Osotua Foundation
Nkoilale, Kenya

Development stage:

Definition Design Financing Implementation Maintenance

Situated close to the Tanzanian border, the Eratamare project aims to introduce regenerative practices to support 150 Maasai land owners connected to the project. Following the traditional principles of the Maasai - an ethnic pastoralist group to which the participants belong -, a great focus is placed on aligning the interests of wildlife, livestock, and people. The goal is to provide economic opportunities, whilst preserving local values, biodiversity, and the open plains of the savanna. The plan is to create an organic brand collecting the farms' produce and selling it to local lodges and markets to provide the Maasai with an income source.

Location:
Nakuru County, Kenya

Size of planted plot (ha):
5 - 10 ha

Size of potential area (ha)
250 ha

Client:
Osotua Foundation

Commodity:
Timber (next to food crops)

Industry:
Forestry, Food

Goal:
Sustainably supporting the livelihoods of Maasai farmer families whilst benefitting local wildlife, the climate and biodiversity

Main focus:
Sustainable livelihoods

Partners:
Laikipia Permaculture Center

Finance & Planning

Investment
€ 200.000

Initiator
Dieke Geerling

Assignment & Impact

Number of direct Beneficiaries

100 - 500 farmer families

Development Challenge

In recent times, many Maasai in the area chose to settle down. As they are traditionally nomads living from livestock, livestock is still their main base of livelihood. Due to the change of land use and lack of knowledge on how to cultivate in drought-resistant, productive, and sustainable ways, the area is increasingly subject to the impacts of climate change. More resilient nature inclusive land-use systems are needed to resist those and preserve Maasai livelihoods.

Intervention

Together with Eratamare, reNature will set up a regenerative demonstration plot - a Model Farm- and an educational facility - a Model School - to build the necessary knowledge and capacities among the farmers to implement regenerative farming systems on their plots.

Objective

Providing sustainable economic opportunities for Maasai smallholder farmers whilst counteracting climate change.

Financial Details

reNature Model Farm:	est. € 30,000
reNature Model School:	est. € 170,000

Inspirational Impact

The project aims to pose an inspiring example of how humans can live in harmony with nature. Wildlife fences will be replaced by hedges providing habitat for many smaller forms of life, whilst important wildlife and livestock migrating corridors will be kept free. Further, the project can provide new opportunities for self-empowered livelihood improvements of Maasai and their families. A successful and respectful treatment of nature is intrinsic to the Maasai which is why farming practices that restore the ecological balance are aligned with their interests.

Environmental Impact

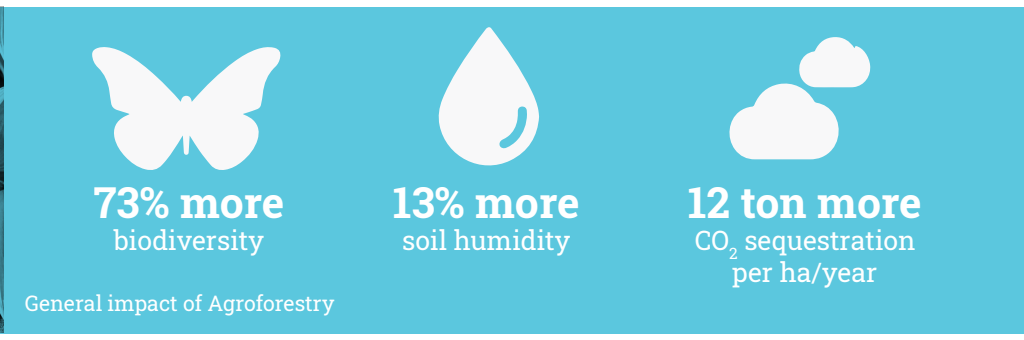
The environmental impact of this project is intrinsically linked with the productivity of farmland and, thus, the prosperity of its farmers. Agroforestry techniques will improve the management and retention of water through ground cover and shading. It will counteract erosion and desertification, whilst implying a farming system that is more resilient to climate change. This will improve the climate impact of the project as well as its effects on local biodiversity. The removal of fences will reopen important wildlife corridors benefiting the local fauna.

Economic Impact

Applying regenerative farming techniques will increase the resilience of crops and stabilize yields and, farmer income. It also supports the diversification of income. Osotua Foundation will facilitate the creation of local bio-organic value chains and has set up a connection with local lodges that are interested in sourcing the produce. Scaling up agroforestry will, thus, enable farmers to sell products such as vegetables, honey, as well as handmade cosmetics which will be made from indigenous plants.

Social Impact

Applying regenerative farming techniques will enhance food security, diversity, and nutrition not only the farmers and their families but also the surrounding communities. Avoiding pesticides will ensure a safer working environment. A large focus is placed on respecting and upholding the values of the Maasai supporting local culture and traditions and increasing ownership of the project.



Outcome metrics:

1) Increased farm productivity
2) Increased farmer income
3) Increased agricultural biodiversity
4) Increased soil health
5) Increased dietary diversity

Evaluation methods:

1) Farm output value per hectare
2) SDG 2.4.1. sub-indicator 2
3) Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (FAO and FHI 360, 2016)
4) SDG 2.4.1 sub-indicator 8.1, 8.6 and 8.7
5) Adapted SOCLA rapid and farmer friendly agroecological method (Nicholls et al., 2004)