

Memorandum of Understanding

Friends of the Maasai and CBO BeCuL (Tikoishi) and CBO Olmeguarra (Orpirikata)
version 2, date June 2024

This memorandum is directed to the boards of the CBOs of Tikoishi and Orpirikata:

- Beyond Cultural Limits Foundation (BeCuL, CBO Tikoishi)
- Olmeguarra Foundation (CBO Orpirikata)

Dear boards of BeCuL Foundation and Olmeguarra Foundation,

The board of the Friends of the Maasai Foundation made a fieldtrip and visited different Maasai communities in the south of Kenya in August-September 2023. As you know we also visited the communities in Tikoishi and Orpirikata.

As a result of our fieldtrip we discussed within the board how to prioritise our work in the coming years and what topics, projects and communities we will focus on.

It is important that you all know what expectations you may have about our policy and how Friends of the Maasai sees its role in working together with your communities.

In this memorandum we give an explanation of our views and policy as input for the next step in our dialogue about our cooperation in the coming years.

Focus points

Although we are in touch with different Maasai communities in several regions in Kenya we decided to focus on your communities in particular: **Tikoishi and Orpirikata**.

Further we want to develop our cooperation with a focus on 3 topics: **water, agriculture/food security and education**.

These 3 topics fit in the 4 topics your communities have chosen as a result of the workshop in February 2023 (with Embassy of the Earth, Frank Heckman and Janice Mutui).

Four assumptions

In our role as partner the next assumptions are very important for us:

First:

The Friends of the Maasai Foundation is only working together with initiatives that are **community driven**. So the community is in charge, the community takes full responsibility for all the activities and the initiative is widely supported by the community.

Second:

Challenges require a holistic approach in which **ecosystem restoration and sustainability** are always included. The 12 permaculture design principles¹, taught by the Laikipia Permaculture Centre, are a good example of what we mean with a holistic and ecosystem approach.

¹ Observe and interact, catch & store energy, obtain a yield, apply self regulation and accept feedback, use and value renewable resources and service, produce no waste, design from pattern to details, integrate rather than segregate, use small and slow solutions, use and value diversity, use edges and value the marginal, creatively use and respond to change.

Third:

Projects should be **self-supporting** after some years. The Friends of the Maasai Foundation aims to work together with your communities to a maximum of 10 years, so until 2033. We hope that it will be possible to reach a satisfying level of self-sufficiency in that period of time which enables you to go on without our support. With the caveat, of course, that our foundation will last this period and that we are able to raise enough money to keep on working together with you for this long period.

Fourth:

We encourage involvement and participation of other partners and donors which makes your communities less dependent of the cooperation with Friends of the Maasai.

Three topics

We see a further outline of the 3 topics as follows:

Water:

Clean water, enough for the people, livestock and the food-gardens, and at the same time considering the needs of water for wildlife in the region, is very important to become self-sufficient. The goal should be a system that makes you self-supporting on having enough clean water all the time with the communities being able to maintain the whole water-system on a long term base. Part of this topic might be a sand dam, this needs further investigation with experts.

Agriculture/Food security:

Because of climate change and long periods of droughts, keeping livestock becomes more and more a risky way of life and business. That makes your communities eager to find other solutions to produce food during the whole year, for instance by growing your own vegetables or by developing economic activities (with or around producing food).

Education:

A higher level of consciousness, knowledge and skills both related to agriculture, food and water as well as regarding developing entrepreneurship will help you to become self-sufficient. We would like to discuss with you your priorities regarding education related to these topics as well as to other issues that are important for the development of your community.

Part of our focus on education is our plan to support different Maasai communities (not only in Tikoishi and Orpirikata) to connect to each other and learn, share knowledge and cooperate. That's why we suggest to set up a "Community of Practice", where common learning can be encouraged.

Signed on the 17 August 2024

Board CBO BeCuL (Tikoishi)	Board CBO Olmeguarra (Orpirikata)	Board Friends of the Maasai
<p>Faith Katita Supeet</p>  	<p>Purity Ntanin Meikan</p>  <p>Jubus Likamala</p> 	 <p>Willem Lageweg</p>  <p>Etienne Spierts</p>  <p>Stefan Schuwer</p>