

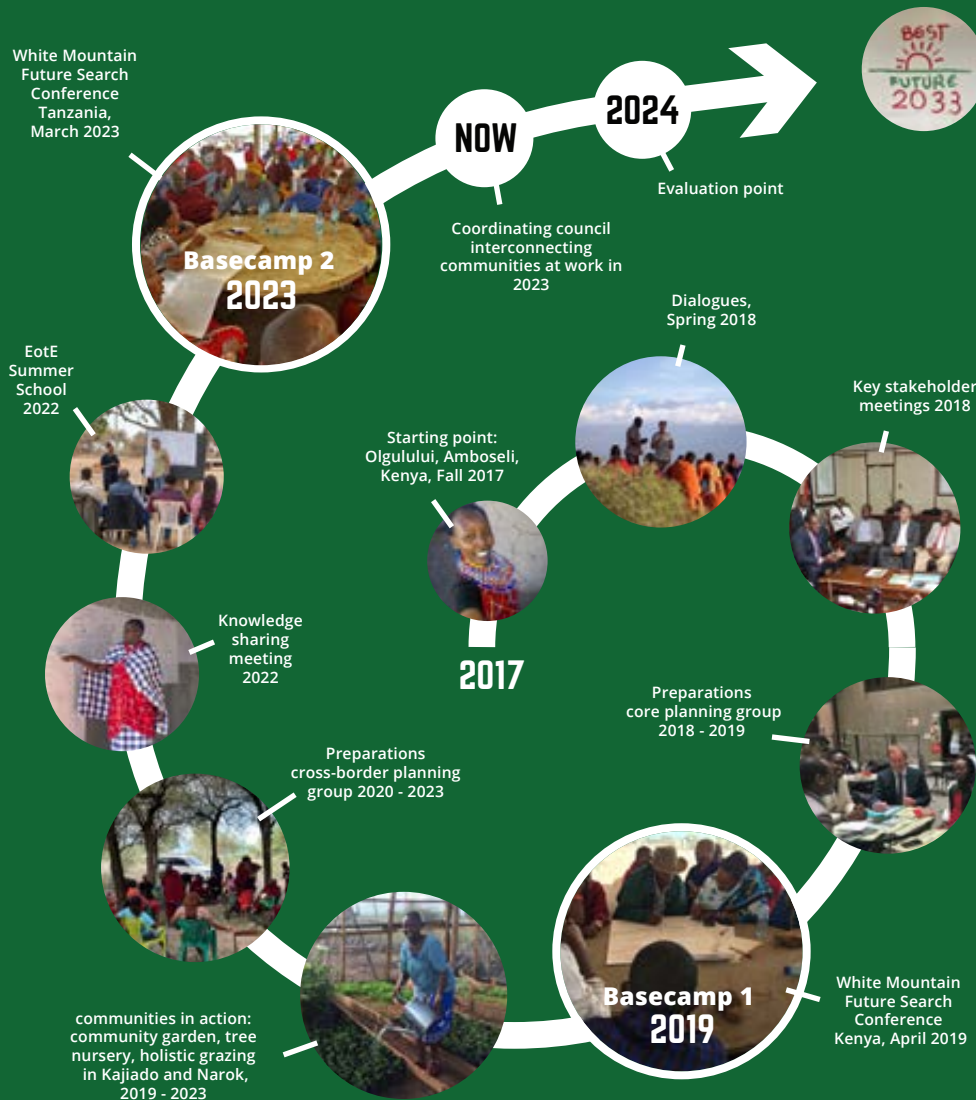
WHITE MOUNTAIN

A group of Maasai people, including men, women, and children, are gathered in a savanna landscape. They are wearing traditional red and black clothing, some with intricate patterns and beaded necklaces. The background shows a sunset over a hilly landscape with mountains in the distance. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow.

MAASAI FROM KENYA AND TANZANIA CALL FOR PARTNERS TO REGENERATE OUR LANDSCAPE

We, Maasai indigenous peoples, live as semi-nomadic pastoralists in both Kenya and Tanzania. We are great in number, with around 1,2 million Maasai in Kenya and an estimated 1 million in Tanzania. Our traditional territories, a semi-arid savanna landscape, stretches from the Rift Valley lakes of Kenya across the Serengeti plains into Tanzania. For hundreds of years, this land sustained us well. But now, our Maasai cultural landscapes and ecosystems around Mt Kilimanjaro are suffering from longer and more frequent droughts, floods and loss of vegetation cover. These challenges result from deforestation, unsustainable land management and global warming.

OUR WHITE MOUNTAIN JOURNEY



With the support of the Dutch organization Embassy of the Earth we started what we call our White Mountain journey. White Mountain, Oldonyo Oibor in our own Maa language, is our name for Mt. Kilimanjaro, the iconic water tower that is very sacred to us. Our aim is to revive the Maa culture and collaborate to restore the ecosystems of Mt Kilimanjaro. We believe that reviving the deeply rooted Maa values about caring for the environment will lead to restoration of both the landscape and our livelihoods. At the GLF in Nairobi in 2018 we made a vow to restore the icecap of this holy mountain.

OUR VISION FOR THE EARTH IS TO CARE FOR THE EARTH

Maa culture is revived in balance with religion and education and there is no corruption, resources are distributed fair and equal.



Healthy communities achieve food and nutrition security and access to health care is a common good.

Pastoralists and farmers coexist peacefully in a regenerated biodiverse landscape with sufficient water resources, protected by policy.

Through better access to education, Maasai people can be found working in all levels of society.

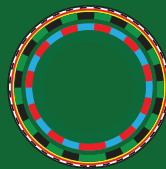
During our White Mountain Journey, we were able to come together with others in large gatherings, basecamps, in Kenya (2019) and Tanzania (2023) to discuss our situation and our vision for the future. A revived Maa culture, a regenerated landscape, health and education are the four main components of this vision.

Our White Mountain Maasai communities come from all our regions in Kenya and Tanzania. We organized ourselves in task-forces who are implementing the action-plans we created to realize our vision, adapted to the specific needs of each region. All is overseen by our elected Coordinating Council to make sure we stay connected and move forward together. At village level we work in CBO's who can collectively act as Consortia or Associations. We are already working on holistic grazing management, creating community food gardens based on permaculture, nurturing seedlings and planting trees, educating our children on environment, and breeding, with the aim to have fewer, but more resilient cows that can sustain and regenerate the landscape.



WE SEEK YOUR PARTNERSHIP TO HELP US GROW THE WHITE MOUNTAIN MOVEMENT

Our ambition is to involve many more communities, but we cannot do this alone. We have come to the Global Landscape Forum in Nairobi to share our vision and to seek partners to realize it. We need to be able to build and maintain more and larger tree nurseries, plant millions of trees, grow more healthy food and reach out to engage and train more and more of our Maasai communities.



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