



JUSTDIGGIT

# BOSKA

PROGRESS REPORT II



## JUSTDIGGIT UPDATE

Dear Mike Steenvoorden,

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 greening program in Singida and the impact that has been realised so far – partly thanks to your donation!

In the Chyulu hills, at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, we have dug over 109,000 soil bunds in 2022. These bunds bring over 1,000 hectares of degraded rangelands under restoration. By capturing rainwater, high quality grasses get the chance to sprout and establish, which will boost the ecosystem.

In the Kenyan South Rift, we started implementing our greening techniques in two large valleys with our partner SORALO. These areas are of great importance to surrounding communities, but are degrading fast. Bringing back permanent and high-quality vegetation is therefore top priority!

Lastly, we started a new large-scale program in the north of Tanzania, where we now work in almost 70 villages. By bringing back trees, digging rainwater harvesting trenches and soil bunds, we aim to rehabilitate degrading landscapes on a large scale.

I hope this report will give you a good update on the program. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional questions.

Kind regards,



Marjolein Albers

Director Justdiggit Foundation

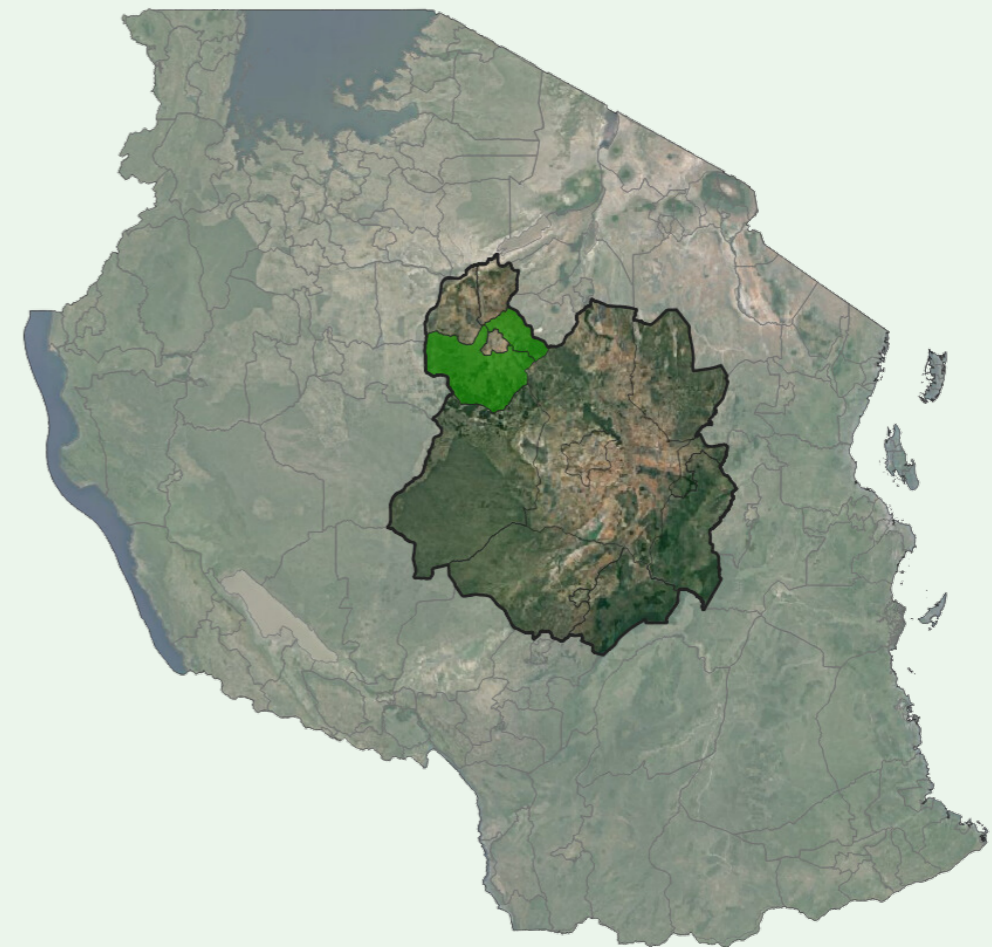


## PROGRAM UPDATE

In Tanzania, we activated over 150,000 farmers to bring back trees on their own land. This has led to the regeneration of almost 14 million trees! The annual impact report, that will be published this month, goes more into depth on the work we do and the impact we make. We invite you to give it a read!

In the program areas, everything is running according to plan. Program coordinators are visiting and coaching champion farmers. In turn, they train and onboard new farmers to start practising FMNR as well. In fact, a new program cluster started last October, and we are planning to start another cluster in the next month. This contributes to our goal of reaching over 1,000 program villages by the year 2030.

The rainy season has just started, which means that farmers are generally busy on their fields. The rains provide a good window to prune more trees, which will then grow quickly. This can be seen in the growing number of trees that have been regenerated!



This map shows the Central Tanzania landscape. Here we aim to reach 1,000 villages by 2030 with our FMNR program. Boska supports the program in the area highlighted in green.



## EFFECT OF FMNR

The Central Tanzania landscape is characterised by dried out soils and a lengthy dry season, during which farming is very difficult. Bringing back trees can alleviate some difficulties during this period. Here, we will elaborate on how the impact realised with your support restores natural processes and contributes to improved livelihoods in this semi-arid region.

Firstly, bringing back trees will have a cooling effect on their environment due to the shade of the trees and transpiration of water from their leaves. A decreasing temperature can have a positive effect on biodiversity and can decrease heat stress of crops, increasing their productivity. Through their active root systems and the decomposition of leaves, trees can have a positive effect on the quality of the soil, which can boost crop production as well. With improved soil quality, rainwater can infiltrate the soil more easily and increase the soil moisture content, which is of crucial importance for plant growth during the dry season. When more rainwater infiltrates the soil, less water will run off to lower areas and cause soil degradation through erosion. The presence of trees also boosts biodiversity around it. Birds and insects are attracted to them, while soil organisms get the chance to improve the soil quality even more. All these different effects can have a positive impact on the recovery of nature, but also on the productivity of a farm, which is of major importance for farmers. As the trees will keep growing in height during the coming years, the area under restoration will keep increasing as well.

Furthermore, growing trees take up carbon dioxide from the air, so regenerating trees on a large scale will help to mitigate climate change and cool down the earth. Lastly, growing trees can also directly benefit farmers, for example through the sustainable harvest of wood when they prune their trees. Depending on the tree species, trees can also provide fruits, animal fodder and even medicines.



## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

In the previous report, we discussed the setup of our greening programs and the interventions we use to regenerate degraded land. Besides promoting these interventions, we provide continuous support to different stakeholders in the program. Program coordinators play a major role here.

Firstly, with frequent visits to project villages, Program Coordinators support farmers, champions and village leaders with their knowledge and experience. These coordinators all carry the responsibility of an entire division, so they perfectly understand the progress of the project in these villages, as well as possible difficulties farmers come across. This way, they play an important role in improving the program and its impact.

Coordinators also play an important role in the long term sustainability of the impact that is realised, for example by involving policymakers on different levels. By getting these actors, ranging from village leaders to district officers, on board of the greening movement, they can boost the long term sustainability by formulating legislation about sustainable land management, water harvesting and the protection of trees.

Lastly, these program coordinators fulfil a vital part in our monitoring approach. During their frequent village visits, they actively check the number of trees and length of water-harvesting trenches that is recorded by champion farmers by visiting several plots. This way, we can trust that the data we receive is valid and accurate!





## SMS SERVICE

In the previous report, we explained the role of the movie roadshow in our program. Although the movie roadshow is an important event in the program, it is definitely not the only rural communication channel we apply. In all our FMNR program areas, we provide a free SMS service that people can subscribe to. Since many people own a phone, but not a smart-phone, SMS is a medium that can reach large numbers of people. Once subscribed, people receive a sequence of onboarding messages, which among others explain the basics of FMNR. After that, they receive regular messages that, for example, remind them it is time to prune the trees, or share inspiring testimonies of others. So far, 47,000 people subscribed to this service. Since the start of the SMS service in 2019, we sent our subscribers over 4 million messages in total.

## IMPACT SO FAR

*With your support, the following impact has been realized so far!*

Donor	Trees	Area (ha)	People	Carbon (T,t=20)	Water (m3,t=20)
Boska	4,361	270	900	837	83,713

### **Explanation of the impact indicators**

- The number of trees reported, number of hectares under regreening and number of people benefitting from the intervention are all indicators that reflect the impact that has been made to date.
- Carbon sequestration and water retention indicators show the estimated long-term impact, to be realized during the coming 20 years, based on the current number of trees that have been realized.



*TOGETHER WE CAN BRING BACK NATURE  
AND COOL DOWN THE PLANET!*