

OLOIMUGI MAASAI GREEN WILD CAMPAIGN.

Hi, my name is Claire Pettingale and I am fundraising for the Oloimugi Maasai Green Wild Campaign.

It's for their future. And ours.

We all have been seeing the impacts of climate change. But there are few places on earth where the consequences have been more profound than East Africa. Severe drought has impacted millions of people and the iconic animals which make this region so remarkable. The war in the Ukraine and blockades of ports have sent food and fuel prices skyrocketing. What has been a continued struggle has become an all-out battle for survival.

But one group has been meeting this battle head-on. Since 2014, the Oloimugi Maasai conservation group in Kenya have been working to address the issues of failed harvests, drought, deforestation, reduction in fodder for elephants, and the competition for resources between local communities generated by lack of water. Last year, they initiated the Green 50 campaign, which began a tree planting program to provide food, shelter, water retention and other benefits to their environment.

This year saw the instigation of the Green Wild Campaign, a combined effort between the Rotary, Kenya Wildlife Service and Osinoni Kenya. The focus has been on preserving and improving a necessary local spring, the Osinoni, to increase water volumes in the Osiwo Olo River which it feeds. This river is a water source for residents, livestock and, most importantly, wildlife.

The goal is to initiate, instil and sustain regeneration and ecosystem restoration. Since these projects started, the tree canopies have grown vastly, reducing evaporation and transpiration. These results have brought about a sizable increase and improvement in the populations of vervet monkeys, more than 70 species of birds, as well as aquatic life. In July, they organised a tree-planting day where, with the help of volunteers, they planted 500 indigenous trees, which will help further to conserve the spring and restore the local ecosystem. They have also been working on the spring itself. But it was only a start.

During the remainder of 2022, they plan to plant 2000 more trees. That's right. 2000! The first stage will be in mid-October when they are scheduled to plant 1000 trees along the spring. This effort will require a vast number of volunteers. The second stage is planned to occur in December. They are already involved in extensive land preparation, clearing rock and building shelters. For this project to succeed, funding is needed to provide tools, protective clothing, fuel, shelter and food for the preparation and tree-planting teams of volunteers. It is an exciting project, but they need our help. And time is short. The more funding, they have, the more volunteers they can support and supply to further the successful completion of this stage.

As a supporter of this organisation, I can speak to their passion, drive and commitment. By giving to this Go Fund Me Green Wild Campaign, you will be helping this community help itself and benefit the wildlife which inhabits this imperilled region. These trees will begin to redress their local issues with deforestation and aid in water retention, both significant in their impact on the local people and animals. The elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion and other animals inhabiting this land are not responsible for climate change but are significantly affected by the fallout. This is about their future and ours if we wish to maintain these species on our planet. I hope you will join in support of the Green Wild Campaign. Any amount you can give will be gratefully received, and you will join an important and worthy project. Thank you.