

Verena Ommer

**MSc Environment International Development,
University of East Anglia, UK, 2013**

**BA International Relations,
Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, 2010**

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Profile

As a pro-active environment and development specialist I seek opportunities in the fields of water policy consulting, renewable energies and the water-energy-food nexus in a development context. Further major interests are CSR- environmental standards and sustainable consumption.

I believe that lasting change depends on strategy, creativity, and effective communication.

My key expertise lies in raising awareness among business and political stakeholders, to achieve common strategies for more sustainable resource management. Using evidence-based arguments and strong negotiation skills, I actively advance multi-actor decision processes.

With three years' experience as a charity fundraising manager, three years' spent abroad for GIZ, WWF, research and field work, I am motivated to develop my skills and knowledge further. I see myself in the private sector or in research and consulting close to implementation level. Tasks can comprise analytical and consulting work, public relations and communication in fields such as social acceptance of changes in resource supplies. I am highly motivated to gain insights into monitoring and evaluation, two key elements of any project cycle. Taking an interdisciplinary approach based on my BA in International Relations, I feel well equipped to assess projects on their ecologic, economic, political and social feasibility.

If you are looking for a critical thinker with a strong practical sense and intercultural awareness, a dedicated team-worker and effective communicator, I would love to hear from you.

Readiness to travel: unrestricted
Availability: from March 2014
Experience: 2 years relevant experience

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Key Strengths

- Strategic and creative thinker through fundraising and campaigning strategies for charity work
- Strong analytical and writing skills due to various interdisciplinary studies, i.e. on EU energy security; Water security through desalination; bio-energy in West Africa; Payments for Ecosystem Services
- Facilitation skills – managed NGO team, chaired discussions and workshops, planned conferences
- Project management capability gained during a GIZ energy strategy for Madagascar
- Goal-oriented, adaptable team player through participating in group research and work projects
- Intercultural competency gained in three years of professional, academic and private stays abroad

Work Experience

- 06/2013 – 07/2013 **International Water Policy and Infrastructure Consultant**
German International Cooperation (GIZ), Eschborn, Germany
- Follow-up on water-energy-food nexus in the Nairobi Nexus Dialogue (2012)
 - Analyzed current experience of water stewardship in agriculture
 - Identified nexus perspective in ministerial concept on sustainable agriculture
- 12/2012-03/2013 **Field research on the energy supply to a desalination plant in the Gaza Strip**
- Applied quantitative and qualitative research methods for dissertation, i.e. phone interviews and a survey with academia, public, civil and private sectors
 - Created analysis tools such as a Water-Energy-Security Matrix
- 07/2012-12/2012 **European Energy Initiative – Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) Intern**
German International Cooperation (GIZ), Eschborn, Germany
- Team assistant with focus on hydro-power in Madagascar for a national energy strategy in close coordination with donors (World Bank, AFD, UNDP), business and civil society partners
 - Successfully completed mission report and assisted in developing publications, communication materials for the [Africa-EU Energy Partnership](#)
 - Organized meetings, events and presentations, incl. planning and logistics
- 10/2010-05/2011 **European Climate and Energy Policy / European Budget Reform intern**
WWF European Policy Office, Brussels, Belgium
- Created and edited 'Brussels Breeze' newsletter for EU WWF-network
 - Targeted research on European climate and energy policy
 - Communicated with EU institutions to prepare/follow-up lobbying activities
 - Organised conferences, internal and with external policymakers
- 09-11/2009 **Energy Team Research Assistant**
Environmental Development Action (ENDA), Dakar, Senegal
- Field visit in Sine-Saloum Delta to consult on sustainable fishing businesses
 - Contributed to an international report on bio-energy solutions in West Africa
- 09/2008-09/2011 **Fundraising Unit Manager (voluntary)**
Charity organisation Go Ahead! e.V. – Education creates Futures
- Created, planned and implemented new fundraising concepts in co-operation with a consultancy
 - Recruited and introduced new team members to processes and their tasks
 - Continuously involved in strategic development of the organisation

Other Relevant Experience

- 07/2013-11/2013 **Cultural travels in India and Nepal**
- Studied ecology, culture, dialects in regions of North and South India as well as Nepal (Chitwan National Park, Desert Thar, Himalayas)
 - Frequent contact with local population helped to understand cultural and gender differences and fine-tune my sensitivity towards these

- 01-31/08/2012 **World Water Week Junior Rapporteur**
World Water Week 2012, Stockholm, Sweden
- Contributed to the final conference report on Water and Food Security
 - Analyzed and reported back from sessions on water-energy-food nexus
 - Conducting informative briefings with GIZ colleagues to spread the outcome of the conference
- 05/2012 **Results based Project Management Training (RBM)**
University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom
- Logical Framework Analysis for development applied as group exercise
 - Performance Management Framework
 - Risk Analysis
- 11/03 – 17/03/2012 **Facilitator of the ‘River Basin Game’ on behalf of University of East Anglia**
Sixth World Water Forum, Marseille, France
- Discussed and guided through a strategic water dialogue tool for decision makers and water users, on behalf of the University of East Anglia with business, academia and policy experts (details in a [video presentation](#))

Formal Education

- 10/2011-03/2013 **MSc in Environment and International Development with Distinction**
University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom
- Focus Water Security – concepts and practical application
 - Trans-boundary water management – water policy, economics and law
 - Nexus of water, food, climate, energy and human security
 - Irrigation and agricultural development
 - Tools and Skills for Environment and Development – EIA assessments, GIS
 - Research Techniques and Analysis
 - Sustainable Consumption – behaviour, strategies, theories
- 09/2009-03/2010 **Semester abroad**
Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
- 10/2007-08/2010 **BA in International Relations** (final grade: 2.0 or UK ‘A/B’)
Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany
- European and International (Economic) Law, EU Integration,
 - International Economics, Micro and Macro Economics, the WTO
 - Development Politics, Political Theories, European History

Awards and Memberships

- Since 07/2013 Member of the World Society of Sustainable Energy Technologies (WSSET)
- Since 03/2013 Member of Alumni Network Sub-Saharan Africa (ANSA), German-African network
- 10/2011-09/2012 Postgraduate scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 10/2010-02/2011 Carlo-Schmid-Programme Scholar for internships in international organisations
- 2/2008-9/2012 Stipendiary of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for talented students

Language Skills

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Certificate
German	Native speaker	Native speaker	Native speaker	N/A
English	Excellent	Business fluent	Excellent	TOEFL
French	Excellent	Business fluent	Excellent	DALF C1
Spanish	Very good	Very good	Very good	Unicert III
Wolof (Senegal)	Basic	Basic	Basic	N/A

IT Competencies

- Competent use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) Database maintenance (i.e. batchbook) Basic knowledge of SPSS, GIS and GPS Windows Movie Maker

Further Interests

Traveling: Especially Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia; Foreign languages
 Performing Arts: Playing theatre, jazz and gospel choir membership 2008-2010
 Sports: Tango (intermediate), swimming, trekking