform in Kenya: Implications for Dryland Kenya* ICRAF Technical report, Nairobi

**Abdi Zeila** (2004) “Rebuilding Somalia: The Role of Agroforestry in Sustainable Socio-Economic Development” Paper presented to European Commission Experts’ Consultation Workshop on Somalia, Windsor Golf and Country Club, 23rd to 26th November 2004

**Abdi Zeila** (2004) *Achieving Food Security in the Greater Horn of Africa: The Role of Agroforestry* Technical Paper presented at the Jomo Kenyatta University’s Institute for Human Resource Development Workshop, 18th to 19th November 2004

The Northern Herald, a publication of Northern University Students’ Association [Managing Editor]

**Abdi Zeila** (2003) “The Implications of the Process of Desertification on the Urban Environment in Kenya’s Rangelands: The Case of Garissa Municipality” [an

undergraduate dissertation presented to the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Kenyatta University, April 2003; 75pp, unpublished]

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in Somali, Arabic, Swahili and English

## REFERENCES

Brian Nugent, Livelihoods Advisor, UNHCR Ethiopia, email: [NUGENT@unhcr.org](mailto:NUGENT@unhcr.org)

Dr Bashir Jama, Director, Soil Health Program, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), 4<sup>th</sup> floor, West End Towers, off Waiyaki Way, Email: [BJama@agra.org](mailto:BJama@agra.org)

Mr Mohamed Awer, Country Director, WWF Eastern Africa, ACS Plaza, Lenana Road, Kilimani, Nairobi, Kenya Cell: 0729 999 251 Email: [MAwer@wwfearpo.org](mailto:MAwer@wwfearpo.org)

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