

Ildikó Hermína Szilasi



Contacts

Tel: +36 20 5410 757
E-mail: ildikoszilasi@yahoo.com
Address: 2049 Diósd, Hunyadi str. 2. Hungary
Date and place of birth: 09.05.1983, Budapest

Education

Ph.D.Candidate	Cultural Anthropology, University of Pécs, 2007-
MA	Cultural Heritage Manager and Sustainable Development Specialist, Corvinus-ISES, UNESCO Chair, 2013
MA	Cultural Anthropology, Eötvös Loránd University, 2007
Certificate	African studies, Eötvös Loránd University, 2007
BA	Economist, College of Modern Business Studies, 2006
Matura	Lajos Bárdos Primary and Secondary School, 2001
Certificate	Leó Weiner Music School, Faculty of piano, 2001

Languages

Hungarian	Mother tongue
English	Fluent, Advanced level Language Certificate
French	Fluent
Spanish	Good, Intermediate level Language Certificate
Lingala(Congo)	Basic

Work experience:

Travel to Africa Tour Operator: CEO, 2013 July- Present

Culturafrica Foundation, January 2012- present: Director

Tasks: Preparation of studies and reports on humanitarian, human rights and development issues related to Africa. Leading the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the Foundation's work plan. Providing support and sharing expertise on policy issues related to humanitarian affairs and development in Hungary. Participation in the planning process of Hungary's Humanitarian Assistance and Development Strategy towards Africa (MFA). Project planning and implementation with cross-sectoral stakeholders to plan and evaluate humanitarian and emergency assistance programs in Africa. Providing support to cluster working groups and facilitating exchange. (Zimbabwe Europe Network, Member of Board, 2010-2013; HAND, Africa WG member; CONCORD – Cotonou WG member; African-Hungarian Union, member etc.) Supporting advocacy initiatives on issues impacting humanitarian needs and response efforts through frequent media interviews, publications, exhibitions and awareness raising campaigns and events (political violence of women in Zimbabwe; child-soldiers in DRC etc.) Organizing and participating in working groups, meetings, conferences, consultations with other agencies and partners on humanitarian and development related matters.

Long-term election observer, EU-EOM: Madagascar 2013-2014

Tasks: Familiarise with the applicable International standards for elections. Establish the presence of the EU EOM in the assigned Area of Observation. Report to the Observer coordinator, the Security expert and the Logistics expert. Follow on electoral disputes, complaints and appeals. Monitor local media. Monitor pre-electoral environment and the election campaign. Observe election day procedures, counting and tabulation operations. Monitor post-electoral developments. Coordinate and manage the deployment of Short Term Observers. Train, brief and debrief Short Term Observers. Fulfillment of professional tasks and duties under extreme conditions. Received recommendation for further election observation missions.

Short-term election observer, EU-EOM: Sierra Leone 2012; DRC 2011

Tasks: Observation of pre-election and post-election environment. Observation of voting and counting on the E-day. Visiting polling stations. Observation of tabulation and publication of results. Reporting to IOM and the EU-EOM. Fulfillment of professional tasks and duties under

extreme conditions. Received recommendation for further election observation missions.

Policy officer for Africa, European Parliament, 2011

Tasks and achievements: Research and preparation of a proposal for the Women's Forum of the 22nd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Freetown, Sierra Leone. (Research, analysis, preparation of background and position papers, list of theme proposals, drafting and finalizing the agenda). Broad-range of research was conducted in a very short period of time involving active participation of 20 different local and international organizations related to Gender Issues in Sierra Leone. Successful and fast assimilation to a complex and multicultural working environment in an institution with 4000 staff members.

African-Hungarian Union; December, 2007- February 2011: Head of Africa Department; Project Director; country/ region specialist for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region.

Tasks and achievements: Coordination among staff members of Programmes, Administration and Logistic teams. Supervision of the planning processes and the implementation of projects of the various Departments (Humanitarian Aid; Development; Volunteer Programs; Media). Networking with other NGOs and other stakeholders in the interest of information sharing and best practices. Coordination and supervision of staff and Interns. Contribution to drafting proposals and to review and edit final versions. Acting as instrument of management and facilitation for programme activities. Monitoring and evaluation of various projects. Setting up yearly policy agendas for Development and Humanitarian Aid based on humanitarian principles, human rights and public international law. Familiarise with Development and Humanitarian policies of national and international level and providing policy guidance on pressing issues to actors and policy-makers. Preparation of policy briefings, position papers and seminars for knowledge-sharing.

Foundation for Africa, June 2004- February 2007: General Secretary

Representation of the organization, international partnership building. Project management and coordination (culture, education, social welfare). Fund raising (project proposals, charity events). Participation in field missions (humanitarian missions, technical assistance, disaster assessment) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, several place, several date. Administrative work. Humanitarian aid delivered to several thousand vulnerable children (orphans, street-children, 'child witches') in Kinshasa. Rehabilitation of the Othniel Primary and Secondary School in Kinshasa, Ngaliema, Munganga Quarter. Student support program (600 students supported). Construction of CARO Orphanage (Kinshasa). 21 orphans supported. Implementation of various projects in the field of human rights, social welfare and education. Fulfillment of fact-finding missions in the Congo. Awareness raising through several lectures, publication and exhibitions on child protection issues in the DRC.

Foundation for Africa, June 2002- June 2004: Volunteer

Coordination and management of small-scale projects. Fundraising and event organization. Administration and reporting.

Short and middle term assignments accomplished in various duty stations in Africa: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Republic of Congo; Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone; South-Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Memberships

Culturafrica Foundation, President
African-Hungarian Union (AHU), Member
African Research Center, University of Pécs, external collaborator
Afrika tanulmányok (African Studies) review, external consultant
CONCORD Cotonou Working Group, Brussels, Expert
HAND- Hungarian Association of NGO-s for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Africa Working Group, Member
Royal Anthropological Institute- Junior Fellow

Lectures (some)

- Provinces of DRC, Congolese Business and Economic Forum, June 10, 2014
- New opportunities in Africa, February 28, 2014
- Awareness Raising lectures of Africa and its cultures. Several place and date, 2012-2014

- Moderator, CONCORD Lunch debate, 21th ACP-EU JPA, 17 May, 2011
- How ACP-EU relation effect on New Member States NGO-s and how they can influence them? Entrance points for advocacy and thematic links with JPA debates – CONCORD capacity building seminar, 13 May, 2011
- Civil Society Participation in the framework of the CPA and the JAES, EU CSO Steering Group Consultation on the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES), 21-22 September, 2010, Brussels
- The role of Hungarian NGDO-s in Africa. Strategic Planning Meeting with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, 13 September, 2010, Pécs
- Trade patterns of Bakuba artefacts in the Congo. International Africa Conference, 26 May, 2010, Pécs
- László Magyar Conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Torday and Magyar at the Babunda. December, 2009, Budapest
- 15th ACP-EU JPA, Ljubljana, Slovenia. The role of the New Member States (NMS) of the EU in international development. The Concord briefing papers. March, 2008, Ljubljana
- 2nd Africanist Conference. The EDF and Africa- a view from the civil society. December, 2007, Pécs
- Poverty reduction projects in Africa conference. How to use the sources of the 10th EDF. November, 2007, Budapest

Exhibitions

- Let's go Africa programs; Sziget Festival 2014 August
- Africapositive; Sziget Festival 2013 August; Africa Days September 2013; Africa Expo and Fair Budapest, 2014 February
- Mama Paula's kitchen and Kwanyama objects in László Magyar exhibition (Angola), Museum of Dunaföldvár, May 2011; Museum of Ethnography, Érd 2013
- Congo. On the tracks of Emil Torday. Budapest Congress Centre- 21th ACP-EU JPA, May 2011/ Palais du Peuple- Kinshasa, 20th ACP-EU JPA, December 2010/ Nádor Gallery, Pécs – Cultural Centre of the EU, May, 2010/ Museum of Ethnography, Budapest, February 2010 etc. (www.congoexpedition.com)
- Kinshasa, an African city under modernization. Museum of Dunaföldvár, May 2007- May 2009
- Akilafote? Whose fault? Drawings of Congolese ex- child soldiers. Several place, several date.

Other activities

Organizer and founder of the Africa Expo and Fair (2011,2013 and 2014) at HUNGEXPO Budapest Fair Centre (<http://www.afrikaexpo.hu/index.php?modul=menupontok&kod=11>)
 CEO, Travel To Africa Tour Operator, www.utazzafrikaba.hu
 Regular media and television reports and appearances. (40-50/year)
 Regular lectures and publications. (30-40/year)
 Collecting objects and African art. (Several hundred pieces)
 Contribution to the Africa collection of the Museum of Ethnography by donating objects.

Taking part of several documentary film projects in Africa as expert and editor. (Senegal; Ghana; Uganda; Congo; Kenya etc.)

Leader of field missions and cultural expeditions to Africa:

Cultural treasures of Ghana and Burkina Faso, 2013
 László Magyar Expedition, 2012, Angola DR-Congo
 Senegal, the world of the marabouts - 2012, Senegal
 Torday-Congo Expedition, 2009, DR-Congo

Scholarships

YPP Intake, UNESCO, 2011, Paris

Visiting researcher, University of Namibia, 2010

Klebelberg Kuno Scholarship, 2008

ELTE Research fellowship, 2005, 2006

SARLO-JDC Tolerance Scholarship, 2004

Other Skills

Project-management and tender-writing, specialisation on EU and EDF tenders
ECDL (European Computer Driving License). Driving licence. GPS and Thuraya usage experience.
Under water diving, advanced level PADI certificate

Hobbies

salsa dance, piano music, travels

Books and publications (some)

Books:

Congo- On the tracks of Emil Torday. (National Geographic Branded). Afrikai-Magyar Egyesület, Budapest, 2010

The children of war. Child soldiers and child mothers at the Great Lakes region.
Afribook, Budapest, 2008

Publications (some):

Changes of Kuba Art, under publication, Ethnographia, 2014

Culture of Africa, special issue on Africa, Pillanatkép Afrikáról, Publikon Kiadó, 2013

Cultural tourism and poverty eradication in Africa. Thesis. Corvinus- ISES (Unesco Chair, 2013)

With fetish and body, the laamb of Senegal-Interpress Magazine, 2013

Angola- on the tracks of László Magyar, several place, 2012-2014

Angola Today, National Geographic Magazine, 2013

The Pilgrimage of Touba and Muridism in Senegal, several editions, several place, 2012-2013

Matonge, a Congolese migrant –world in Brussels, Új népvándorlások a 21. században, Publikon, 2011

Endless circle. Child-soldiers in Eastern Congo. Interpress Magazine. July, 2011

Forests in Cameroon. Spektrum, June, 2011

Amina. Women in Africa. Afrika tanulmányok, November, 2010

Vagenya fishermen before and today. Spektrum, September, 2010

On the tracks of Emil Torday in the Congo. Afrika tanulmányok, July, 2010

Magical Congo. National Geographic Magazine Hungary, June, 2010

Invisible and visible city of Kinshasa. Afrika tanulmányok. III/1. 2009

Change of material culture in the Congo. Afrika tanulmányok II/4. 2008

Abandoned Children. Afrika tanulmányok. II/3. 2008

The Mogadishu- Budapest- Nairobi triangle. Afrika tanulmányok. II/3. 2008

The role of Hungarian NGDO-s in Africa In: Africana Hungarica. 2007, 2. 1-2.