

# NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

## SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY NOTE OF AFRICA AMINI ALAMA



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But what exactly is sustainable? I have been thinking a lot about this over the past few months. Reflecting on what we have created so far and, of course, what we want to pass on to the next generation through our actions.

Our Original Maasai Lodge carries this thought in many aspects. The individual projects of Africa Amini Alama, harmoniously grown, experience their own special path and developments in accordance with the needs of mankind. For me, the way in which people from all over the world are involved with love right here, is also part of sustainability.

Last but not least, our latest project, the Africa Amini-Secondary School - with its focus on „sustainable tourism“ - has given me the impulse to dive deeper into the topic. To create something is one thing, but to continue it in the spirit of sustainability is quite another. However, passing on such thoughts to others is an extremely important step and is an exciting new challenge.

For us, sustainable behavior can be defined as follows:

„We hold the key to a better future for everyone and everything.

Our creativity, collaboration and contribution can overcome limitations.

We use what we have inherited to create something new.

When we reconnect with nature, there is enough for everyone.“

Many aspects are already reflected in our projects, likewise in the way they are managed. We want to involve as many people as possible. Accompany and encourage children, women in need, employees, people with medical problems, to take the next steps they need to take. Through education, we want to be a role model for them, helping them to be more creative and gain new perspectives, while respecting their own traditions and the beautiful nature here in the Maasai and Meru territory. For we can learn a lot from each other!

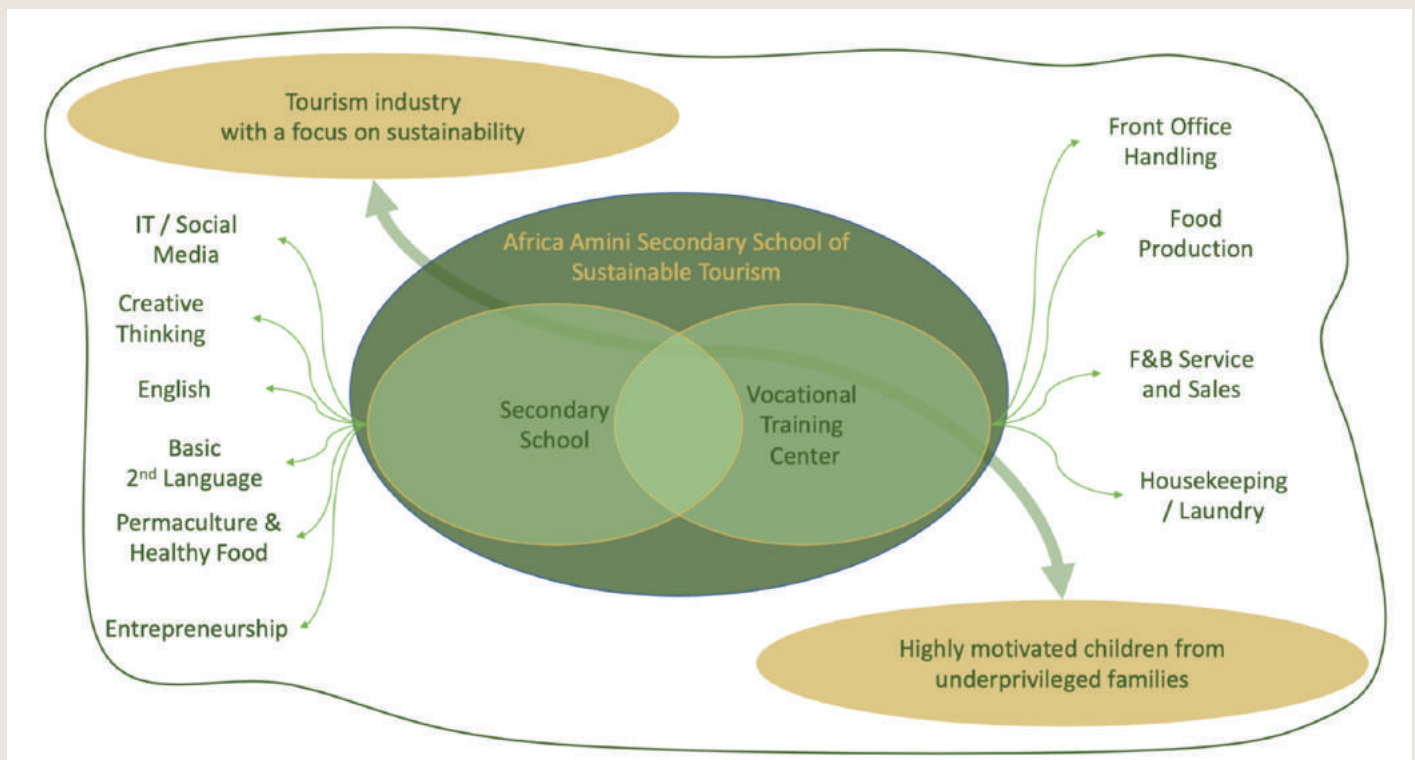
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### AFRICA AMINI-SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH FOCUS ON “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”

For more than 10 years Africa Amini Alama has been supporting children from disadvantaged families with the best possible English-language school education. Many students already attend our Pamoja-Secondary School, where they will be educated and well prepared for High-School, Colleges and Universities. But now there are not enough spots at Pamoja-Secondary School for all the students finishing Primary School and some of them intend to specialize in the field of tourism. The call for another secondary school with the focus on „sustainable tourism“ motivated us to start this new school project. Here, in addition to the standard secondary school curriculum, students learn the skills of a state-certified hotel management school.



From January 2022, the first 40 students will be able to attend our hotel management school here in Momella, at the very spot where tourism once came to the country in the 1960s. We completed this school only three months after we started to build it - a construction record, also for Africa Amini.

In their daily school routine, students are allowed to experience and learn the qualities of sustainability and efficiency lived within Africa Amini Alama and Africa Amini Life, in order to become pioneers of a new generation themselves. After all, knowledge is not enough, „soft skills“ must be the basis of a new school system.

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Graphically, our principles can be illustrated as follows:



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### **The Africa Amini-Secondary School is a response to existing problems in the country...**

- Hardly any opportunities for high-quality education for children from poor families
- Long educational paths with high costs and unemployment after secondary school graduation
- Existing tourism schools without reference to sustainability
- Little opportunity for further promotion at work
- Lack of practical relevance within the standard education system
- Little communication between the tourism industry and state tourism schools
- Great hesitancy to communicate with guests from other cultural backgrounds

### **...and is designed to provide a solution approach:**

- **Way out of the poverty spiral**

We give priority to children from disadvantaged families. Thanks to a sponsorship program, those students who have started their education within our elementary school system will have the opportunity to complete their free education up to the level of vocational maturity. After this short period of education, they will be able to financially support their families on their own or, will be able to finance their own postsecondary education after a few years of work.

- **Efficient education in the shortest possible time**

There are no other secondary schools in Tanzania that really prepare students for their professional careers. We want to teach practical skills in addition to academic subjects. After completing the four years of secondary school, 70 percent of the students should have a realistic chance finding a job by approximately the age of 17. An education of this kind including secondary school and subsequent college is very expensive in Tanzania and can take many years to complete.

- **Integrate sustainable tourism ideas into the education system**

Africa Amini Life, with its Original Maasai Lodge and Hillside-Retreat, has established a reputation in sustainable tourism in Tanzania over the past 8 years and would now like to pass on its knowledge to the next generation. Topics, such as responsibility towards the local community, permaculture, wildlife conservation, efficient use of natural resources and recycling will be included in the curriculum.



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- **Empowerment of long-term employees**

Our employees already working in the tourism sectors become teachers and can pass on their knowledge gained within Africa Amini Life to the youth within their community. A dream comes true - from being a kitchen assistant, to a restaurant manager, to a vocational school teacher.

- **Practical experience from the very first lesson**

Africa Amini Life offers students opportunities to experience tourism at firsthand on a daily basis. In addition to mathematics, language classes, physics, chemistry and biology, not a day will pass without some practical teaching. Excursions and internships during school vacations are an integral part of the education.

- **Early integration of expertise from the local tourism industry**

The curriculum was coordinated with existing tourism companies even before the first school year had begun. VETA, as the state certification authority, approved a new curriculum created by Africa Amini. Africa Amini will proactively approach the tourism industry to collect ideas on what aspects should be included in the curriculum from a practical point of view. Our goal is to prepare our students for their professional life as effectively as possible. So far there are not enough highly educated and qualified employees on the job market, which results in high training costs for the companies.

- **Transcultural interchange:**

Knowledge interchange with international tourism companies and experts will take place through volunteering and co-operations with tourism schools. We aim to increase Tanzania's attractiveness as a tourism destination through better qualified personnel.

- **A pilot project to be imitated:**

Africa Amini has always pursued new approaches, and we also want this school to be a role model for an efficient, practice-oriented approach to secondary education in Tanzania.

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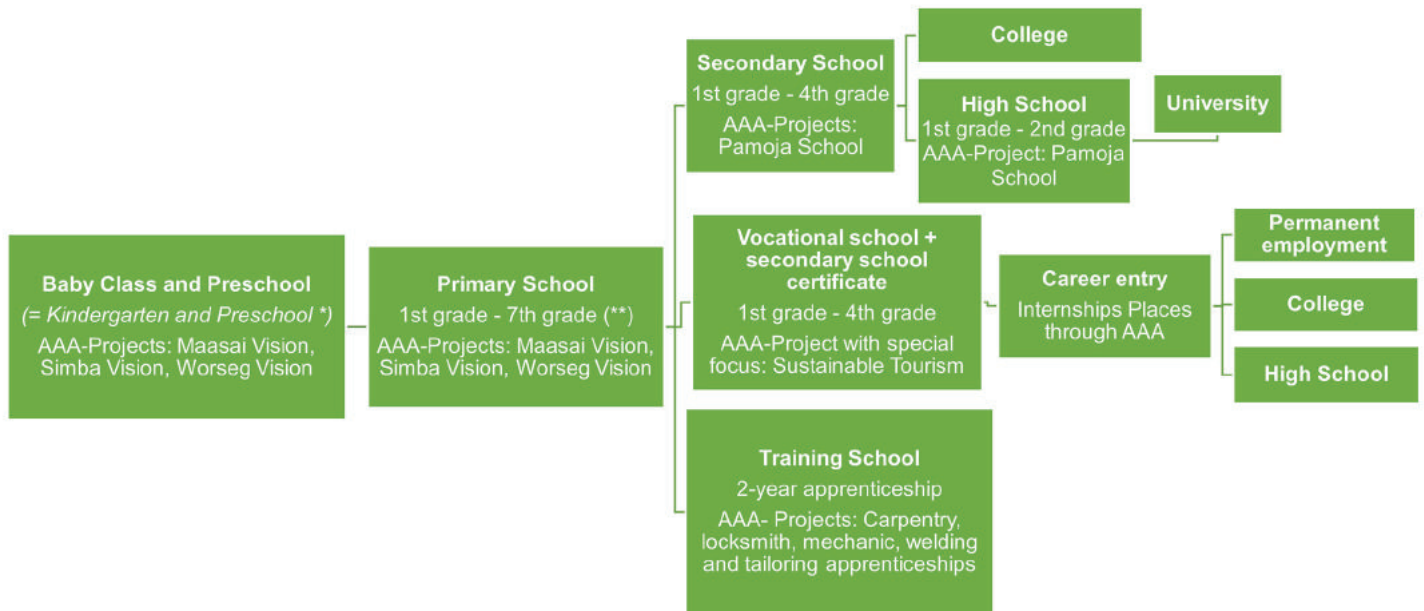
We would like to thank the Swiss Ganesha Foundation for initiating this project together with us here in Momella. Hopefully we will be able to give those students, who would like to work in the tourism industry, a good basic education and an earlier start into a successful professional life.

We now accompany more than 1500 students on their educational paths, all the way from our Montessori-Kindergarten classes through Secondary and Vocational Schools. Considering the many opportunities that are already available to these children within Africa Amini, we have created a graphic that clearly illustrates all of these opportunities.



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## COOPERATION WITH THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE

The first Roots & Shoots clubs are being created throughout our schools, where students are turning thoughts of sustainability into action. Starting their own tree nurseries, and passing these trees on to their communities. As a result, the students are not only planting trees, but also caring for them. Jane's grandchildren, who carry on this youth movement, were visiting us to present their project and to gather initial ideas. We received recognition from the Jane Goodall Institute - for how much Afrika Amini has already achieved through its permaculture projects towards this direction.





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### A NEW KINDERGARTEN IN NASULA, ON THE EDGE OF THE NATIONAL PARK

Nasula, an area close to Momella. From here, it is necessary for very young children and their siblings to take a long walk to the kindergarten quite early in the morning. Especially for the youngest children, during rainy seasons a raging river and possible buffalos from the national park during dawn and dusk turn this walk to school into a dangerous challenge. This kindergarten building, not far from their homes, allows them now to start their daily kindergarten routine safely. Rotary Club Vienna-Prince Eugen enabled it!



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### SUPPORT FOR OLTEPEZ-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE MAASAI AREA

Once again support from Rotarians. Together with the Franz-Schubert Club from Vienna, the Rotary Club of Munich-Sölln, our long-time partner clubs, are once again supporting us in our efforts to enable children to obtain a school education. This school was financed with the help of sponsors and revenues from the lodge. Even the missing school furniture to open the first classes in January have been donated by Rotary.



### SCHOOL FURNITURE FOR PAMOJA-SECONDARY SCHOOL

We also financed tables, chairs and beds for the 80 students at our secondary school, who will move up to Form 4 in January, the fourth and last grade of this secondary school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Herbert Schlossnikel for his tireless efforts!

Furthermore, we are very proud of our **Pamoja**, because the school was chosen by two independent institutions as the best state school in the district.





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### SIMBA VISION CONTINUES ITS CONSTRUCTION WORK

Even our children and parents are helping to gather construction materials from the river. During his visit, Benjamin presented the importance of interior design for a nurturing Montessori-classroom to our entire team of Montessori-teachers. He is part of the Artur Waser Foundation team that provided financial support for this construction. Read more about this and the upcoming opening in March in our next newsletter.





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### TEXTBOOKS NEEDED FOR ALL SCHOOLS

Due to a legal change of the curriculum in the classes of all elementary schools, as well as for Form 4 at Pamoja and Form 1 at Africa Amini-Secondary School with focus on „sustainable tourism“, new textbooks are needed.

A textbook costs 6 Euro - we would appreciate any donation!



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### NEW CHILDREN AT OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL NEED A SPONSOR IN JANUARY

For all those children who come from the poorest families in our area and will be enrolled in one of our three elementary schools as of January, we would like to surprise them with a sponsor. The moments in the families we visited were again very touching. The anticipation of a place at a pre-school class was indescribable. For those of you who know a possible new sponsor, please pass on our sponsorship e-mail address or our website:

[patenschaften@africaaminialama.com](mailto:patenschaften@africaaminialama.com),  
[www.patenschaft.africaaminialama.com/en](http://www.patenschaft.africaaminialama.com/en)

Johanna, who so lovingly and professionally coordinated the sponsors for so many years, has handed over this responsibility to Noemi. Noemi will still be available for you as a contact person for all questions regarding sponsorships at the sponsorship e-mail address.

By sponsoring one of our school children, you will give hope to a child at the beginning of their school education. Let's try to help all children, so that we can tell them in January: You won't have to walk this journey by yourself....





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### VOCATIONAL SCHOOL WITH A NEW CLASSROOM, A BOARDING UNIT AND A CAR

The pace of construction here is different than usual. But we deliberately wanted to let the apprentices build „their“ house with diligence at their own pace. They have succeeded - our bricklayers, carpenters and locksmiths are proud to have completed the building all by themselves. Students have already moved into the new classrooms, and the first students will move into the dormitory building at the beginning of school in January 2022.

The mechanics are also very pleased with their new luxury Land Cruiser, even if it still needs some work in order to get it fully running again. As an object of learning, it is a real blessing for our students. We thank Josef and Gerhard, our founding fathers of the workshop, for this wonderful gift.





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### TAILORING SCHOOL WITH A SECOND CLASSROOM & NEW SANITARY UNIT

One could not miss the excitement about Reinhild Wendl's visit. The gratefulness for financing the new classroom and a new toilet unit was felt in everyone's hearts during her arrival and graduation party. This year nine girls graduated from the Tailors-School, they will now work independently as tailors and pursue their paths in a self-determined manner.



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### CONGRATULATIONS TO EVELYNE AT THE COMPUTER SCHOOL

It took a lot of courage to come to our computer school from such a remote place. My wish is to learn to communicate with the world, even though I'm blind. A Braille keyboard, headphones, her new friends at the computer school and teacher Given enabled a successful graduation for her.



### THE HEALING CENTER TEAM ON ASSIGNMENTS IN FAR AWAY PLACES

With a new physiotherapist and the training course of Sascha Wolff new impulses came into our team over the last few weeks. We are constantly continuing to learn in order to be able to provide our patients with the best possible healthcare during these difficult times. While the planning for a new healing- and medical-care-center is almost completed (more about it will be published in the next newsletter), we are always supported by our existing team, not only in the community, but also at the schools in our area. In addition, they spent a week caring for patients in remote areas of Tanzania (Serengeti, Katawi). Hundreds of patients queued up to receive dental, ophthalmic and general medical examinations and treatment. The team was brought to the respective areas by their own airplane, which was a very exciting experience. This was made possible thanks to a cooperation with Nomad Safari.



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### A CONTAINER - ARRIVED AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS!

A first sign of the new preventive and naturopathic center: The container with physiotherapeutic instruments organized by Diana Engelmann in Gotha has arrived. Along with these medical instruments, countless donations of clothes for our children were also waiting to be distributed joyfully at the KinderVilla and at the end of the schoolyear at all of our schools.





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### ONE CAR WAS DONATED TO US.... AFTER A LONG JOURNEY ACROSS AFRICA

„You really need a new car“ Christian Sturm said when he visited Africa Amini a few years ago. „I will bring one to you“. Indeed, a little later than expected, his call came from South Africa: „I am on my way to see you - with the car“. Christian's courage and endurance were unbelievable, and he actually presented Africa Amini a car, which he had fixed. The Maasai celebrated him duly after his adventurous drive!



### SURVIVAL OF FAMILIES AT TIMES OF SUFFERING

Although many Africa Amini supporters are delighted with Christine's selection as 'Austrian of the Year' in the category of humanitarian commitment, there is also a strong desire to share this success. Using the award money, Christine is helping those women who urgently need support during the current drought. Additional social projects are being created, small businesses for women, who will be able to earn their own financial livelihoods in the future with these start-up funds.





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The moments, when Reinhild Wendl's sponsorship tour group handed over food parcels to Maasai grandmothers and brought sacks of maize and beans to schoolchildren at a remote Maasai school as a month's supply of food, were equally touching.

Peter Sommerer's stove project helps women to economize on wood and at the same time generate electricity with the heat produced. This seem like a small miracle for those women who otherwise prepare their food in darkness and with a lot of smoke in their shacks.





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### FIRST SPONSORS, AFRICA AMINI GUESTS AND VOLUNTEERS AFTER A LONG COVID-19 BREAK

With the Covid-19 situation intensifying again in Europe, we were able to offer our guests safe travelling and experience some touching moments of life.

My mother's return brought great joy to the Meru and Maasai communities, and the first sponsorship group was able to experience this at first hand during the many welcome events for Christine. We all felt the joy of the people, that guests came to visit again, also during the second sponsorship trip under the leadership of Christine and that sponsorship trip group, which was organized by Reinhild in November.

Tourism at the lodge has been picking up for some time, but until summer of this year we were hesitant to take Africa Amini supporters and volunteers. We did not want to put anyone in danger as the situation was uncertain and we were very close to the people here.

We would like to thank Lisa and Nina, who were our first volunteers for their pioneering work, their courage and their joy in getting fully involved with us here. For our children at the KinderVilla it is the greatest blessing to be able to go on excursions, do homework, play sports and have so much fun with them. This kind of interpersonal exchange can't be valued enough! Thank you to all those who will be coming soon....





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### BACK TO MY QUESTION: WHAT EXACTLY IS SUSTAINABLE?

This newsletter has also helped me to thoroughly reflect over this important principle for Africa Amini. With the new secondary school project, we have given it a lot of thought within the team and we will be looking at it even more intensively in order to make it part of a new curriculum. However, as I am writing these words, I realize that exactly this exchange beyond distances and borders, whether it is through a newsletter as this, a Zoom-meeting or by visiting us personally right here on site, makes us sustainable. Being able to share these deep experiences with each other and having them live on in many people's hearts -this is what makes us sustainable!

Thank you for taking your time to read this newsletter, to think of us and to visit us here!

Have a prosperous start into the new year and I hope to welcome some of you here soon, in order to continue to set milestones from here as well as from afar.

I would like to conclude by wishing you a Happy New Year and thanking you for helping us find sponsors for every one of the 60 new children who will be starting at our schools in January!

Yours, Cornelia  
Momella, December 2021



*Many thanks to Susi Pastuszyn and Irene Tau for volunteering to revise and translate the newsletter.*

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#### DONATION ACCOUNT

**Donations** to Africa Amini Alama are **tax deductible** in Austria, Germany, Switzerland & USA.

##### **Austria**

IBAN: AT141200051846031508

BIC: BKAUATWW

##### **Germany**

IBAN: DE96500333001274306000

BIC: SCFBDE33XXX

##### **Switzerland**

IBAN: CH7700777008613824640

BIC: KBSZCH22XXX

##### **USA**

Account#: 6799165646

Routing#: 021000089

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SWIFT: CITI US 33

##### **Bank address:**

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100 Citibank Dr.

San Antonio, TX 78245

**>>Donation - Website**