**SHARON AWUOR OKWANY**

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**PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT**

Personal Profile and Strengths

* Achievement-oriented professional with over 5 years of diverse experience across various sectors comprising of Waste Management, Renewable Energy, Petroleum and oil, and climate change.
* Successfully handled Programme Management assignments by providing technical support in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental management, environmental conservation and sustainability, and circular economy projects and programmes.
* Strategic stakeholder relationship builder, cultivating relations and partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders including government agencies and ministries, Civil Society Organizations, private sector industries, and academic institutions, to secure project buy-in and ensure timely project delivery.
* Analytical thinker with pragmatic approach & recognized proficiency in executing assignments with an aim to create strategic synergy, operational effectiveness to mitigate risk and realize desired business value.
* Conceptualized and championed research strategies and policy frameworks for the sustainable use and recycling of plastics in Kenya and formation of the second voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility organization
* Effective communicator, fluent in English and Kiswahili, with advanced use of MS Office Suite, SPSS, and Arc GIS, solid knowledge of ISO 19001, 14001, Health and Safety legislations, and environmental related issues.

**Areas of Expertise:**

Project Management | Project Monitoring & Evaluation | Policy Formulation | Environmental Audits | Stakeholder Relations & Partnerships | Knowledge Management | Communication & Media Relations | Advocacy | Community Mobilization | Capacity Building & Training | Team Leadership | Research | Resource Mobilization | Budget Management | Data Collection | Project Reporting

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Sector Coordinator | Kenya Extended Producer Responsibility Organization (KEPRO) January 2020 - Present**

*KEPRO is a Plastics producer Responsibility Organization and affiliate of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), launched by KAM to help increase national awareness on safe waste disposal.*

Providing technical assistance in developing and implementing organizational programmes and activities including project plans, communication strategy, knowledge management outputs, member recruitment and account management, and the implementation of administrative activities and Interim board Committee functions.

**Key Contributions**:

* Managing the development & expansion of Extended Producer Responsibility (Waste Management / Plastic Recycling) business, nationally.
* Leading two staff and working collaboratively with the finance team to manage, track, and monitor project grants for plastic sustainability projects including:
* Developing budgetary allocations for KEPRO activities.
* Provided in-depth presentation to stakeholders regarding the process chain for Collection, Segregation, Disposal of the Plastic waste towards the EPR compliance
* Identifying key contacts at potential client companies to establish and foster relationships.
* Played a pivotal role in the development and operationalization of solid governance structures and policies.
* Formulating long & short-term strategic plans & marketing campaigns to enhance operations aligning with macro plans of the organization & industry trends
* Participating in KEPRO Committee, Board, and ad hoc meetings to follow up on and disseminate action plans arising from the meetings.

**Key Accomplishments & Achievements**

* Developing a database of all waste collectors and recyclers in Kenya to be presented in the form of interactive maps.
* Engaged in the formulation of the national private sector plastic strategy Kenya Plastic Action Plan and the first Model Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) Business Strategic Plan.
* Actively engaged in resource mobilization in support of KEPRO activities, securing KES 22M in funds (60% increase in collections in 2021) in support of projects.
* Steering member recruitment to promote circular economy goals in Kenya and maintaining and updating member records - successfully recruited over 200 members within a year.

**Sector Assistant Officer - Plastic | Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) August 2018 - Present**

*KAM is a representative organization for the manufacturing value -add industries in Kenya.*

I hold this role concurrently with the KEPRO position. At KAM I coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental sustainability programmes and events for the Plastics Sub-Sector, as well as PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) engagements, countrywide membership recruitment and retention, partnerships development, community mobilization and policy advocacy activities affecting the manufacturing sector.

**Key Contributions**:

* Managed and coordinated activities the entire plastic sector membership database ranging from membership recruitment and retention, organizing and coordinating activities, reviewing of policies affecting the sector, budget management.
* Developed key partnerships with local and national government, relevant government agencies, academia and other private sector to execute the sector’s agenda
* Leading membership feedback and policy advocacy aimed at supporting business development of the local manufacturing industries
* Organized & implemented the industry lead sustainability initiatives including clean ups, publicity and awareness campaigns, stakeholder meetings, forums, and workshops across the country to generate awareness & communicate on waste management best practices
* Built partnerships with youth led organizations in the informal settlements in Kenya to capacity building in environmental conservation including community recyclable kiosks and community engagement initiatives through art and music.
* Established partnerships with university students to drive and incorporate innovation on waste management, including reuse and recycling of waste.
* Facilitating media events including a Webinar with various stakeholders to discuss and disseminate regulations and policies on the environment, sustainable development goals, and manufacturing industry initiatives.
* Serving as a KAM representative at stakeholder events, conferences, and workshops, and championing plastic waste-management and recycling initiatives in Kenya for increased investment in the waste recycling sector.
* Developing monthly and quarterly reports for submission to the government and taking part in the production of the quarterly sustainability newsletters and other communication tools.
* Piloting digital campaigns on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) to raise awareness on organizational activities and waste management best practices, and raising awareness of plastics manufacturers on sustainable business practices.
* Managing relations with external stakeholders including government agencies (NEMA and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) on management of PET plastic consumer waste.

**Key accomplishments and achievements**

* Developed and implemented the pilot PET Project (Shule Phase I) across 19 schools in Nairobi County.
* Educated students and teachers on PET waste management, designed and distributed PET bins in schools, collected plastics for recycling, and devised innovative PET disposal solutions based on the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), securing the UN-Habitat’s Global Waste Wise Cities Best Practice nomination in July 2020.
* Organized and implemented over 20 sustainability events across five counties, mobilizing over KES 20M in funds for sustainability and environmental conservation activities
* Supported in realizing KAM’s commitment to manage post-consumer PET waste by actively collaborating with other stakeholders to collect and recycle 30% of PET bottle waste by 2018 hence increasing investment in the recycling sector in Kenya.
* Coordinated and supported research that lead to the adoption of circular economy concept and EPR schemes in Kenya. This includes:
* The Plastic Policy Brief, 2019 ([link](https://kam.co.ke/kam/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/KPAP_Document-pages.pdf)), and the 2019 Assessment of Existing Local and Global Practices for Post-Consumer Plastic Packaging for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes.
* The PET Sub-sector White Paper (2018 – 2019) and the Manufacturing Rebound Strategy Report, 2021 ([link](https://kam.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Manufacturing-Priority-Agenda.pdf)).
* The Kenya Plastic Action Plan (2019)

**Research Assistant – Mwendo Baseline Survey | Catholic Relief Services June 2018 – July 2018**

Providing technical support on the USAID-funded, Making Well-Informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged Orphans and Vulnerable Children (MWENDO) project that focused on improving the well-being of OVCs by increasing access to health and social services, strengthening households, and child welfare and protection structures and systems.

**Key Contributions**:

* Conducted manual and digital data collection using ODK and compiled the baseline survey data.
* Worked collaboratively with academic partners on research implementation.

**Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Trainee | Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)**

**July 2017 – March 2018**

*EPRA is state Corporation responsible for Economic and Technical Regulation of Electric Power, Renewable Energy, Upstream, Midstream, and Downstream Petroleum energy sub-sectors.*

Supported environmental audits, management of stakeholder relations and events, advocacy, and project reporting.

**Key Contributions**:

* Actively engaged in drafting regulatory reports including quarterly and bi-annual energy and petroleum facilities reports, as well as audit reports, and monthly, quarterly, bi-annual and annual reports.
* Organized stakeholder workshops and served as liaison with stakeholders and regulatory agencies such as NEMA, KEBS, NCA, and KRA.
* Drove advocacy initiatives that improved compliance by energy and petroleum facilities (petrol stations, LPG and oil jetties, and power plants), resulting in formalization of industry players and reduced adulteration of petroleum.
* Facilitated environmental audits and inspections with preparation of audit schedules, and ensuring audits are conducted in accordance with Quality Management Systems protocols.

**EARLY CAREER**

**Intern – Department of Environment, Safety and Health | Sanergy June 2016 – November 2016**

* Developed waste management policy, workplace safety policy, and rolled out the waste segregation project in the organization.
* Conducted work site inspections to ensure compliance with safety standards and eliminate work-related injuries.
* Performed quality checks for all manufactured products.

**Quality, Environment, Occupation, Health and Safety (QEOSH) Assistant Coordinator | Equator Bottlers Limited (Coca-Cola) April 2014 – November 2015**

* Built capacity of 300 employees through training on safety practices, and supported the implementation of health and safety campaigns.
* Conducted internal and external workplace audits, environmental audits, and Water and Energy audits for all standard certifications.
* Championed EHS activities as a member of the Health and Safety Committee, facilitating trainings for new staff and visitors on fundamental elements of standards, environment, health and safety requirements and legislation.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Master of Environmental Science** – Kenyatta University (May 2017 – December 2021)

**Bachelor of Environmental Science** – Kenyatta University (May 2011 – December 2015)

**Professional Development**

Circular Economy Training - Enviroticlam International (June-July 2021

Introduction to Advocacy and Dialogue & Influencing and Argumentation – Business Advocacy Fund (March 2019)

Project Processes & Project Management Integration – International Human Resources Development Corporation (March 2018)

Getting Started with ArcGIS – ESRI (August 2015)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & LICENSURE**

Associate Environmental Impact Assessment Expert – NEMA (Registration No: 8733)

**REFERENCES**

Faith Temba

Energy Advisor, Practical Action

(Former PET Sectors Officer, Kenya Association of Manufacturers)

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