

## Sustainable Dyeing Practice

### Echoes of Tradition: Indian Motifs Interpreted Through African Sponge Batik

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The work explores the African sponge block batik technique using Indian-inspired motifs. It combines the traditional wax-resist printing with environmentally friendly natural dyes. Natural dyes extracted from myrobalan, catechu, madder root, and onion skins were used for dyeing, whereas alum and ferrous sulphate served as mordants to improve dye fixation and colour variation. Indian motifs were carved onto sponge blocks and printed with molten wax to create resist patterns. The work also highlights the importance of sustainable dyeing practices in contemporary textile design. The study emphasizes craftsmanship, cultural exchange, and innovation in surface ornamentation.



**Fig 1. Cutting of the block using sponge**



**Fig 2. Applying of wax using the sponge block**



**Fig 3. Dyeing of the fabric**



**Fig. 4. Final products (Scarfs)**