

## KARIN HILFIKER



### PERSONAL DETAILS

Looserstrasse 12  
CH-3084 Wabern  
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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 (communication)

### LEISURE INTERESTS

Walking  
Biking  
Swimming  
Cross-country skiing

## BRIEF PROFILE

- Forest engineer graduated at 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

- Technical projects and mandates: [www.waldstudio.ch/en](http://www.waldstudio.ch/en)
- Coaching in the forest: [www.waldcoaching.ch/en](http://www.waldcoaching.ch/en)

### NATURE SPECIALIST

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

- Strategic and technical management of forest protection and wood in the security strips
- 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