



# Spring Of Arid And Semi-Arid Lands Five Year Strategic Plan

Year 2022 To Year 2027

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## Introduction

### SASAL's Background:

SASAL is a non-governmental organization that is working with the pastoral communities in the Arid and semi-arid lands to build climate resilience. To achieve climate resilience, we have developed several programmes on awareness/knowledge creation, mitigation, and adaptation. The idea for SASAL was born in the year 2015 but became a reality in 2019 September. It was initially named "smile of a pastoralist" but then renamed. Our story stems from an interesting point of view from our founder, who is also a meteorologist and from a pastoral community. She couldn't help but notice the continuous land degradation, recurrent droughts and loss of livelihood in her home area in Magadi, Kajiado county. Studying meteorology led her to believe that the effects of droughts such as the loss of livelihoods could be evaded by proper preparedness by following weather forecasts issued by the Kenya Meteorological department. However, she realized some of the barriers hindering the farmers from consuming the weather forecasts and using it. That's when the idea was born of forming an organization that will be like a "spring" not only in Kajiado county but all of the Arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya and help people build climate resilience through creating awareness, adapting to climate change and some mitigation actions. Hence the name Spring of the ASAL's



### Vision and Mission:

**Vision:** To work with the communities living in the ASAL's for their improved climate resilience.

**Mission:** To be a leading organization in optimizing climate resilience of communities in the ASAL's of Kenya.

## Overview:



**Manasiti Omar: CEO SASAL:**

### SASAL Founder Executive Statement:

On 4 November 2016 the Agreement adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015 (COP 21) came into legal effect, after a rapid ratification process in which both China and the United States of America joined. The Paris Agreement committed countries to keeping the global temperature rise to below 2° Celsius, making every effort to limit the rise to the lower threshold of 1.5°C. Developed countries were mandated to support developing countries to adapt, mitigate and grow in clean and sustainable ways, and to further develop ways of addressing loss and damage, including non-economic losses. There is urgent need for action by communities around the world especially in developed Countries in relation to climate change and its adverse effects on the whole of creation. More emphasis should be placed on the vulnerable poor and indigenous communities in the developing and emerging economies that are mostly affected by the irreversible ecological degradation and loss of biodiversity, increased risk of social and political tensions, conflict and displacement. The moral imperative of fossil fuels divestment and of investing in low-carbon path to realizing economic, social and ecological wellbeing and sustainability for humanity. These calls could not be re-emphasized in Kenya as we grapple with climate change effects. *SASAL has deliberated to liberate its people from global warming effects by ensuring that mitigation, adaptation, resilience and empowerment becomes the mainstream agenda for vulnerable communities in Arid and Semi-Arid regions in Kenya.*



### SASAL's Community Challenges:

The ASAL community, who are pastoralists, face a myriad of challenges related to climate change impacts, access to services, lack of land tenure, fodder, water for livestock and rights to fully exploit their resources. Almost 70% of their land is on communal- based ownership, however, privatisation of these lands to private ranches, land subdivision and land development for commercial purposes, threatened their livelihood as it has restricted their livestock mobility.

The ASAL community has also been forced to leave their traditional lands due to extractive industries, land subdivision, conservation, development and other pressures, which are threatening their existence and destroying the fabric of their cultural traditions. Recent droughts and COVID 19 pandemic have further exacerbated their problems, since it negatively impacted livestock and farm production, sinking them into abject poverty. Therefore, addressing climate justice in ASAL's bio-cultural rights is fundamental for the long-term success of development and self-sustainability

#### *Women & Youth Workshop in Kajiado*



## Context:

### Kenyan ASAL's Situational Analysis:

Over 80% of Kenya's landmass are classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) with relatively low amounts of rainfall. Pastoral communities, almost 30% of Kenya's population, directly depend on natural resources for sustenance. However, these communities face challenges related to climate change shocks, inequalities related to land rights and access to information and services. According to the International work group for indigenous affairs (IWGIA), Kenya does not have a specific law on indigenous people and has not yet adopted the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous people. Indigenous communities in Kenya include hunters and gatherers such as the Ogiek, Sengwer, Sanya and pastoralists such as the ASAL, Borana and Somalis. Pastoralists mainly occupy the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) of Northern Kenya and the border between Kenya and Tanzania. Some of the problems faced by these pastoral communities include land and tenure insecurity, poor political representation, Marginalisation and exclusion. Indigenous women are especially more affected owing to the fact that they belong to a marginalised community and also they experience internal prejudices related to the patriarchal lifestyle of the ASAL community. These women are as a result denied equal opportunities to rid themselves of poverty as well as a voice to advocate for better cultural and political governance as well as development policies. Climate related shocks resulted in widening of gender inequalities and further disempowering women and girls as they loose on education, face wrath of FGM and increased child marriages. The evidence and impacts of climate change in Kenya are clearly visible today in the form of increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods and drought; changes in rainfall patterns; and emergence of new and resistant animal and crop pests and diseases and human wildlife conflict

### Opportunities:

The ASAL community in Kenya have a number of positives to clutch on. The formation of the Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands gives impetus to the region with direct government programming to address the plight of the ASAL communities in Kenya. The ASAL region occupies close to 80% of land mass and thus means there is a lot of land that can be used to cultivate crops for local and external market. The ASAL region is slowly opening up with deliberate infrastructural projects like the Northern corridor roads that the government has tarmacked to open the area to more opportunities with little transport hurdles. The huge number of livestock within the ASAL area poses a great opportunity for meat and tannery as a source of income for the locals with several abattoirs in the area constructed from government and bilateral donor support. There are a lot of scenic beautiful views of the vast land that creates an opportunity for harnessing on tourism and thereby growing the hospitality industry within the region. Turkana has been documented to harbor the largest aquifer and still has several mineral deposits yet to be explored with the extraction of crude oil having begun in year 2019 by the British bases Tullow Oil. The bio-cultural diversity and unique cultural heritage also pose as an area yet to be fully explored. Wildlife abounds in the ASAL area, where National parks abound managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service, thus creating a tourist attraction magnificent for the world to come and see.

## Strategy:

### Organizational Goals:

**Goal 1:** Strengthening community understanding and awareness to climate justice.

**Goal 2:** Supporting tradition and introduction of resilient, adaptive and mitigation livelihoods to cushion against climate change effects.

**Goal 3:** Strengthening community rights through civic education and policy advocacy by training and representing their plight at the local and global stage.

**Goal 4:** Support the development of sustainable programs to empower and eradicate poverty.

**Goal 5:** Institutional strengthening in order to address multiple issues affecting the ASAL regions.

**Goal 6:** Championing gender equality, inclusion and diversity of marginalized groups such as women, youth and persons living with disability.

- Creation of civic education spaces and providing content to educate community while liaising with local leadership in public *Barazas*.
- Encouraging education of boys and girls who are often grazing or fetching water and firewood to help in family chores instead of going to school to learn.



### Short-Term Strategy:(0-6months)

SASAL has identified several short-term strategies to be implemented in order to meet the organizational goals. These are;

- Help the communities with great risk to flooding and drought develop adaptive techniques such as building dykes and introduce irrigation as a measure to help grow fodder for livestock and crops to increase on food security.
- Develop climate mitigation programs around planting trees using seed balls and community planting exercises.
- Champion on FGM and early child marriages which have been outlawed by the government by using local vocal groups embedded within these communities.

### Mid-Term Strategy:(6months-3years)

- SASAL shall identify local women and youth groups to drive the agenda of empowerment and resilience. Such as the introduction of farming through irrigation for agribusiness activities and sell and production of clean cooking stoves for sustainability.
- The issue of women inclusion in gender mainstreaming programs will be of priority but careful to create acceptability from grassroots level.
- Introduce extension officers from government led institution dealing with livestock and crops diseases and pests to create and build resilience.
- Digging wells to create troughs and water points for both man and livestock.

### Long-term Strategy:(3years-5years)

The eventual output to SASAL's interventions shall be to;

- Ensure policy change addresses the dire needs of ASAL region in regards to increased quotas of resource allocation from the devolved government and National government through the County and Ministerial allocation of funds.
- Change the negative cultural barriers to inclusion, diversity and equality for the ASAL community living with disability, women and youth.
- Enable community to understand the effects of climate change and how to mitigate and adapt using local led initiatives.
- Empower local led community based organizations to advancing their own narratives in civic education, climate change, equality, inclusion, diversity and economic empowerment.
- Increase the income generating activities and enhance non-reliance on livestock as main source of livelihood.

SASAL's Ascribes to the 17 global SDGs.

