

KARIN HILFIKER



PERSONAL DETAILS

Looserstrasse 12
CH-3084 Wabern
+41 77 483 90 50
karin.hilfiker@waldstudio.ch
[LinkedIn profile](#)

2 May 1976
Swiss,
single, no children

LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

Swiss German: mother tongue
German: C2
English: C1
French: B2
Italian: B1
Spanish: B1

IT APPLICATIONS

Windows Office: very good
GIS: good

HONORARY POSTS

Board of the Swiss Forestry Association, 2017-2021

LEISURE INTERESTS

Walking
Biking
Swimming
Cross-country skiing

BRIEF PROFILE

- Forest engineer, ETH (Federal Institute of Technology)
- MAS in Transcultural Communication and Leadership
- Experienced in technical leadership and project management
- Networked thinking – designing creatively – acting in an impact-orientated way – working together in a transdisciplinary manner

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CEO & OWNER

Waldstudio GmbH, 10/2022 – present

- Professional mandates: www.waldstudio.ch/en
- Forest coaching: www.waldcoaching.ch/en

NATURE SPECIALIST

Swiss Federal Railways SBB AG, 01/2016 – 07/2022

- Strategic and technical management of forest protection and woodland facilities in the safety zones
- Technical management for nature, fauna and forest
- Development of SBB's nature strategy and nature vision
- Association of Public Transport VöV: Co-leadership of the nature working group, project management of the technical regulations for the railway vegetation profile
- Swiss Association of Road and Traffic Experts VSS: Member of the standardisation and research commission NFK 2.6, green areas, fauna and flora

DEPUTY DISTRICT FORESTER FOR BADEN-ZURZACH DISTRICT FOREST OFFICE (80%)

Forest department of the canton of Aargau, 03/2013 – 11/2015

- Consultation services for communities, forest owners, foresters and third parties as a contact person for the forest department
- Enforcement of forest law and support for projects in nature conservation, silviculture and operational planning

EXTERNAL ASSIGNMENTS

NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation, ETH Zurich, 10/2012 – 12/2012

- Participation in external evaluation of the SECO tropical timber strategy

RECORDING ASSISTANT (temporary)

BAP – Engineering Office for Forest and Environment, 05/2012 – 07/2012

- Recording of the cantonal forest inventory in the canton of Grisons

CONSULTANT

German Society for International Cooperation GIZ, Namibia, 10/2008 – 04/2011

- Project management for the community forest programme and advising the forest authority in Northern Namibia

CONSULTANT

International Service IS, Bolivia, 01/2006 – 01/2008

- Advisor to a women's group for marketing craft products

FURTHER TRAINING

CAS MANAGEMENT 4.0: AGILE STRATEGIES AND LEADERSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE (studied while working)

Institute for Communications & Leadership IKF, 03/2019 – 08/2020

- Project work: from nature trail to sustainability app

CAS MEDIATION IN BUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (studied while working)

University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, 01/2015 – 09/2017

- Thesis: Conflict costs and benefits of an internal conflict management system in companies. Theory and practice.

CAS IN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (studied while working)

NADEL, Center for Development and Cooperation, ETH Zurich, 02/2013 – 11/2015, incl.

- Planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects
- Impact analysis: methods and applications
- Financial management and profitability of development projects

HEAD OF RECORDING (temporary)

BINA Engineering SA, 04/2005 – 06/2005

- Recording of the cantonal forest inventory in the canton of Jura

TRAINEE

Helvetas, Vietnam, 01/2004 – 02/2005

- Market study on the value chain of nine non timber forest products

TRAINEE

BINA Engineering SA, 09/2003 – 11/2003

- Recording of the forest inventory in Jura and silviculture preliminary project in Upper Valais

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape WSL, 11/2002-03/2003

- Analysis and statistical evaluation of genetic variations of the wild service tree

ASSISTANT (temporary)

Intercooperation IC, 10/2002

- Preparation of an international forest conference in Berne

TRAINEE

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape WSL, 09/2002

- Article on the diploma thesis topic for the forest magazine “Wald und Holz”

EDUCATION

MAS TRANSCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP

Institute for Communication and Communications & Leadership IKF, 03/2012 – 11/2014

- Master thesis: The forest as an organisation – what we unconsciously learn from a visit to the forest (ISBN 978390315590-9)
- CAS Module: Intercultural project management and team leadership, transcultural communication, personal leadership as well as organisational development and change leadership

FORESTRY

Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich, 10/1996 – 02/2002

- Core theme: Forest ecosystem management
- Diploma thesis: Investigations into the genetic structure of the English yew in Switzerland, WSL, 10/2001 – 02/2002
- Internships to obtain the federal eligibility certificate as a forest engineer: forestry office of both Basel and National School for Water and Forests ENATEF in Guinea, 08/1999 – 10/2000
- Term spent in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Padua, Italy, 10/2000 – 01/2001

LATIN MATURA

Cantonal School, Zofingen, 08/1992 – 06/1996