

2022 The next phase, steady implementation

By restoring the biodiversity in the savannah ecosystem, nature will improve the lives of people, livestock and wildlife.

A good start of 2022, Osotua Foundation wins the Jobena Prize

Osotua Foundation has won the Jobena prize with its soap project Oltim Lee Maa. It's shared extensively within the charitable world!

This prize was presented on March 20th. The money (€10,000) is used to fund the Oltim Lee Maa women groups with training and setting up local business. At the prize presentation in "Het Oude Magazijn" in Amersfoort, we were able to sell the first production batch, beautifully branded by Juan Nibbelink.

Projects update

What's Eramatare all about?

In Maa local language, Eramatare means 'taking care of'. Osotua Foundation aims for the most marginalised people and our projects should benefit the Masai community, their livestock and wildlife. We developed our holistic Eramatare vision on the principles of regenerative land use methods such as sustainable Rangeland Management, Permaculture and Agroforestry. Adapting these principles to the savannah ecosystem, it will address both individual and communal (human) needs and restore the open savannah. We work on increasing biodiversity and improving water supplies, to create food systems for the community, livestock and wildlife. This does not need extensive investments. To make it sustainable, we also support setting up cooperatives that will be able to generate income from the produce of the land. With setting up cooperatives to sell products of the land, we can develop new sustainable and nature-friendly livelihoods for the Masai.

Eramatare, partnerships

Finding each other in the Eramatare methodology, we are partnering with Masai community based organisations to mobilise communities on implementing working strategies. With Osotua Foundation in the background as the facilitator, networker, and fundraiser, our partners are in the lead in their own community. Working together with the technical team on their own tailor-made solutions, the projects are sustainably implemented according to the needs of the specific situation and location.

We've started our pilot programs in two areas. One project is situated in Emuny Wildlife and livestock ranch (Nkoilale) and connects OIKinyei conservancy, Ripoi conservancy, Siana conservancy, Naboisho conservancy, and Isaaten conservancy, directly reaching more than 50 landowners and over 5000 households within the Nkoilale area. Our second pilot location is Mara Isinya conservancy. This area borders Mara North and is the last bufferzone between the northern conservancies and agricultural land. The importance of Mara Isinya is that it is the important migration route between Mara North and Pardamat conservancy and Maji Moto with her nutritious birth grounds for wildebeest and zebra's.

With many thanks, we are proud and thankful to both Wildlife Fund of Amersfoort Zoo and Innofund of WWF supporting the implementation of Eramatare in both our pilot areas.



50 landowners of **Emuny Wildlife & Livestock Ranch** on a total of 200 hectares, representing approximately 500 family members, joined the project. 80 Maasai completed the first 3 day training on holistic grazing. To embed the method into a daily routine, we provided for:

- 20 mobile fencing sections
- 1 herders hut for the watchman
- 1 waterdam
- a necessary Tuk-tuk for transporting the fences



“The training emphasised the need to bring back our land to become more healthy which needs our knowledge, particularly human creativity (technology, fire, rest, animal impact and grazing), money and labour. People were able to learn that it’s not about the number of animals but how long plants are exposed to animals which causes overgrazing. It’s also important to time your land-use to prevent overgrazing. We now understand we need healthy animals to make profit not just own them for cultural reasons. The challenge we face in implementing the project is to cope with the high number of interested members yet with limited resources. Lack of a resource centre limited the numbers we can train and our capacity for regular refreshers for our training of trainers.” - trainee Mara Isinya Conservancy

At **Mara Isinya** 60 landowners on a total of 3237 hectares joined the project and a total of 100 members of the community completed the 3 day training on holistic grazing. Again we were able to finance the primary necessities:

- 20 mobile fencing sections
- 1 herder hut
- 1 waterdam

And they are setting their future plans:

- Based on the knowledge from the training on holistic grazing management we shall develop a grazing management plan
- There is a need to complement the grazing plan with other income generating activities like beadwork for women and small self help groups within the conservancy
- We plan to learn from best practices already implemented in other areas
- Bee keeping project would be implemented as it would go along with rejuvenated ecosystem while providing livelihood

With our Partner **ReNature** we teamed up for the next level.

With the basics learned in the prior phase (3 day training) as describe above, 13 members from Emuny ranch were trained on the ten steps of holistic planned grazing and how to make a grazing plan. During these sessions, four members were selected to become trainers for a 'train-the-trainer (TOT) approach' and nine members to form a grazing committee. These members were selected based on their willingness to participate in the project. In the next phase of the project, the four TOTs will be trained in monitoring the growth of vegetation and the number of livestock. The nine committee members will work with the TOTs to assess the available grass, iterate on the original plan and take this back to the community.

Next to holistic grazing, Eramatare aims at small scale regenerative practices, like permaculture kitchengardens. During project implementation, the community group of Emuny ranch were trained on both the theory and practice of these regenerative practices, including its principles and ethics. Five community members were randomly selected to test these concepts on their own plots, which have now been transformed into demonstration plots for practical training. Each community member was provided with a 'starter pack' of seedlings. As part of this first phase of the project, a tree nursery has been established to produce more seedlings into the future.

Nature-inclusive housing for Oloip

Still going strong on Oloip, the design for the nature inclusive house is ready. The financial- and construction-calculations are made. So now we need Serge Meijerink 'on the ground' to do soil research to plan the best position for the buildings. As we work with voluntary experts who are extremely busy the process takes time. With our site plan and cost calculations we can work on our business and financial plan and are looking for real estate development expertise. Suggestions are more than welcome. Together with board member Njoki Gichinga we are setting up a plan for marketing and funding. Below you see the drawings of how we plan to build.



Social Business

Board member Germaine van Teeffelen is taking on the Social Business part of Eramatare. Currently the inventory of what has been done and what is needed is made. A potential partnership with Acla Ipsia, who has been working with Laikipia Permaculture Centre, can support us in setting up sustainable value chains when funding is available.

Dutch collaboration with Friends of the Maasai

As more and more partner organisations share our holistic vision on the regeneration of the Mara ecosystem, partnerships are being built. Friends of the Maasai use our network of experts and story in their project and from their end help us in finding donors.

The 'here and there and inbetween' donations and projects

We continue to sponsor students of the Enkiteng Lepa School through a very dedicated private donor.

Towards 2023

As the people on the ground are ready to go, our focus in 2023 will be in addressing bigger funds. We have submitted some proposals, so fingers crossed. More to come. With Wildlife Fund we are able to build two extra water dams and execute follow up training in holistic grazing management in both our pilot area's.

Up close & personal

Njoki Gichinga and Germaine van Teeffelen joined our board.

Njoki is a creative business brain. She brings in her business knowledge to help further develop Oloip into a sustainable flourishing Hub.

Germaine is experienced in working in a Kenian entrepreneurial context. As mentioned before, she will focus on setting up the social businesses.

We are very happy to welcome them both!



How can you support?

- The photo book with the beautiful photos of Marielle de Valk can be ordered **here** for only €40.
- Become an OsoTua community member, **donate** €100 per year for 5 years (tax reductive) and receive the photobook for free.
- Become our RE development volunteer. Please contact **Dieke** for more information.
- Become our social media lead. We are looking for a creative person who is willing to spend 6 hours a month keeping our social media channels up to date.
- Make an impact and support the Maasai, donate to IBAN: NL03TRIO 0390 938890 (BIC: TRIONL2U) attn. OsoTua Foundation.

For more information and donations: www.osotuafoundation.com or mail info@osotuafoundation.com