



Scaling Up Regenerative Actions for thriving communities

2024



2024 has been an incredibly tough year for farmers in most regions of our country and the sub region of Southern Africa. The savanna drylands-where our work is situated, are a little extra dry this time, due to a strong elnino effect. Croplands failed, especially the maize crop and for those that didn't plan for it- grazing and livestock are struggling . Our work aims to enable communities to be resilient through such natural shocks.

Enjoy the stories of resilience, and hope from Ndlovu.

Summary of Impact

Increased landscape resilience, food security and food sovereignty as farmers are less susceptible to external factors.

IMPROVED ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STABILITY IN HWANGE COMMUNAL LANDS AND BEYOND



- 5 communities,
 - 276 households directly impacted–
 - 129 are large livestock owners)
 - 88 of the large livestock owners actively trained and participating in the land management program
 - 52 active members do not own livestock
 - 140 total households actively trained and engaged in program activities
 - 7 000 hectares community landscape under grazing plan
 - 9000 hectares managed by Forestry commission but also available for use by villagers in the growing season
 - 81 farmers doing ecological crop-farming using Boma sheets
 - Approx. 710 cattle from 5 village clusters are under management
 - 15 farmers trained in participatory action research
 - 5 youths taken to the national seed and food fest

Landscape Regeneration

People- community members are critical as managers of the landscape

Livestock- the most important tool in the non-growing season on the range
We have about 710 animals on the management herd across 5 villages

Cow dung, urine and saliva introduces moisture-->Decay and sprouts in the driest time. The land is ready for rain, to slow down and capture water.



Ecological crop farming



Despite it being a challenging year, with a failed last cropping season, farmers still showed resilience and impacted even larger land spaces this year. Including a farmer to farmer learning day for the leading groups. 81 households impacted croplands this 2024/25 season. We are all feeling excited!

Seed and food systems



We continue to strengthen the culture of seed saving and local eating. In our meetings we co-share traditional foods that will be passed down to generations.

This pillar brings meaning to the landscape as we all get to enjoy the food as an outcome of a healthy landscape

- There are 5 seed multiplication plots across the 5 villages.



Social strengthening



Social organizing is one pillar that needs consistent strengthening as collaboration and communal implementation depends on it. We used 2 weeks of the month of October to do re-orientation meetings to individual villages. We reached out to 206 This is because there are a lot of new individuals who recently showed interest and joined the program. Our role is to effectively communicate how we partner with communities we serve.

We also have a strong support base from the senior village head, and the village heads. They are present at all of our meetings which makes a difference

We continue to engage and spread knowledge through sport.



Social Strengthening



Community weave through decisions, conflict and plans to make projects happen together. This has been a growth process, also important to shaping regenerative communities.



Effective partnerships: Construction of a **Livestock Handling facility** for 5 communities. Community works together to achieve project planning, execution and how the facility will be used. This happened in partnership with communities contributing labor, finance and ideas .

Participatory action research (PAR)

Participatory Community social Health Score -Research



Community Health Index - iGugu Trust	
Overall Score	4.16
Design Score	4.22
Context	4.43
Structures	4.34
Work	3.88
Health Score	4.10
Energy Flow	4.27
Information Cycle	4.53
Communication Cycle	4.00
Network Connections	3.61
Receptivity	3.37
Trend Score	3.96

We partnered with a national network (PELUM) to carry out this activity that has become embedded in our community. Participatory action research that has been helping redefine the role of farmers, they are co-researchers, producers of knowledge, wisdom and also tellers of the story. We have used it to investigate landscape level regeneration, ecological cropping and checking Community Health Index.

Overall score

All scores are regenerative, except for the Network Connections and Receptivity, which are transactional. This was done in partnership with nRhythm.

Landscape Participatory Research plots

One of the best ways to combat desertification is to prevent grasses from greying/oxidizing. We created a learning/research on how to regrow and re-sprout grass that's good for animals, and the environment. We used animal impact, sprayed grasses with molasses overnight to improve palatability, and now the land is ready for the rains, with new sprouts on decaying cow dung.



Land Monitoring



We carried out land monitoring in the paddocks of all communities. It was encouraging to see farmers and local leaders in the villages fully participating in the activity. Furthermore, during data collection the participants were showing signs of being aware of the current state of their paddocks, the need to regenerate it using livestock, they were also able to identify and tell the difference between annuals and perennial plants and share briefly on the importance of having land covered all year round. Results are yet to be analyzed together with farmers.

Weaving through challenges

Deep corruption of other organisations,
wanting to hi-jack results

Our relationship with leaders and farmers have really been an important piece in keeping things going. Transformative work takes a while and our facilitation role is to build confidence with farmers that they are able to make decisions that can heal their landscape, society and local economy. Our dream is to see more healthy collaboration with other partners to enhance a thriving landscape..

Essential services challenges:Accountant gap
We have been working at updating all admin systems,
however -our affordable accountant fell sick and this has
stalled our production of management accounts.

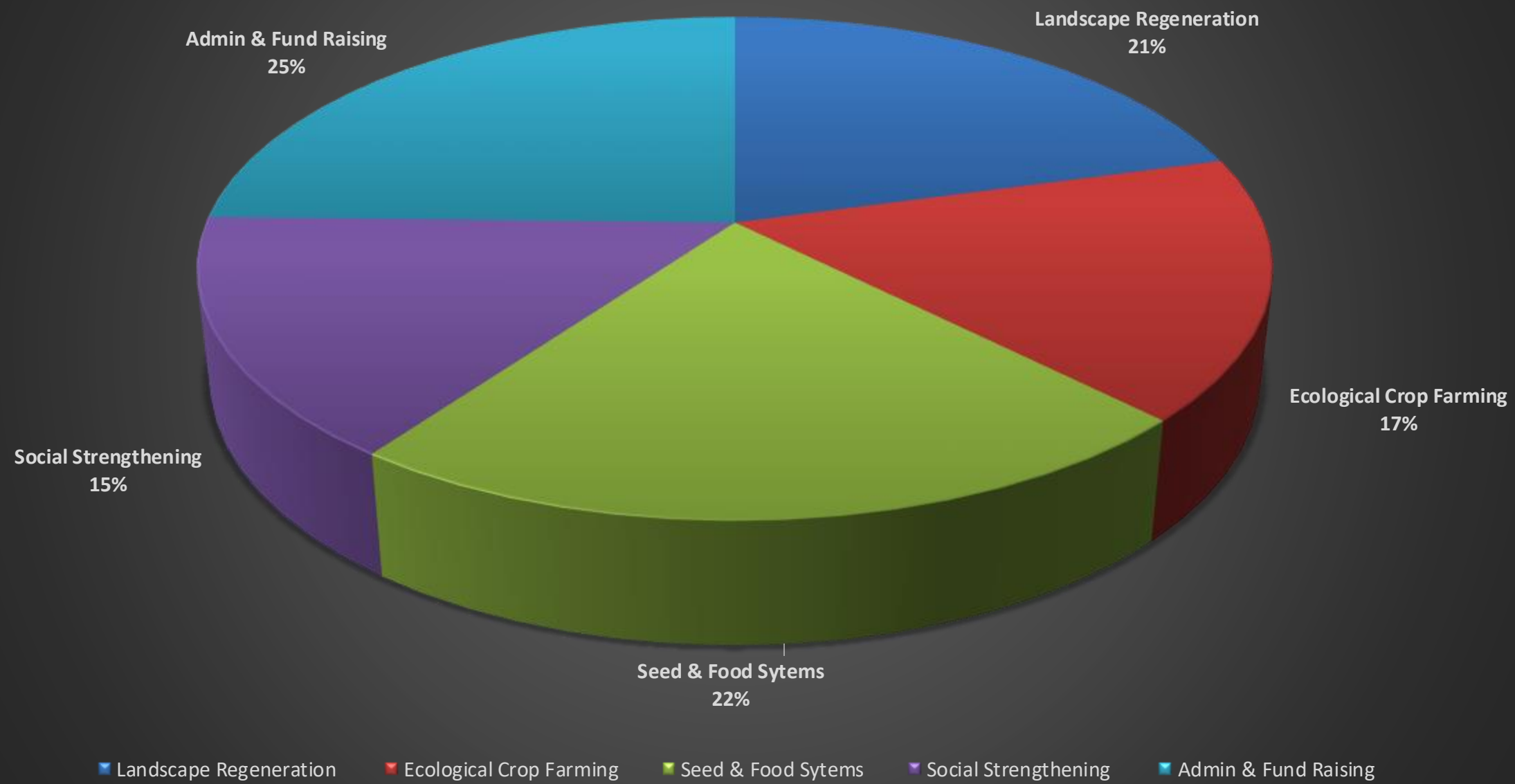
We have been growing in effecting systems including financial services. We are in a process of engaging another accountant.

The heavy elnino impact really impacted the previous
cropping season and grazing availability, and
subsequently livestock health.

The great news is that no matter how little a community works to implement a regenerative plan, the results always bring hope.We managed to have enough grazing in the grassland and the forest for livestock. We have implemented a livestock health program that complements the grazing planning so that we have a healthy landscape that can support human and livestock populations.

Finances

iGugu Trust expenditure



Landscape Regeneration Projects	6556,89	21%
Ecological Crop Farming Projects	5327,32	17%
Seed & Food Systems Projects	7088,32	22%
Social Strengthening Projects	4878,32	15%
Admin & Fund Raising	7796,3	25%

THANK YOU TO PARTNERS

**Hwange Rural District
Council**

Global Development Group

**Ndlovu community
cluster**

Klein Family Foundation

iGugu Trust Team

**Time and Tide Foundation
mentorship program**

Oak Foundation

ACHM

**Regeneration International;
global partner**

Savory Institute

PELUM Zimbabwe

Local NGOs

<https://www.igugustrust.net/>

