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Daughters of Africa Annual Report 2024

Executive Summary

DOAF focuses on building strong partnerships to address poverty and resource constraints in The Gambia and globally. The organisation works with local communities to create sustainable and empowering projects. These initiatives aim to enhance self-determination, improve job prospects, encourage entrepreneurship, support education, and promote business development.

The past year has been a remarkable journey for Daughters of Africa, marked by significant strides in our efforts to foster sustainability, innovation, and community engagement. Our annual Daigo programme and UNFPA project activities has been at the forefront of these efforts, with the Environmental Project being a standout initiative. Collaborating with technology and architecture students from UWE Bristol UK and USET Gambia, we have made headway in measuring and collecting carbon credits, a critical step in our sustainability journey.

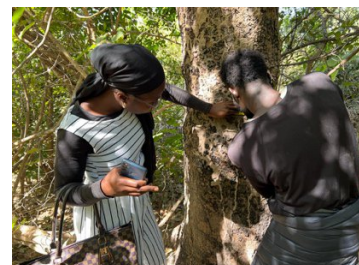
Our Eco-Tourism & Conservation project at Abuko Nature Park sought to elevate the visitor experience while promoting conservation efforts. By working closely with park rangers and management, we proposed new strategies to enhance the park's façade, designed merchandise to generate revenue, and improved educational materials about local wildlife. These initiatives have significantly enriched the visitor experience and bolstered the park's appeal.

Partnering with Sallah Arts, we extended our reach into the realm of creative education, providing opportunities for young people and disabled participants to engage in peer education and skills enhancement. The artistic contributions to repainting and designing the park's façade have not only beautified the Nature Reserve but also fostered an inclusive and creative community spirit.

Pauline Bailey (Founder/Director)

Environmental Management

Working with technology and architecture students from our partners the University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol and the University of Science, Engineering and Technology (USET), one of the project activities of the Daigo 8 programme was the Environmental Management Project measuring and collecting 'carbon credits'





The group had spent some time before commencing the project activities in the Gambia researching the need of the nature reserve and what they wished to prioritise for improvements. There had also been collaborative discussions with both UWE and USET students online through our digital hub. This enabled a great deal of planning and shaping of the activities, plus consultation with senior management at the reserve.

This project aimed to enhance the visitor experience at Abuko Nature Park. After consulting with park rangers and management, the group proposed improving the park's façade for better curb appeal and designing new merchandise, such as T-shirts and wildlife information. These items could be sold to generate revenue. Noticeboard posters and flyers on current wildlife significantly improved the visitor experience.

Partnering with Sallah Arts, who were preparing to deliver a project on teaching painting and drawing to disabled participants, allowed young people to engage in peer education? Additionally, all participants had the opportunity to enhance their creative skills while designing and repainting the façade of the Nature Reserve, which improved its appearance.



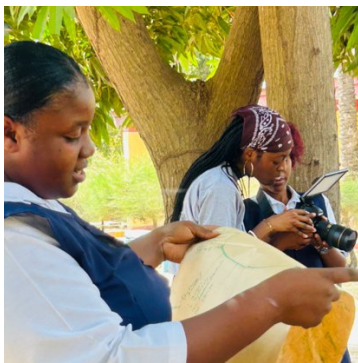
Dance and Heritage

Film and Media PhD students from the UK worked with Gambian Youth Leaders and Flex Fusion Dance & Entertainment, The Gambia's first professional dance company and school. Flex Fusion provided dancers, drummers, and traditional stilt walkers for the film production. The project's goal was to create a short film showcasing Gambian dance heritage.



Sustainability & Enterprise - Beauty Products

One of our partners, SOS Children's Village, which supports children and young people without parental care, has been developing their vocational and enterprise training over the past few years. This initiative provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with them on expanding their product offerings by launching a sustainability and enterprise project focused on beauty products. The initial pilot activity involved PhD students from UWE, SOS staff, and local young women in the production of natural soaps using plants, herbs, and readily available natural ingredients. Additionally, a film was produced documenting the process, with participation from some local girls.



Gambian Girls Matter & Kambeng Kaffo

This year, support from the UNFPA Gender Promotion Initiative enabled training for the DOAF core team and workshops in Abuko, Lamin, and Willingara as part of the 'Tembendeh' campaign. The initiative focused on empowering women through entrepreneurship, collaborating with local communities, educational institutions, and government agencies. It aimed to promote gender justice and peacebuilding, develop women's business and financial skills, raise awareness through enterprise training, and provide microfinance grants to vulnerable mothers.

Over 450 women participated, laying the foundation for expanding our Gambian Girls Matter (GGM) project. We will continue activities with these engaged women, enhancing sustainability for GGM and the Kambeng Kaffo project. From October to December, we consolidated our engagement with women across the region, and looking forward to delivering further project activities in the coming year.





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We are seeking funds to support creative learning projects with Mini IYA, local children and schools. Our goal is to enhance our education work and develop environmental and sustainability initiatives to raise awareness about climate change.

In summary, it has been a productive year for DOAF and its partnership projects. In the coming year, we anticipate further collaborations with SOS Children's Village in Gambia, focusing on vocational training for young women we aim to explore new opportunities to improve their skills in leadership, business, community activism, and creative entrepreneurship.