

# Two Months in Kenya

Report of an IAESTE internship – June and July 2023

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## Experience of Being Abroad

One of the most challenging moments during my stay was my attempt to conquer Mt. Kenya. With a local guide from Nyeri, along with a team of porters and cooks, we embarked on a four-day expedition to scale Africa's second-highest mountain, following Kilimanjaro. Despite being my maiden hiking experience, the expedition was demanding. We would retire to our tents early each evening, only to rise with the sun. Though the summit stands at 5,000m, I reached a commendable altitude of 4,300m before succumbing to altitude sickness and had to turn back. During this adventure, I had the pleasure of meeting fellow travelers, including some French individuals. This endeavor, though I didn't reach the summit, sparked a newfound passion in me: hiking.



Pre-Hike Moment at Mt. Kenya's Base; Altitude 2700m

## Experience at Work

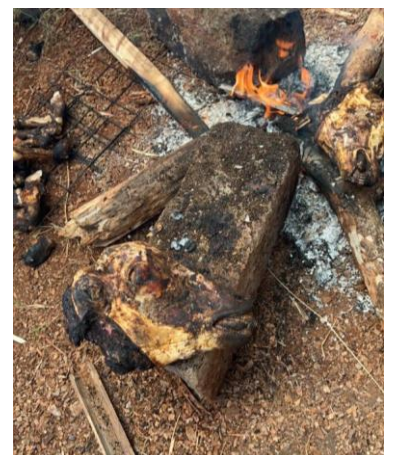
My work abroad offered me a fresh perspective on the role of engineers. Unlike in Europe, where engineers predominantly confine themselves to office spaces, here they oversee projects from inception to completion. A case in point was when we drafted 3D models of a solar dryer and subsequently oversaw its construction on a local farm. This transition from conceptualization to practical execution was grueling but enlightening, highlighting the complexities of fieldwork.



Crafting a Mould with My Team

## Cultural Insights

My introduction to the local cuisine was both surprising and memorable. During my first week, I was invited to a party celebrating a recent hike to Mt. Kenya's summit. The gathering was vast, with about fifty attendees, and the culinary centerpiece was goat. The locals showcased their culinary prowess by utilizing every part of the animal. The festivities began at 10 am, culminating in a meal around 4 pm. I was presented with a unique delicacy: soup made from a goat's head. Overcoming my initial hesitance, I found the dish palatable. This culinary adventure, combined with stories from fellow students, further fueled my desire to explore Mt. Kenya.



Goat's Head: The Base for Traditional Soup

## IAESTE Feedback

My journey to Kenya was facilitated by IAESTE Switzerland, an organization that presented me with this incredible opportunity. Their supportive team was consistently available, addressing any questions or concerns I had. Their presence offered a sense of security, knowing assistance was always within reach. Fortunately, my internship proceeded seamlessly, with everything unfolding as anticipated.



Mount Kenya Vista: Captured at 4,000m Altitude



"Mother and Calf: An Elephant Duo in Amboseli National Park"



Dawn Over Kilimanjaro: Elephants in Amboseli's Morning Glow