

A man with dark skin and short hair, wearing a red jacket over a green shirt, is working on a tree. He is holding a wooden staff or tool. The background shows a clear blue sky and green foliage.

Progress Report Regreening Central Tanzania

Winclove



October 2022

Justdiggit Update

Dear Maarten Remco Pekelharing,

To start this progress report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you again for supporting Justdiggit and our program in Tanzania. With this report, I would like to give you a general update about Justdiggit, our regreening program in Singida and the impact that has been realised so far – partly thanks to your donation!

Besides the regreening program in Tanzania, we are also working hard to restore degraded rangelands in the south of Kenya. In the Chyulu hills, we are digging tens of thousands of soil bunds (or as we like to call them - earth smiles) to restore hundreds of hectares of bare land that was once covered by grasses. By bringing these grasses back, we aim to restore the resilience of the ecosystem, providing a better environment for both wildlife and local communities.

A few hundred kilometers west, we are restoring two large valleys that are a valuable source of grazing land for local communities, together with our new partner SORALO. Here, we are implementing several rainwater harvesting and revegetation interventions.



Justdiggit Update

Lastly, we are happy to share that are relatively young Regional Office East-Africa in Nairobi is growing fast. From this office, which opened mid 2021, we are be able to manage our projects in East Africa even better, as we will be closer to our implementing partners and project locations. Not only can we better finetune the daily project management from here, we will also focus on our African regreening and awareness campaigns and increase our monitoring and evaluation efforts.

I hope this report will give you a good update on newly launched program and the villages that are supported with your contribution. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional questions.

Kind regards,



Marjolein Albers

Director Justdiggit Foundation



Program Setup

Several decades ago, Central Tanzania was characterised by the empty, degraded environment as it is now. When the agricultural area expanded, many trees were chopped down. However, as the tree stumps and root systems are often still intact, these tree stumps sprout into bushy vegetation which is unfavorable for farmers and crop production.

With FMNR, we teach farmers how to prune these tree stumps in such a way that they can regrow into a full-fledged tree. As these are often indigenous tree species, they are adapted to the dry and hot climate. This, together with the fact that their root systems are already established, strongly boosts the survival rate of these trees compared to tree planting programs. This intervention is locally known as Kisiki Hai, meaning Living Stump.



Program Setup

Besides teaching farmers the technicalities of FMNR, it is crucial to explain them how bringing back trees can provide them many benefits. Firstly, when many trees are regenerated, the micro-climate may cool down substantially, reducing heat stress for crops, reducing excessive evaporation of water from the soil and generally creating a more favourable environment to live in. Trees also can improve soil quality, enhance rainwater retention in the soil, provide fodder for livestock and give the farmer direct benefits such as fruits, medicines and firewood.



Four Steps

By promoting Kisiki hai, we show farmers that regreening is not difficult at all! It is done in four simple steps.

1 - Chagua - Select

Have a good look at your farm and decide which trees you want to regenerate. This can be done based on the species, or for example the position of the tree stump in your farm.

2 - Pogolea - Prune

Kisiki Hai focusses on pruning. Living tree stumps that grow many new shoots after the rains develop into wild bushes that disturb the crops. By pruning these shoots and only keep the strongest few (often 3), these shoots will receive more energy and will grow much bigger. A big step from shrub to tree!



Four Steps

3 - Alama - Mark

Now it is important that these shoots grow up and form a tree. By binding these shoots together with a piece of fabric, they are forced to do so. Plus, by taking a colorful piece of fabric, you show other people that this tree is protected!

4 - Tunza - Protect

Now all the tree needs is time to grow, so it is important that it is protected! Show that this is a growing tree and that it may not be cut, but also be sure that there are no goats around to eat it.

By giving it the right attention, it will grow big fast!

Together, these four key words form a slogan: Chapoa Tu, which means something like it's only cool! We use this slogan in our rural communication to remind farmers of the four steps!





Champion Farmers

Together with our implementing partner LEAD Foundation in Tanzania, we train so called champion farmers. These farmers will play a leading role in our program and are selected based on their knowledge, skills and position within their communities. They receive a training of several days on the technicalities of our regreening interventions, and additionally on leadership skills, reporting and training others. After that, they return to their villages and begin training other farmers and start the regreening movement. During the last few months, we trained four of these champion farmers in each program village, who are now promoting regreening in their villages!

Champion farmers are not only crucial in spreading knowledge and activating farmers, they also play a major role in our monitoring system. After they train farmers, they do regular check-ups including counting trees in the field. They collect statistics about the number of trees and trained and activated farmers and communicate this with the program office, where the progress of the program is being monitored. As these champions are collecting data as we speak, we will provide you with the first impact data in the next progress report.





Rural Communication

Last month, we organised the Movie Roadshow in the new program villages. During this full-day event, the community gathers to celebrate the regreening movement through dance, speeches, songs and by watching the Kisiki Hai movie produced by our team. The events were a great success and attended by an average of 400 village members - a great success! Besides this event, we promote our weekly SMS service to which farmers can freely subscribe to receive messages on FMNR and regreening. On top of that, we place billboards, paint murals and put up posters. Through these channels, we aim to strengthen the regreening message in our program area and to reach even more people outside it!



Next Steps

But, we're not done yet. We're adding another 31 villages in the Singida region to the program as we speak! Just as with the first program cluster, we start with the selection and elaborate training of four champion farmers in each new village. After that, these champions return to their villages and will start training other farmers soon!

Including this new village cluster, we are working in about 480 villages with over a hundred thousand farming households. Our goal is to reach one thousand villages by 2030 and to make an impact as great a possible!

We'd like to thank you again for your support and we will keep updating you on our work!

