

# JUSTDIGGIT IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY 2022

Welcome to Justdiggit's impact summary!

Here, you can find an overview of the results of last year's land restoration programs and our total regreening impact to date. We've taken some important steps towards the regreening of our beautiful planet in 2022 – so let's dig into it!

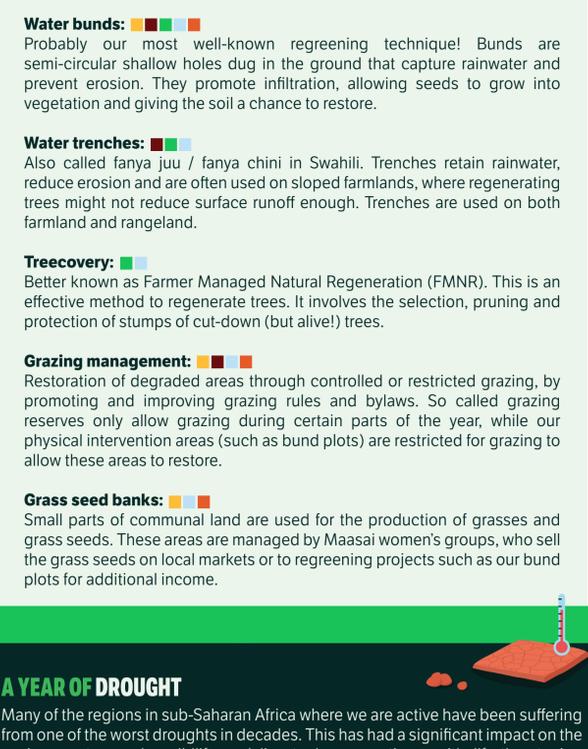


## OUR MISSION

If we can warm up the planet, we can also cool it down. But we have to take action now. We play our part by regreening dry and degraded land in Africa together with farmers, pastoralists and local partners. Our ultimate goal is to inspire and enable 350 million subsistence farmers and pastoralists in sub-Saharan Africa to regreen their own land by 2030!

## WHAT WE DO & OUR PROJECT AREAS

In 2022, we've been active in five landscapes: Chyulu, South Rift and Amboseli in Kenya, and Northern Tanzania and Central Tanzania. As you can see on this map, we use different interventions depending on the area and terrain:



**Water bunds:** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
Probably our most well-known regreening technique! Bunds are semi-circular shallow holes dug in the ground that capture rainwater and prevent erosion. They promote infiltration, allowing seeds to grow into vegetation and giving the soil a chance to restore.

**Water trenches:** ■ ■ ■  
Also called fanya juu / fanya chini in Swahili. Trenches retain rainwater, reduce erosion and are often used on sloped farmlands, where regenerating trees might not reduce surface runoff enough. Trenches are used on both farmland and rangeland.

**Treecovery:** ■ ■  
Better known as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). This is an effective method to regenerate trees. It involves the selection, pruning and protection of stumps of cut-down (but alive!) trees.

**Grazing management:** ■ ■ ■  
Restoration of degraded areas through controlled or restricted grazing, by promoting and improving grazing rules and bylaws. So called grazing reserves only allow grazing during certain parts of the year, while our physical intervention areas (such as bund plots) are restricted for grazing to allow these areas to restore.

**Grass seed banks:** ■ ■ ■  
Small parts of communal land are used for the production of grasses and grass seeds. These areas are managed by Maasai women's groups, who sell the grass seeds on local markets or to regreening projects such as our bund plots for additional income.

## A YEAR OF DROUGHT

Many of the regions in sub-Saharan Africa where we are active have been suffering from one of the worst droughts in decades. This has had a significant impact on the environment, people, wildlife and livestock – sometimes with life-threatening consequences. It has also impacted our work. As you can see in this graph, almost all our project areas received very little precipitation in 2022 compared to the 40-year average. At the time of writing this (March 2023), it finally started to rain in all the areas. We're hopeful that this will continue over the next few months!



## LET'S DIG INTO OUR IMPACT...

### ALMOST 400,000 HA UNDER RESTORATION

Try to imagine the size of 530,000 football fields next to each other. That's the total area we are now actively regreening!

In 2022, this total area under restoration increased by 18% to almost 400,000 hectares. This figure includes all rangelands and farmlands where we are actively regreening. It is based on the average farm size of active farmers and the total area covered with water retention ditches, bunds, grass seed banks and grazing reserves.



### 550 VILLAGES INVOLVED IN OUR FMNR PROJECTS

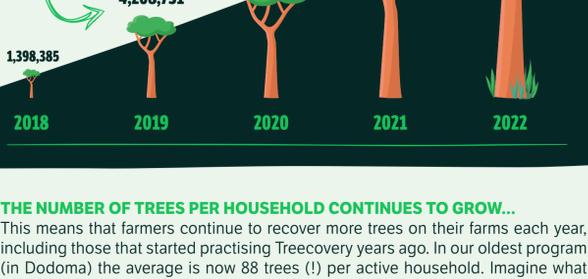
In 2022, we added 137 new villages to our Treecovery projects in Tanzania. A 33% increase, which means there are now a total of 550 active villages!



### ALMOST 2,000 CHAMPION FARMERS

In every new village we work, we train several well-respected and highly skilled farmers to become champion farmers. We always maintain a 50/50 ratio between men and women. By completing the training, they become ambassadors of regreening that help inspire and train other farmers in the community to get started with Treecovery.

Last year, we trained 379 new champion farmers in the Central Tanzania and Northern Tanzania project areas. This means we're now close to 2,000 champion farmers in total. This is vital for the development of a grassroots regreening movement, as each champion farmer will activate about 110 new farmers!



### OVER 150,000 ACTIVE HOUSEHOLDS

As you can see in this graph, the yearly increase of active households practising Treecovery continued to grow in 2022. 150,000 farmer households have now been activated to regenerate trees on their farms. With the development of technological innovations (such as our mobile regreen platform) as well as our plans to scale up to 1,000 villages by 2030, we expect to see more growth over the next few years!



### ALMOST 14 MILLION TREES (SO FAR!)

The number of trees brought back with our Treecovery programs has grown by 33% to almost 14 million!

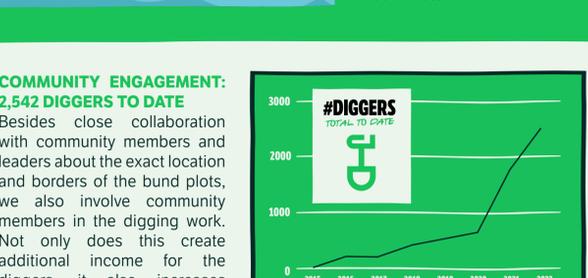
The majority of these trees were brought back in the Dodoma region in Central Tanzania, where we have been promoting Treecovery the longest.

However, the program in the Singida region is also starting to significantly contribute to these numbers.



### THE NUMBER OF TREES PER HOUSEHOLD CONTINUES TO GROW...

This means that farmers continue to recover more trees on their farms each year, including those that started practising Treecovery years ago. In our oldest program (in Dodoma) the average is now 88 trees (!) per active household. Imagine what would happen to our beautiful planet if people all around the world started doing this!



### 139 KM OF WATER TRENCHES

In 2022, 33 kilometres of water harvesting trenches were dug. These 1,439 brand-new trenches bring us to a total of 139 kilometres of water retaining trenches in our project areas.



### DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF NEW BUNDS IN 2022!

110,000 water bunds were dug last year. That's twice as much as in 2021! We have now come to a total of 315,000 bunds, which are all ready to capture rainwater and transform large areas of land.

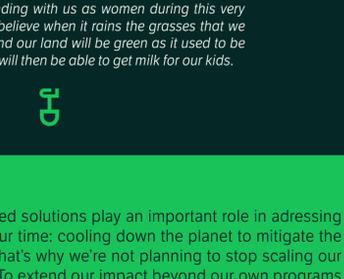


### 3.75 BILLION LITRES (!) OF WATER RETAINED

The total water volume captured through our interventions is estimated to be over 3,750,000,000 litres in 2022. That is almost enough to give every person on earth 0.5 litres of water!

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: 2,542 DIGGERS TO DATE

Besides close collaboration with community members and leaders about the exact location and borders of the bund plots, we also involve community members in the digging work. Not only does this create additional income for the diggers, it also increases ownership over the projects, which is essential for the continuation and preservation of the interventions. Each new bund plot (with one exception) is designed and implemented with a different community.



ABOUT 2,500 INDIVIDUAL DIGGERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER BUNDS THUS FAR!

### 12 GRASS SEED BANKS THUS FAR...

Thanks to 4 new grass seed banks that were established in Northern Tanzania last year.



### 272 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

All the grass seed banks are owned, managed and maintained by Maasai women's groups. We support them in growing, harvesting and selling the grass seeds, so they can earn an independent income to support their family and community.

For the 4 grass seed banks that were established last year, we engaged 100 new women involved in the grass seed bank projects to 272 and together they harvested 4,000 kilograms of grass seeds – similar to the weight of an African elephant!



## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

“My name is Namelok Kanyokua. I am 36 years old, from the Kuku Group Ranch. I am a digger in the Olrika Justdiggit project. As a Maasai woman and a mother I am able to send my kids to school and buy food for my family using the money I get paid from digging the bunds. My husband left home and went to the Kamba land in search of pasture with the few livestock that is left, as many animals died due to this drought. I want to take this opportunity to thank Justdiggit for standing with us as women during this very difficult situation. I also believe when it rains the grasses that we have seeded will grow and our land will be green as it used to be when I was young. We will then be able to get milk for our kids.”

### MOVING BEYOND...

We are convinced that nature-based solutions play an important role in addressing the most important challenge of our time: cooling down the planet to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. That's why we're not planning to stop scaling our regreening efforts any time soon! To extend our impact beyond our own programs and help grow a global grassroots regreening movement, we are boosting land restoration projects of several other organisations. We call this Boosting Other Programs.

We're also developing a new mobile platform that will make it possible for millions of farmers to regreen their land – without the need for the physical presence of an NGO such as Justdiggit! You can read more about this promising development [here](#).

## JUSTDIGGIT

COOLING DOWN THE PLANET