Our White Mountain Maasai community in Kenya is working hard on our long-term future in a healthy environment.

We made a lot of progress, but historic droughts are causing urgent needs. Our cattle are dying and our people are on the brink of starvation.

Immediate support can help us survive to achieve our long-term vision to restore landscape and livelihood in the Mount Kilimanjaro (White Mountain) region.

Our White Mountain Maasai Community in Kenya currently consists of the villages Namelok, Olasiti, Ichurra, Oltiyani, Imarba, Embaringoi, Oltome, Kangere, Esiteti, Olpirikata and Tikoishi in Kajiado and the Mara Isinya community in Narok. Together we are about 1,000 households (5,000 people).
Donations will be collected by Foundation The Embassy of the Earth, who will then transfer it to the contact persons for the White Mountain Community.

Bank account nr: NL40 TRIO 0391 1759 71 of Stg. Embassy of the Earth.
Please describe as: “for survival White Mountain Community”
On October 20th, Janice Mutui and Siya Sankale, two of our early ambassadors of the White Mountain initiative, visited four of our villages in Amboseli to see the situation. Our cattle had just returned from a 10 day walk from Narok where we had moved them to find some pasture. But Narok can now also no longer sustain our cattle.

Janice and Siya:

“We saw cows dying during our visit and we couldn’t meet many people as most of them were in the Amboseli National Park looking for feeds for the animals.

In Olasiti we were able to meet Jackson, head of the village, who explained to us that they have been feeding their livestock with elephants waste as a last resort. His village only has two water tanks, but this water is rapidly depleting as they now also need it to keep their cattle alive.

They urgently need a water borehole with pump to get permanent access to the underground water. Continuously buying water is very expensive and their skinny cows are hardly worth anything now.”
The earlier investments in water access and community food gardens are a blessing for our people. We have been growing crops and at least this still provides us with some vegetables to eat, but additional food supplies are urgently needed. All the White Mountain villages need *maize flour* and *cooking oil* to make our traditional Ugali to eat with the vegetables. Ugali is like a porridge but much more dense and is the staple diet of the indigenous people of East Africa. And we also need rice, beans and milk powder.

**Community food gardens are spreading:**

Recently, Janice and Siya, who participated in a permaculture design course, shared their knowledge with two other Maasai villages in Kajiado (Olpirikata and Tikoishi in the region Kilonito) to help them create their own community food gardens. This was supported by Friends of the Maasai, who work closely with Foundation StandUp4Talent that is providing educational support to Faith and Purity, two young Maasai women in these villages. These villages became part of our growing White Mountain community.
White Mountain, Oldonyo Oibor in our Maasai language, refers to Mt. Kilimanjaro. In response to increasing droughts and climate change, White Mountain is a Maasai community-driven initiative, focusing on regenerating the Mt. Kilimanjaro landscape where mainly our Maasai people live, and creating healthy and enduring livelihoods for all. By covering the landscape with vegetation, through planting trees, applying agroforestry, permaculture principles and holistic grazing management, the weather cycles can be restored. This will be the long term solution for our sustainable future. But to get there we need support to our short-term survival.

**THE WHITE MOUNTAIN MAASAI COMMUNITY**

During a Large group gathering - Search Conference - in April 2019 in Kenya, Our Maasai leaders and others created the White Mountain vision for 2029 together with strategies and action plans for its realization. Thereafter, trainings took place in permaculture, holistic grazing management and social ecology. Other activities were also undertaken, including breeding more resilient cows, a tree nursery and tree planting, community food gardens and knowledge exchange. We are now making good progress to prepare for a Search Conference in Tanzania and organizing support from international NGO’s and foundations for scaling up the implementation of our action plans and further growing our White Mountain community.
The Dutch foundation Embassy of the Earth is a key partner of the Maasai people in this initiative, providing support and coordination. In The Netherlands they now collaborate closely with the Dutch Foundation Friends of the Maasai and the Dutch company Tsavo, who are also supporting the Maasai people. Together, we are now seeking financial support from any well-wishers, donors and agencies in order to help our Maasai people to survive this extreme time of drought, hoping that the rains will come soon.

This will enable us to continue and accelerate the realization of our White Mountain vision and self-reliance. Our local leadership ensures that the relief is arriving quickly in the villages and shared equally among the most in need.

ASHE OLENG! (THANK YOU)

White Mountain Community in collaboration with Embassy of the Earth