

Applicant: **Smith, Lewis**
Organisation: **Justdigg**
Funding Sought: **£299,998.00**

DIR31S2\1007

Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

In Kenya's Amboseli ecosystem, challenges such as overgrazing, climate change, and changing land ownership practices have led to land degradation, reduced livestock productivity, and food insecurity, disproportionately affecting women. To address these challenges, Justdigg and the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust are partnering on a restoration project to restore 15,000 hectares of land. The project focuses on women-led seed banks, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable land management to empower women, improve livelihoods, and enhance biodiversity for a sustainable future.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Lewis
Surname	Smith
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

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Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Lewis
Surname	Smith
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Justdiggit
Phone (Work)	0207372366
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Project title

Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

 Justdiggit cover letter
 29/11/2024
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 pdf 79.7 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR31S1\1123

Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.

We appreciate the reviewer's positive feedback on our Stage 1 application and have carefully considered their suggestions to strengthen our Stage 2 submission. Here's how we have addressed each point:

1. Feedback: It is not clear how this project fits into the wider context in the Amboseli ecosystem. You could provide context and scale by outlining more explicitly how much land has already been restored, how many people have benefited, evidence of biodiversity and social benefits from past work and how the proposed interventions build on this;

Response: We have clarified the project's context by explicitly stating its role within the broader Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (2020-2030) and our long-term restoration efforts in the region. We have also provided specific figures on land restored (17,020 hectares of land under sustainable restoration with 31 Olopololis (Olopololis are dry season grazing areas)), people benefited, and evidence of biodiversity and social benefits from past work, including increased vegetation cover, improved soil moisture, and the establishment of women-led grass seed banks.

2. Feedback: additional support on gender equality and social inclusion could strengthen the project;

Response: We have strengthened the project's focus on gender equality and social inclusion by incorporating specific activities to address women's time burdens, promote their meaningful participation in decision-making, and ensure their secure land rights. We have also highlighted the value of exclusively female-owned grass seed banks and their positive impact on women's empowerment.

3. Feedback: provide more data about nutritional value of the proposed grasses;

Response: We will provide a detailed analysis of the nutritional composition of the proposed grass species, including protein content, digestibility, and micronutrient levels, while ensuring a minimum level of vegetation/grass cover of at least 70% (good/palatable). This information will be sourced from reputable scientific literature and local knowledge.

4. Feedback: clarify the invasive species to be removed and how the change expected will result;

Response: We have clarified that the primary invasive species targeted for removal is *Acacia Nubica*. We plan to clear 50 hectares of this invasive species. Its removal is expected to increase native plant diversity and abundance, improve habitat quality for wildlife, and reduce competition for resources.

5. Feedback: strengthen the biodiversity outcomes by indicating how the impressive Amboseli wildlife will benefit;

Response: We have explicitly outlined how the project will benefit Amboseli's wildlife by restoring degraded habitats, enhancing habitat connectivity, and reducing human-wildlife conflict.

6. Feedback: the ambition seems to be bigger than the indicated budget: consider what is realistic;

Response: We have reviewed the budget to ensure it aligns with the project's scope and ambition. This has involved us scaling down certain activities

7. Feedback: the logframe should be strengthened, the Outputs and Outcome indicators could be SMARTer, e.g.: – to measure change rather than inputs (1.1, 1.2) – should be timebound and specific e.g. introduce parameters to measure "land under active restoration (0.1), sustainable management practices (0.2), contributed to...improved conservation & restoration (0.3), ecosystem health (0.5.2) etc"; o there are a high number of indicators – consider if there is scope to streamline the number of indicators you have; o strengthen Outputs 1.6

-1.8 by including scale i.e. numbers of beneficiaries and change expected; o consider adding interim Outcome indicators; o reflect on how the participation of women in the project Outputs, other than 1 and 3, is measured; o the Means of Verification for 0.3 is missing from the logframe.
Response: We have ensured that all indicators are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). We have reduced the number of indicators to streamline monitoring and reporting.

8. Language and Clarity: We have reviewed the entire application to improve language, clarity, and conciseness.

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 3

Intensive land-use systems

Conservation Action 1

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action2

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action 3

Awareness Raising

Threat 1

Climate change & severe weather

Threat 2

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

Threat 3

No Response

Q6. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

In Kenya's Amboseli ecosystem, challenges such as overgrazing, climate change, and changing land ownership practices have led to land degradation, reduced livestock productivity, and food insecurity, disproportionately affecting women. To address these challenges, Justdiggit and the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust are partnering on a restoration project to restore 15,000 hectares of land. The project focuses on women-led seed banks, rainwater

harvesting, and sustainable land management to empower women, improve livelihoods, and enhance biodiversity for a sustainable future.

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Kenya	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

If you are proposing to work in an Upper Middle Income Country (see Annex A), please demonstrate your case for support with reference to one or more of the criteria in Section 2.8.

No Response

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2030	5 years

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total request £
Amount:	£76,996.00	£81,113.00	£47,669.00	£48,427.00	£45,793.00	£ 299,998.00

Q10. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Q12. Have you received, applied for, or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for your proposed project or similar project?

☒ No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of **biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty**.

The Amboseli Landscape in Kenya is a vital ecosystem renowned for its rich biodiversity and cultural significance. It was recognized in 1991 by UNESCO and the Government of Kenya as a Man and Biosphere Reserve so as to conserve its biodiversity, develop the local people and improve local infrastructure. This ecosystem, home to diverse wildlife and the Maasai pastoralist community, is now facing a dual crisis: severe biodiversity loss and escalating multidimensional poverty (Western et al., 2020). These challenges are particularly acute for the Maasai community, whose traditional pastoralist livelihoods are intrinsically linked to having a healthy environment.

Multiple factors are driving the decline of Amboseli's biodiversity. Overgrazing, exacerbated by changing rainfall patterns, climate change, and droughts, are degrading rangelands, leading to desertification and loss of crucial plant species. This degradation is accelerated by unsustainable land management practices, which have been linked to shifts in herbivore distribution due to climate change (Aduma, 2021). The reduction in palatable plant species and the dominance of invasive species further diminish the grazing quality for livestock, impacting the livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

The shift from communal to individual land ownership over the past three decades has fragmented the landscape. This fragmentation limits access to vital grazing resources and disrupts traditional migratory patterns, leading to increased competition for resources and heightened conflict between pastoralists and wildlife (Mwangi & Ostrom, 2009). Growing population pressure has intensified land conversion, threatening traditional pastoralism and biodiversity (Bedelian et al., 2019). This conversion of land for settlements and agriculture further reduces available grazing land, leading to increased pressure on remaining rangelands which exacerbates the challenges of overgrazing and habitat loss.

Crucially, the degradation of the rangelands surrounding Amboseli National Park has a direct impact on the park's biodiversity. As the quality and quantity of grazing resources decline outside the park, wildlife, particularly during the dry season, is forced to seek forage within the park boundaries. This increases grazing pressure within the park, leading to overgrazing and competition with livestock, and exacerbating human-wildlife conflict.

Shrinking habitats and resource scarcity have increased human-wildlife conflict, posing risks to both wildlife and livelihoods, as evidenced by recent incidents of lion attacks (Western et al., 2019). This conflict not only threatens the safety and livelihoods of the Maasai community but also poses significant risks to wildlife populations, particularly large carnivores like lions, further jeopardising the ecological balance of the Amboseli ecosystem.

Rangeland degradation is devastating the Maasai's traditional way of life. This loss of livelihood security pushes communities further into poverty, limiting their ability to adapt to environmental changes and increasing their vulnerability to economic and social shocks. Women, in particular, bear the brunt of these challenges due to their limited access to resources and decision-making power.

Our project, initiated through extensive community consultations with grazing management committees, group

ranch officials, AET Management, key informants and community members, will address these challenges through an integrated approach prioritising biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. We emphasise empowering women, ensuring their full participation in decision-making and resource management.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- ☒ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ☒ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- ☒ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- ☒ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- ☒ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☒ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

Justdiggitt's Amboseli project is deeply rooted in a framework of international and national policies, demonstrating a strong commitment to holistic and sustainable development.

International Alignment:

Biodiversity: The project directly supports the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by restoring degraded lands and promoting sustainable ecosystems.

Community-managed grass seed banks further align with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Climate Change: By enhancing carbon sequestration and climate resilience through improved vegetation cover and soil health, the project contributes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Sustainable Development: The project aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 5 (Gender Equality), promoting climate-smart interventions, biodiversity conservation, and women's empowerment.

Migratory Species: By enabling wildlife movement through landscape restoration, the project supports the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

National Alignment:

Biodiversity & Land Management: The project's focus on sustainable land management, community-led restoration, and securing wildlife migratory corridors aligns with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Kenya Land Act 2012, Kenya's National Wildlife Strategy 2030, and Kenya's Vision 2030. It specifically addresses the anticipated decline in biodiversity due to land-use changes.

Ecosystem Management: The project's activities directly support the Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (2020-2030), contributing to its objectives of restoring degraded lands, promoting sustainable grazing practices, and empowering communities in conservation.

Climate Action: Climate-smart interventions like rainwater harvesting and grass seed banks address priorities outlined in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

Socioeconomic Development: The development of women-managed grass seed banks supports the economic and social pillars of Kenya's Vision 2030, addressing gender disparities in access to income-generating activities.

Rangeland & Pastoralism: The project aligns with policies promoting community-based natural resource management and sustainable grazing practices, including the National Land Use Policy (NLUP), the Community Land Act (2016), and the Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016). It directly supports the objectives of the National Rangelands Policy and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Plan (FOLAREP) 2023-2027, aiming to improve rangeland productivity, enhance biodiversity conservation, and support pastoralist livelihoods.

Overall, JustdiggIt's multifaceted approach demonstrates a commitment to international and national frameworks, contributing to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and social development in Kenya.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, GESI & Exit Strategy

Q15. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

JustdiggIt's decade-long work in the Amboseli landscape provides strong evidence for the effectiveness of our proposed project. Through large-scale pilot projects that have put 17,020 hectares of land under sustainable restoration with 31 Olopololis (Olopololis are dry season grazing areas), we have successfully demonstrated the impact of nature-based solutions in revitalising degraded rangelands and improving biodiversity.

For example, our rainwater harvesting interventions in the Meshanani area of the Amboseli landscape showed that soil moisture inside the bunds was significantly higher compared to the areas outside the bunds (JustdiggIt Impact Report 2022; Waterchannel TV). This is also true for other landscapes in which we have implemented the rainwater harvesting interventions.

Furthermore, our community-managed grass seed banks have proven successful in integrating ecological restoration with socioeconomic development, with 89 women reporting increased decision-making power and increased household income (JustdiggIt Impact Report, 2023). This is particularly significant as it enables women within the Maasai's traditional patriarchal society, where they often have limited access to income-generating activities and decision-making roles.

Building on these successes, we propose scaling up interventions to restore 15,000 hectares through rainwater harvesting, reseedling, and grazing management, ensuring a sustainable seed supply from women-managed seed banks.

The project focuses on the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch (OOGRA) encompassing Amboseli National Park, specifically targeting: 11 grazing zones, 4 group ranches & 2 community conservancies.

Intensive restoration activities will concentrate on 122 hectares of degraded land within these areas, with community engagement and training reaching over 876 people directly and indirectly benefiting an estimated 86,910 people who depend on pastoralism within the OOGRA.

The project utilises a five-pronged approach targeting both socio-economic and ecological change.

Livelihood options developed for the social inclusion of Maasai women. 40 local women will be trained and supported to establish 2 new women-led grass seed banks. By the end of the programme each seed bank will produce indigenous grass seeds for restoration, fodder for livestock and additional income to the women. Justdiggitt will provide technical training, while AET facilitates market access for sustainably harvested native seeds, empowering women economically.

Proven intensive restoration techniques implemented. AET will oversee community-led implementation of rainwater harvesting interventions on 122 hectares, guided by Justdiggitt's expertise. This involves constructing soil bunds (8,100), chisel ploughing (10 hectares), 2 grass seed banks (8 hectares) and stone lines (4 hectares) and 2000 trees recovered through Pastoralist Managed Natural Regeneration (PMNR) practices. Community members will also be trained in PMNR techniques and 50 hectares of land cleared from invasive species (mainly *Acacia Nubica*).

Technical support, training and capacity building. AET will coordinate training programs on sustainable land management and restoration techniques for local communities and stakeholders. Justdiggitt will provide technical expertise and training materials, while both organisations will facilitate exchange visits to showcase successful projects. At the end of year two we expect 146 community members to be capable of implementing restoration techniques (bund digging, PMNR and managing grass seed banks). Justdiggitt and AET will work in coordination on supporting 22 local grazing committees to better enforce grazing rules.

Awareness raising events: AET will lead community engagement efforts, organising meetings and workshops to raise awareness about landscape restoration and sustainable land management. Justdiggitt will implement a comprehensive communication strategy, leveraging its expertise in rural communication to reach a wider audience, including decision-makers, other Darwin initiative projects and potential funders. By the EOP we expect 9 community groups from 11 zones have increased awareness on restoration and protection through media-related activities. We will also reach a wider population through SMS and radio activities.

Stronger governance structures and evidence based policies: AET will work with local communities and 11 grazing committees to develop grazing management plans and bylaws. Justdiggitt will provide technical guidance and support in developing innovative monitoring tools. Both organisations will collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders to ensure the project aligns with policies and fosters a sustainable land use environment.

The project will be jointly managed by Justdiggitt and AET, with clear roles and responsibilities defined for each partner. Regular meetings, progress reports, and site visits will ensure effective monitoring and adaptive management.

Recognising potential risks, such as land use conflicts, grazing pressure, climate variability, and funding delays, the project incorporates mitigation strategies. These include promoting drought-resistant seed varieties, establishing conflict resolution mechanisms, and diversifying funding sources to ensure long-term financial stability.

By combining Justdiggitt's technical expertise with AET's deep community connections and understanding of the local context, this collaborative project aims to transform the Amboseli landscape, enhance biodiversity and improve livelihoods.

Q16. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

This project strengthens community-led landscape restoration in the Amboseli ecosystem of Kenya. It builds on a decade-long partnership between Justdiggitt and AET where Justdiggitt provides ongoing support in crucial areas: financial management, project management, technical implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and rural communication. This includes expertise in establishing grass seed banks, implementing Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), and rainwater harvesting techniques. This collaborative approach has enabled AET to attract additional funding and expand its impact on landscape restoration.

A key component is empowering Maasai women through:

- Technical expertise in establishing and managing grass seed banks.
- Support for group dynamics and governance within women's groups.
- Economic empowerment through commercial training and market access support.

This multifaceted approach creates sustainable income, enhances women's decision-making power, and fosters unity. By strategically locating activities, the project reduces women's time burdens, allowing greater participation in decision-making.

AET plays a unique role in coordinating partners and implementing the Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (AEMP) 2020-2030. This integrated plan, crafted through a multi-stakeholder process, outlines sustainable management of land and natural resources in the Amboseli ecosystem. AET advocates for supportive policies at the county and national levels, leveraging its leadership position and evidence generated by this project. The Executive Director of AET sits on the advisory committee of park transfer as gazetted by the Kenyan government and is also the chairperson of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association. Justdiggitt and the project will support the generation of evidence needed for decision-making. AET will use this evidence to further its advocacy efforts.

This project builds capacity for long-term conservation. It fosters a collaborative approach to land management, bringing together community members, AET, and Justdiggitt. This ensures community ownership and long-term benefits for both people and the environment.

Q17. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.

This project is deeply committed to promoting gender equality and social inclusion. We recognise that the Maasai community operates within a patriarchal social structure where women face marginalisation, limited economic and decision making agency. This is further compounded by limited opportunities beyond traditional livestock keeping.

To achieve sustainable and equitable development, this project will actively work to address these gender

disparities. We aim to enable women as agents of change and stewards of the land by promoting their leadership and meaningful participation. This approach aligns with Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

This project prioritises women's empowerment by establishing women-managed grass seed banks, providing sustainable income and enhancing their decision-making. This contributes to both economic autonomy and landscape restoration. Strategically locating activities reduces women's time burdens, allowing greater participation in decision-making. By creating leadership opportunities in conservation, the project challenges restrictive gender norms and promotes inclusivity.

To further support women's groups we will facilitate the following:

- Facilitate registration: Assisting groups in registering with the relevant ministry, potentially under the Community Groups Registration Act of 2022, to formalize their status and enhance legal recognition.
- Secure land rights: Work with groups to obtain formal, written consent from landowners (group ranches or conservancies) for farming on designated areas, securing their land rights and long-term access to resources.

Recognising the value of exclusively female-owned grass seed banks, we will support the creation of safe spaces where women can collaborate, address shared challenges, and build social capital. Women themselves value these exclusively female-owned grass seed banks, reporting increased income, elevated status, and a sense of unity and collaboration (Justdigg impact report 2022, 2023). This project aims to be GESI empowering, increasing equal access to assets, resources, and capabilities for women and fostering a more equitable and sustainable future for the Maasai community.

Q18. Change expected

Detail the expected changes and benefits to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

This project will deliver significant short-term and long-term benefits to biodiversity and poverty reduction in the Amboseli landscape, emphasising women's empowerment and community resilience.

Short-term Changes:

Biodiversity:

- Improved soil conservation and water retention on 122 hectares under active and intensive restoration leading to increased vegetation cover, biodiversity and enhanced habitat connectivity for wildlife.
- Establishment of 2 community-managed grass seedbanks, preserving genetic diversity and promoting native plant species.
- Increased diversity in tree and grass species, contributing to a richer and more resilient ecosystem.
- Increased abundance of soil organisms, promoting soil health and nutrient cycling.
- Positive impacts on factors that catalyse biodiversity, such as cleaner air, reduced soil erosion, increased water availability, and a cooler microclimate.

Multi-dimensional Poverty:

- Increased income and empowerment for 40 women through participation in grass seed banks, offering an alternative livelihood and greater decision-making power.
- Improved food security for households through better livestock management, facilitated by grazing committees, and increased access to pasture and water. This will directly benefit the 876 people reached through community engagement and training, as well as an estimated additional 86,910 people in the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group

Ranch (OGR).

- Strengthened community capacity for sustainable land management and decision-making through targeted training and workshops.

Long-term Changes:

Biodiversity:

- Continued recovery of degraded lands and sustainable management practices, contributing to restoration and conservation of 15,000 hectares across grazing reserves, conservancies and the Amboseli national park.
- Increased resilience of ecosystems to climate change and other stressors due to improved soil health, water retention, and biodiversity. Improved soils and native vegetation increases genetic, species and ecosystem biodiversity both on the micro and macro levels.
- Enhanced ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water regulation

Multi-dimensional Poverty:

- Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for communities through the continued operation of grass seedbanks and improved natural resource management.
- Increased resilience to climate change and other shocks due to diversified income sources and improved ecosystem health.
- Greater community ownership and capacity for long-term conservation and sustainable development, fostered through training, empowerment, and participation in decision-making processes.

Scaling: The project's integrated approach, combining community-led restoration, rainwater harvesting, women's empowerment, and capacity building, is highly scalable and replicable. Sharing lessons learned and providing support can catalyse a wider movement for landscape restoration and sustainable development in Kenya and beyond.

Q19. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change.

Our pathway to change hinges on a synergistic relationship between empowering women, restoring ecosystems, and strengthening community-led governance to achieve lasting socio-economic and ecological impact in the Amboseli landscape in line with the Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan 2030.

Pathway 1: Women-led grass seed banks directly tackle poverty and gender inequality by providing sustainable income and enhancing women's decision-making power.

Pathway 2: The implementation of proven restoration techniques, improves soil health and vegetation cover, enhancing biodiversity and increasing fodder for livestock, a crucial livelihood component.

Pathway 3: Builds community capacity by equipping local partners and community members with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Pathway 4: Raises awareness by fostering a shared understanding of the importance of sustainable land management.

Pathway 5: Strengthens governance structures and land management plans supporting community-led adaptive management.

These actions will transform 15,000 hectares in Amboseli, with broader impacts on conservation, biodiversity, livelihoods, increased income, and sustainable practices benefiting over 876 directly and extra reach to 86,910 people living in the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch (OGR), whose livelihoods depend on pastoralism. Enabling women creates a positive feedback loop, where improved livelihoods drive investment in sustainable practices, leading to a thriving, equitable community in harmony with nature.

Q20. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q20a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

This project is designed for lasting impact. We build community ownership by promoting community-led restoration and management, supported by extensive training in sustainable land management and governance for both communities and partners. Women are empowered through training in managing grass seed banks, ensuring valuable skills remain within the community. Open access platforms and active collaboration with stakeholders ensure accessibility to project data and best practices. AET's Noonkotiak Resource Centre will archive knowledge and data for future use. JustdiggIt will also disseminate learnings and best practices from this project to other landscapes where we work, making data, knowledge, and skills available to other restoration partners through our programs, monitoring and evaluation (MEL), and technical teams. Local grazing committees will manage and enforce sustainable grazing practices long-term. Women-led grass seed banks provide sustainable income, motivating communities to protect restored areas.

Q20b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

This Amboseli landscape restoration project, supported by JustdiggIt and AET, holds significant potential for scaling up. Community-backed plans aim to restore 75,000 hectares, with 10,606 hectares intensively restored using rainwater harvesting, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, and grazing management. This includes developing 20 grass seed banks and linking beneficiaries with other livelihood programs such as beekeeping.

This integrated approach can be applied to other degraded landscapes. JustdiggIt will disseminate learnings and best practices to promote wider adoption. Local communities and partners will be empowered to scale efforts independently. Success will be leveraged to attract new donors and innovative financing for continued expansion.

Challenges like securing funding, potential policy shifts, and maintaining long-term community buy-in could hinder scaling. The project will seek to diversify funding sources, engage policymakers, and prioritise continuous communication and benefit-sharing. By addressing these challenges, the project can achieve long-term sustainability and large-scale impact.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below.

 [Additional docs Darwin Main-compressed 2](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q21. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). A substantial amount of the budget is sub-granted to the local implementation partner. There is a risk that these funds are intentionally or unintentionally misused leading to loss of funds for the project and to reputational risk.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Justdiggit has extensive financial policies and a strong finance department conducting up-front due diligence on the partners and regular audits. Furthermore, disbursement of funds will take place based on agreed upon milestones and satisfactory reporting. Where necessary, partner's staff will be trained.	Minor
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. A number of activities, will be performed by the communities in the targeted landscapes. As its customary in the Maasai communities for children to be involved in work (eg young Maasai children herding) there is a risk that they will involve their children in these activities as well.	Severe	Unlikely	Major	Justdiggit has a strict safeguarding policy aimed towards preventing such risks to materialise. Our local partners adhere to the same policy. More importantly, all activities are overseen by project staff that closely communicates these policies with the local communities and step in proactively if any breach seems to occur.	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Interventions such as grass seed banks and rainwater harvesting interventions could attract wildlife, leading to human-wildlife conflict and possibly even harming community members working on restoration sites.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Plan interventions based on wildlife corridors (passive mitigation) and ensure coordination with rangers in areas to protect community members during implementation periods (active mitigation)	Moderate

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model The Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) our partner in Amboseli landscape is also implementing a number of donor funded projects, there is a risk of delay in project implementation if there is no adequate coordination.				Justdiggit and AET will ensure there are no coordination gaps during project implementation. There will be a project monthly management meetings between AET and Justdiggit to ensure that field teams are in sync with project deliverables and timelines.	Moderate
Risk 5 The Amboseli landscape faces recurrent and severe droughts. These weather patterns can impact project outcomes.				Interventions will be timed according to the latest information available on seasonal weather patterns. Additionally, preparations will be made to manage the effects of droughts, including harnessing surface runoff from rain for restoration work to prevent flooding.	Moderate
Risk 6 The communal land ownership system in the project area is transitioning due to the subdivision of group ranches into individual parcels. This change could lead to competing land claims and various land uses (ranging from e.g. ranching, agriculture and development) if not managed properly.				Actively engage with local communities and landowners in sustainable land use frameworks / grazing management plans - ensuring that changes will align with the needs and priorities of communities.	Moderate
Risk 7 There are upcoming general elections in Kenya in 2027 when the project will be in its 3rd year. Elections in Kenya sometimes invite political violence/instability which then recedes and peace continues.				Justdiggit has over ten years experience of working in Kenya and has extensive experience of handling this. Our partners have strong procedures, intelligence and contacts to address this should any political violence occur.	Minor

Q22. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

Section 8 - Workplan

Q23. Workplan

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

🔗 [BCF Workplan Template 2024-25 FINAL Justdig](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the performance of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E.

Justdiggit is responsible for overall monitoring, evaluation and reporting to Darwin Initiative. The Justdiggit Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team (currently the full MEL team is 4.7 FTE, of which 3 FTE based in Kenya) will conduct the evaluation, collect and compile monitoring data, develop and build capacity on data collection tools and lead the case studies. Justdiggit will always ask input from the partners, for example in the evaluation ToR. The partner AET is responsible for regular monitoring and reporting on implementation, which next to the indicators, includes a narrative report on challenges, lessons learned and key achievements. AET has staff assigned for MEL and will be trained by Justdiggit on monitoring tools & methods, such as vegetation monitoring. MEL will be embedded into the project planning cycle. Justdiggit and AET will together annually review monitoring data against the targets, discuss progress and adaptations to the annual work plan. MEL will also be embedded on a strategic level: a mid term learning workshop will be held in year 3 with our partner to reflect on progress against the long term objectives (ToC) & contextual developments. Key MEL activities include:

- Baseline assessments
- Financial monitoring and reporting
- Monthly activity reporting and quarterly results reporting by AET
- Ongoing monitoring of the landscape - including dry and wet season vegetation assessments and remote sensing analysis. Comparisons are made against baseline and reference areas, to attribute changes to the project.
- Monitoring the Grass Seedbanks (collect harvest and business data after every harvest season)
- Annual assessments of the performance of the grazing committees with our grazing management performance assessment tool
- Focus group discussions with the women groups, incl needs and capacities, effectiveness of training, group dynamics and impact on livelihoods and empowerment
- Capacity building of implementing partner AET and grazing committees on vegetation monitoring tools, so that they can continue to assess grazing pressure and sustainable grazing rates, also after the project.
- Research projects/case studies, for example on livelihoods, gender empowerment, soil health and biodiversity

- Annual reflection with partners on the work plans against targets, challenges and lessons learned
- Mid-term review and learning workshop (in year 3) with the implementing partner AET, also inviting other landscape stakeholders. This will include an outcome harvesting session, which allows capturing both positive and negative (unintended) outcomes. We will reflect on changes in the context as well as progress towards our long term goals & sustainability of the results, what is going well and what can be improved. Based on this reflection, we can adapt the ToC if needed, and translate this into concrete priorities and actions (in workplans).
- Final internal evaluation in year 5
- Research partner: Justdiggit has recently signed an MOU with Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern. We will collaborate on data sharing, knowledge exchange, and aligning methodologies and tools. Wyss Academy can provide advice on specific MEL tools and methods for biodiversity monitoring and evaluation, and collaborate on research projects.

Total project budget for M&E (£)	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%)	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	108

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q25a. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

 [Logframe Restoring The Amboseli](#)

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Impact:

The integrity of the Amboseli Landscape ecosystem is brought under restoration and managed sustainably, contributing to multi-dimensional poverty reduction, more resilient livelihoods of 86,910 pastoralists, healthy ecosystems and improved biodiversity.

Outcome:

15,000 hectares of rangeland brought under sustainable land management practices, 122 hectares of degraded land is restored in the Amboseli Landscape, safeguarding biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of 876 people

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Livelihood options developed for the social inclusion of Maasai women to improve their status in the household and community

Output 2:

Proven restoration techniques effectively implemented on 122 hectares of degraded land.

Output 3:

Training and capacity building provided on landscape restoration and sustainable land management practices.

Output 4:

Community members are consulted, informed and engaged

Output 5:

Stronger governance structures, improved land management plans

Do you require more Output fields?

☒ No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1

1.1 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support AET and women's groups with technical advice and materials to establish two grass seed banks.

1.2 Identify and organise 40 women for the grass seed bank project, conduct baseline and needs assessments, and train them in market literacy, group dynamics, and technical skills.

1.3 Train AET staff and 40 women on record-keeping; analyse inventory and records.

1.4 Monitor group performance and assess group dynamics and livelihood benefits through focus group discussions.

Output 2

2.1 Provide technical support to clear 40 hectares from invasive species, conduct monitoring visits, GIS mapping, and monitor vegetation to prevent new spreading.

2.2 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support establishment of grass seed banks, conduct monitoring visits, GIS mapping of site and monitoring visits.

2.3 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support implementation of rainwater harvesting, GIS mapping and monitoring of bunds and vegetation.

2.4 Provide training on PMNR to bring back 2,000 trees; conduct monitoring visits.

2.5 Provide technical support and identify locations for stone lines, monitor effectiveness for erosion control, and make recommendations in the two conservancies.

2.6 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments and support implementation of chisel ploughing; monitor impacts and map sites using GIS.

Output 3

3.1 Train 40 Maasai women on grass seed bank techniques and 106 community members on restoration techniques (e.g., bund digging, PMNR, stone lines, clearing).

3.2 Organise workshops for grazing committees on skills, mandate and platform use; conduct vegetation monitoring.

3.3 Train 5 AET staff and 11 grazing committees on vegetation monitoring tools, establish a baseline, validate data, and support decision-making based on findings.

Output 4

4.1 Organise 16 school presentations, one annual radio show, five social media videos, and 20 annual market day events; analyse campaign reports.

4.2 Organise 45 community and Conservancy leadership meetings (5 annually) for consultation and awareness creation.

Output 5

5.1 Host three annual workshops with AET to review grazing committee performance and award the best zones; conduct annual assessments.

5.2 Facilitate three zonal cluster meetings annually to improve grazing coordination; conduct annual assessments.

5.3 Host bi-annual stakeholder meetings with local enforcers such as chiefs, police, community rangers, and warriors (youth) to support enforcement of grazing plans.

5.4 Facilitate community conservancy participation in county meetings and develop materials showcasing community-led conservation and restoration initiatives successes.

5.5 Participate in stakeholder consultations and develop policy recommendations aligning governance improvements with restoration goals.

5.6 Facilitate the development of a conservancy management plan, provide technical advice, and monitor implementation.

Q25b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output 1, indicator 2 (1.2);	40	40 indigenous women
DI-B01: Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Output 5, indicator 6 (5.6)	2	2 new habitat management plans in Kenya
DI-C08: Number of Media related activities	Output 4, indicator 1 (4.1).	46	5 internet 5 radio 36 other (16 school presentations, and 20 annual market day events) In kenya
DI-D01a: Area under Sustainable Management Practices	A Outcome, indicator 2 (2.2)	15,000	Shrublands & shrubby woodlands; Savannas and grasslands; Intensive land-use systems; A) 15,000 ha under Vegetation Management; Animal Management;
DI-D01b: Area improved through restoration	B Output 2, indicator 2,3, 5 & 6 (2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6)	122	B) 122 ha under Vegetation Management; Animal Management; Soil management; Water Management; Restoration;
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
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No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

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Q27. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q27a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

☒ Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

This project builds into plans that are already in place (Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan 2020-2030) and activities that have already been implemented, that are being implemented and that have been planned but resources not yet mobilised.

It further supports the Vision 2030 restoration plan for Amboseli landscape that Justdiggit and AET have co-developed.

Justdiggit and AET are very proud to report that based on the pilots of nature based solutions so far implemented, other development partners i.e. WWF are adapting the same interventions/techniques i.e. grass seedbanks and soil bunds and implementing them in the same landscape. Stakeholders (partners and funders) within the landscapes we have been working in were able to see the small pilots we implemented and saw the results and easily bought into our ideas for rangeland restoration. They were able to invest in some of our projects and also initiated others directly with our partners.

Even then, the need is still great and that is why we are seeking this grant to be able to make more impact. Through coordination platforms like the Southern Rangelands Coalition Platform, efforts are aligned to ensure there is no duplication of effort but complementarity of efforts.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

☒ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

Yes, we are aware of current and future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area of the proposed project. The Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (AEMP) 2020-2030, led by our partner Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), guides all restoration and conservation efforts in the Amboseli landscape. This plan was developed through a participatory process involving various stakeholders, including:

- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Amboseli Conservation Program
- African Conservation Centre
- International School for Field Studies (SFS)
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Big Life Foundation
- Amboseli Trust for Elephants
- National Environment Management Authority
- County Government of Kajiado
- Born Free Foundation

While these organisations have different focus areas, their efforts complement each other under AET's coordination. This ensures activities are complementary and not duplicated. Our project aligns with the AEMP 2030 and will contribute to its overarching goals. We will actively participate in the AEMP coordination platform to share lessons learned and ensure our work remains additional and avoids conflicting activities.

Q28. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

This project offers exceptional value for money by maximising impact and ensuring cost-effectiveness. We leverage existing resources and partnerships, including AET's established infrastructure and community networks, to minimise costs. Competitive procurement processes ensure we obtain goods and services efficiently. Our lean organisational structure and streamlined project management maximise the use of time and resources, directing funds towards project activities rather than administrative overhead.

The project's effectiveness is ensured through our evidence-based approach, utilising proven restoration techniques with high success rates. Community-led implementation fosters long-term sustainability and maximises the return on investment. Furthermore, the project prioritises equity by enabling marginalised groups, particularly women, and promoting inclusive decision-making through community-based governance structures. This project represents the best feasible option due to its targeted interventions, cost-effective and scalable approach, and strong partnerships that ensure sustainability, ultimately leading to significant and lasting conservation and development outcomes in the Amboseli landscape.

Q29. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Not applicable

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in operation.

Please outline how your project will ensure:

(a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can confidentially raise a concern,

(b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld,

(c) you will ensure project partners also meet these standards and policies.

Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans to address this.

Justdiggit is committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and promoting a safe and inclusive environment for all individuals involved in our projects. We recognize the vulnerability of individuals, particularly women and children, in the communities where we work, and are dedicated to preventing any form of harm, including sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH).

(a) Awareness and Reporting

We will ensure that all beneficiaries, community members, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of our safeguarding commitment through clear communication and training.

A dedicated email address and phone number will be established for individuals to raise concerns or report incidents confidentially and without fear of retaliation.

Information on safeguarding procedures will be disseminated in local languages and accessible formats.

(b) Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures

All safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and thoroughly by trained personnel.

Confidential records of all reported incidents and investigations will be maintained.

If allegations are substantiated, we will take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment or partnership and reporting to relevant authorities.

(c) Partner Compliance

We will ensure that all project partners adhere to our safeguarding standards and policies through contractual agreements and capacity-building initiatives.

Regular monitoring visits will be conducted to assess partner compliance and provide ongoing support and guidance.

Minimum Standard Protocol

Our safeguarding policy is aligned with international standards, including the IASC Six Core Principles Relating to

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and with local laws and regulations. This ensures that our project meets the highest safeguarding standards, promoting the safety and well-being of everyone involved

Defra recommend you appoint a safeguarding focal point to ensure the project's PSEAH work is taken forward. This can be a separate member of staff or a current member of staff who spends a proportionate amount of time for safeguarding and PSEAH activities. Please name this individual here - this person should also be included in your overall staff list at Q33 and in your budget.

[REDACTED]

Q31. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

This project is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards and principles of good practice. Our approach aligns with the guidelines outlined by the Darwin Initiative and is reflected in our organisational values and practices.

Meeting Ethical Principles

- Legal and Ethical Obligations: We will comply with all relevant legal and ethical obligations in Kenya and the UK, including those related to access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.
- Prior Informed Consent: We will obtain free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from communities before undertaking any project activities on their lands.
- Traditional Knowledge: We recognise the value of traditional knowledge and will integrate it into our project design and implementation, alongside scientific approaches.
- Community Participation: We prioritise community leadership and participation, ensuring that their perspectives, interests, and knowledge are incorporated into all project activities.
- Respect for Rights: We will respect the rights, privacy, and safety of all individuals involved in or impacted by the project.
- Health and Safety: We have a comprehensive Health, Safety, and Security policy to protect the well-being of our staff/partners.
- Credibility of Evidence: We are committed to upholding the credibility of research findings and project evidence through rigorous data collection, analysis, and transparent reporting

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q32. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.

Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them. Please note that some embassies or high commissions may not be able to respond to you but your project will not be penalised for a lack of response.

☒ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [Letter of support from FCDO](#)

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Samwel Jakinda	Project Leader	10	Checked
Jackline Kemboi	Landscape Restoration Quality Coordinator	10	Checked
Sospeter Mumbo	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	3	Checked
Mokinyo Sintoyia	Rural Communications Coordinator	5	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Felix Oriwa	Program Finance Officer	5	Checked
Isaiah Saruni Mwato	Executive Director	10	Checked
Koikai Oloiptip	Partnership Coordinators	10	Checked
Susan Kinuthia	Finance and Administration Officer	20	Checked
Jessee Mwingirwa Meme	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	10	Checked
Kenneth Sokoine	Rangeland Officer	20	Checked
Purity Mwende Mwanja	Assistant Project Officer	50	Checked
Agnes Naserian Muntet	Account Assistant	5	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

 JDI & AET CVs
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 pdf 1.15 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Organisation who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included. The order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead Organisation name:	Justdiggit
Website address:	www.justdiggit.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Justdiggit's leadership stems from our proven expertise in landscape restoration across Africa, including extensive experience in the Amboseli ecosystem. Our innovative approach combines nature-based solutions, community engagement, and impactful communication strategies to drive large-scale restoration. We offer technical knowledge in rainwater harvesting, sustainable land management, and monitoring tools, coupled with a strong track record of fundraising for such projects. Justdiggit will provide technical leadership in restoration techniques, monitoring, and evaluation, while supporting community mobilisation and awareness-raising through our communication strategies. We will train local communities and partners in sustainable land management and share lessons learned to promote scaling and replication. Justdiggit's leadership ensures the project benefits from our expertise, innovation, and commitment to achieving lasting and scalable restoration in the Amboseli landscape.
International/In-country Partner:	☒ International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Organisation?	☒ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), KENYA
Website address:	https://amboseliecosystem.org/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) is a vital partner due to their deep roots and on-the-ground presence in the Amboseli ecosystem. They possess unparalleled knowledge of the landscape and have built strong relationships with local communities, including the Maasai people. This grassroots network enables effective communication, participatory decision-making, and successful implementation of conservation initiatives. AET will lead community engagement, ensuring project activities are culturally appropriate and aligned with local needs. They will oversee on-the-ground implementation of restoration activities, including rainwater harvesting and training programs. AET will also contribute to monitoring project progress, evaluating its impact, and advocating for policies that support sustainable land management. Their partnership ensures the project is deeply rooted in the community, effectively implemented, and contributes to lasting change in the Amboseli landscape.
International/In-country Partner:	☒ In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☒ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

2. Partner Name:	County Government of Kajiado
Website address:	https://www.kajiado.go.ke/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The County Government of Kajiado is a fundamental partner to the proposed project. As the governing authority of a region deeply connected to the Amboseli ecosystem, the county provides institutional legitimacy, local knowledge, and strategic alignment with Kenya's national priorities for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

The county's primary role includes creating buy-in from the communities and other stakeholders through facilitating local stakeholder engagement. By strengthening partnerships with local organisations and communities, the county helps to build trust and enhance the project's relevance to the needs of the Maasai communities who depend on this ecosystem.

The county's capacity is evident in its commitment to biodiversity restoration, as highlighted in its support for sustainable land management and women's empowerment. With its alignment to national strategies such as the National Climate Change Action Plan and Vision 2030, the County Government of Kajiado is a crucial collaborator, ensuring the project's impact is both sustainable and meaningful to the communities home to the area. Their involvement increases the project's potential for successful implementation and potentially also replication in the wider landscape.

International/In-country Partner: ☒ In-country

Allocated budget:

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): ☒ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? ☒ Yes

3. Partner Name: No Response

Website address: No Response

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): No Response

International/In-country Partner: ☐ International
☐ In-country

Allocated budget: No Response

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) ☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? ☐ Yes
☐ No

4. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	<i>No Response</i>
International/In-country Partner:	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	<i>No Response</i>
International/In-country Partner:	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	<i>No Response</i>
International/In-country Partner:	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

-  [Letters of support - consolidated](#)
-  29/11/2024
-  11:15:19
-  pdf 777.33 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

☒ No

If no, please provide the below information on the Lead Organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 2010
What is the legal status of your organisation?	☒ NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	The organisation is funded by a combination of; - Donations from institutional donors (eg. GIZ) - Corporations as part of their environmental and sustainable policies (e.g. Tony Chocoloney) - Foundations (e.g. Ikea Foundation, Rabobank Foundation) - Lotteries (National Postcode Lottery) - Consumer donations

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	Justdiggit's mission is to enable millions of pastoralists and subsistence farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to regreen their own lands.
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Activities	Justdiggit has 3 main activities, all contributing towards it's mission: 1. Implementing large scale ecosystem restoration programmes; 2. Developing digital tools for subsistence farmers in Africa to provide access to knowledge on sustainable land management 3. Creating large scale environmental awareness campaigns
Achievements	In 2023, Justdiggit restored 435k hectares of land, supported 20 grass seed banks, engaged 4,673 diggers, retained 6.6B liters of water, built 139k bunds, and involved 576 villages in Treecovery.

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	TWENDE Towards Ending Drought Emergencies: Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Rangelands
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	3.2million euros
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	5 years
Role of organisation in project	Within the project, of which 50% is implemented in the Kenya's southern rangelands Justdiggit implements 2 main pathways: 1. Implement priority actions for integrated land/water management in catchments and; 2. Provide grants to establish restoration enterprises by women's groups
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The objective of this project is to reduce the cost of climate change induced drought on Kenya's national economy by increasing resilience of the livestock and other land use sectors in restored and effectively governed rangeland ecosystems. The project is implemented in 2 landscapes encompassing 11 counties, which have devolved powers under Kenya's new constitution. The project benefits 400,000 people in 68,000 households and is implemented in 2.5million hectares of rangelands.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Bjorn Stauch bstauch@conservation.org

Contract/Project 2 Title	Green Future Farming
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	1.3 Mio USD
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	4 years

Role of organisation in project	Justdiggit implements landscape restoration and value chain improvement activities in the southern rangelands of Kenya
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Green Future Farming is a collaboration of 3 INGOs, funded by IKEA Foundation. Justdiggit implements regenerative agriculture practices within the Southern Rangelands of Kenya. The other partners are active in Ethiopia and Uganda
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Nico Janssen - [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title	Restoring ALOCA's conservancies' rangeland in Kimana (part of a wider 150 hectares restoration program of degraded landscapes in southern Kenya by WWF)
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Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
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Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	12 months
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Role of organisation in project	WWF-Kenya and WWF-Germany both procured the services of Justdiggit as the technical partner for their projects Large-Scale Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Alliance for Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Ecosystems in Africa (AREECA) Kenya respectively. Both projects are happening in Amboseli landscape with each project contributing 150 ha for restoration.
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Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to restore in total 300 hectares of land within the land managed by the Amboseli Lands Owners and Conservancies Association (ALOCA) by showcasing the use of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) being promoted by Justdiggit. It primarily employs the use of rainwater harvesting interventions like soil bunds, stone lines and water retention ditches (not hampering wildlife or livestock passage) as well as promoting the use of area resting and grazing management to restore degraded lands. Another component is to establish grass seedbanks to empower pastoral women and involve them in restoration work.
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Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	[REDACTED]
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Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Company

of

Justdiggitt

I apply for a grant of

£299,999.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Lewis Smith
Position in the organisation	Senior Business Developer and Fundraising Manager
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Signature - Lewis Smith  29/11/2024  10:48:31  jpg 2.43 KB
Date	29 November 2024

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 JDI-Annual-Report-2022-compressed 2 compressed  29/11/2024  13:12:35  pdf 10.38 MB	 JDI-Annual-Report-2023 compressed x2  29/11/2024  10:56:53  pdf 12.08 MB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

 [Justdiggit Travel Security Policy 2.0 FINAL_june2023](#)
 29/11/2024
 10:48:09
 pdf 720.93 KB

 [Copy of 230823 Safeguarding Policy.Justdiggit](#)
 29/11/2024
 10:48:05
 pdf 467.49 KB

 [Copy of 230823 Code of Conduct.Justdiggit](#)
 29/11/2024
 10:48:05
 pdf 896.05 KB

 [Copy of 230912 Whistleblower Policy.Justdiggit](#)
 29/11/2024
 10:48:05
 pdf 359.53 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided the budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • a cover letter from the Lead Organisation	Checked
• a completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance” and “Standard Indicator Guidance”.	Checked
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 30).	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation's Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 30)	Checked

• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our regular newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, project leader, location, and total grant value).



Stichting JustdiggIt Foundation

Prins Hendrikkade 25

1012 TM Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Subject: Application for Darwin Main Funding - Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

Dear Darwin Initiative,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a full application for funding under the Darwin Initiative Main Grant. We are writing to express our enthusiastic interest in securing funding from the Darwin Initiative for our project, "Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative." This project builds on JustdiggIt's decade-long experience in the Amboseli landscape and seeks to address the pressing challenges of biodiversity loss and multidimensional poverty in this vital ecosystem.

Our proposed project aligns perfectly with the Darwin Initiative's objectives of conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. By restoring 15,000 hectares of degraded land and empowering local communities, particularly women, we aim to create a lasting positive impact on both the environment and the livelihoods of the Maasai people. We are pleased to share that we have already secured significant match funding for this project, demonstrating our commitment and the strong support for this initiative.

Key Strengths of Our Project

- **Community-Led Approach:** We prioritise community ownership and participation throughout the project, ensuring that restoration efforts are culturally appropriate and sustainable.
- **Women's Enablement:** We recognise the crucial role of women in environmental conservation and enable them through training, leadership opportunities, and sustainable income generation.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** We utilise proven and innovative nature-based solutions, such as rainwater harvesting and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, to restore degraded rangelands and enhance biodiversity.

- **Strong Partnerships:** We have a long-standing partnership with the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), a local organisation with deep roots in the community and extensive experience in conservation.
- **Scalable Approach:** Our project is designed to be scalable and replicable, with the potential to be expanded throughout the Amboseli landscape and beyond.

Our Commitment to the Darwin Initiative

Justdiggit is committed to fulfilling the Darwin Initiative's requirements for transparency, accountability, and knowledge sharing. We will actively engage with the Darwin Initiative team, provide regular progress reports, and ensure that project data and findings are accessible to a wider audience.

We are confident that our project will make a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development of the Amboseli landscape. We have carefully considered the feedback received on our Stage 1 application and have incorporated it into our Stage 2 proposal more details on this can be found within the application.

We are eager to partner with the Darwin Initiative to bring this project to fruition and create a lasting legacy for both people and nature in the Amboseli ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Marjolein Albers

CEO

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

Project Summary	SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The Amboseli Landscape Area is restored and managed more sustainably, resulting in multidimensional poverty reduction, improved and more resilient livelihoods of pastoralists, healthy ecosystems, and improved biodiversity.			
Outcome: 15,000 hectares ¹ of rangeland brought under sustainable land management practices, 122 hectares ² of degraded land is restored in the Amboseli Landscape, safeguarding biodiversity and improving the livelihoods for over 876 people. ³	0.1 By EoP, ecosystem health on at least 122 ⁴ hectares of degraded rangeland has improved through intensive restoration. ⁵ (Baseline: mostly bare land Project target: 122 hectares with at least 70% good/palatable vegetation cover; improved soil health and increased wildlife in the restored area).	0.1 a) Wet and dry season vegetation assessments ⁹ ; (vegetation cover ¹⁰ , species composition ¹¹) in target and control areas; b) Rangeland condition assessments; c) Soil health (microbial biomass) assessments in year 1,3 and 5 (fungi & bacteria) ¹² in target and control area; d) Testimonials of changes in wildlife observations (specific large herbivores) in restoration areas by community members and rangers.	1. There will be no legal or political obstacles that would hinder the project's efforts to bring land under sustainable management. 2. The land tenure system is relatively stable; land subdivision plans take landscape restoration plans into account. 3. External factors, such as extreme weather events

¹ Area of rangeland with improved grazing management (restoration through resting)

² Area under active and intensive restoration

³ This will also contribute to an approximate extra reach of 86,910 people living in the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch (OGR), whose livelihoods depend on pastoralism. This number is based on figures provided by Land Use and Subdivision Plan, 2019. Given project constraints it will not be possible to measure this number.

⁴ 8 ha grass seed banks; 100 ha covered by soil bunds; 10 ha with chisel ploughing, 4 ha slopes covered with stone lines

⁵ Intensive restoration involves visible, hands-on interventions such as PMNR or bunds digging, while extensive restoration focuses on sustainable management practices that support gradual ecosystem recovery, such as grazing management

⁹ Methodology based on report by Dr. Wilfred O. Odadi, Ph. D Department of Natural Resources, Egerton University, Kenya (2022).

¹⁰ There is a minimum level of vegetation/grass cover of at least 70% (good/palatable).

¹¹ Here, at least 60% of the vegetation should be classified as decreasers and 40% as increasers. Methodology based on report by Dr. Wilfred O. Odadi, Ph. D Department of Natural Resources, Egerton University, Kenya (2022).

¹² Microbial biomass (fungi and bacteria) is the leading indicator of soil health. Soil biodiversity and biomass are essential drivers of ecosystem functions. Microbial biomass will be measured using a microbiometer kit.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	0.2 By EoP, vegetation cover has been maintained or increased on at least 15,000 ha of rangeland under sustainable land management practices⁶ (Baseline: to be established; project target: improved vegetation cover and positive trends in NDVI values in project areas compared to reference areas) 0.3 By EoP, an estimated 1,215,000 litres of water is retained/ prevented from running-off as a result of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) techniques.⁷ (Disaggregated by site). 0.4 By EoP, tree density within intensive restoration sites is approximately 20 trees per hectare⁸. (Baseline to be established). (Disaggregated by site). 0.5 By EoP, 146 pastoralists households (876 people) are directly benefitting from additional income and improved	0.2 a) Bi-Annual remote sensing analysis (bare ground frequency, NDVI trends in project areas compared with reference areas) GIS mapping; b) Vegetation assessment (for ground truthing) in 2 grazing zones and reference areas. 0.3 Annual run-off and infiltration modelling based on actual rainfall data, validated by field visit observations.¹³ 0.4 a) GIS mapping of restoration area; b) Tree count and registration during restoration activities; c) Field checks and observations (baseline & endline). 0.5 a) Records and registrations by implementing partner; b) Research project focusing on	or natural disasters, will not significantly disrupt the project's efforts to manage the targeted landscapes sustainably. 4. Communities will be willing and able to give us access to land to restore and commit to not graze the area until it is fully recovered.
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⁶ Grazing management to prevent overgrazing and allow for restoration through 'resting'

⁷ Estimate based on bund capacity and average rainfall over the last 20 years.

⁸ Trees will be pruned and restored through PMNR practices within the bund sites. As these are rangelands and not woodlands, tree density will be low.

¹³ Curve Number (CN) Method, optimised for soil type, vegetation cover, slope and precipitation. Huffman, R. L., Fangmeier, D. D., Elliot, W. J., & Workman, S. R. (2012). Infiltration and runoff. In *Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, Seventh Edition* (pp. 81-113). American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	livelihoods. (Project target: 146 community members gain additional income, of which 60% women).	income, gender equality and food security.	
Outputs: 1. Livelihood options developed for the social inclusion of Maasai women to improve their status in the household and community.	1.1 By EoY2, 2 new grass seed banks have been established and are operational (producing and selling indigenous grass seed ¹⁴ and hay). (Baseline: 3 grass seedbanks operational; project target: 5 grass seedbanks operational; producing 100 kg of Grass Seeds per year on average). 1.2 By EoY2, 40 Maasai women are organized in two groups and capable to manage the 2 grass seedbanks, applying new knowledge and skills on market literacy, group dynamics, and restoration techniques. Disaggregated by age and type of training.) (Baseline: total 89 women; project target total 129 women) (DI-A04) 1.3 By EoP, 100% of the grass seed banks are generating a profitable income (Project target: 2,700 GBP revenue per grass seed bank).	1.1 a) Suitability analysis (for site selection); b) GIS mapping of the sites; c) Partner progress reports (AET); d) Monitoring visit reports by Justdiggitt staff; e) Bi-annual analysis of grass seedbank harvest & sales records, validated with records of the central grass seed storage 1.2 a) Baseline and context analysis; b) Training attendance records; meeting records c) Partner progress reports (AET); c) JDI monitoring visit & training reports; d) Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews 1.3 Inventory and records on types and quantities of grass seeds collected and stored; business data	5. Environmental conditions, such as rainfall, will be sufficient to produce good grass seeds and hay yields in the seed bank. 6. Maasai women feel sufficiently supported by Justdiggitt and partner AET to participate in the training and project activities. 7. There will be sufficient demand and market opportunities for the additional livelihood products or services. 8. External factors, such as changes in market conditions or competition, will not adversely affect the viability of the additional livelihood options.

¹⁴ Eragrostis superba (Maasai love grass) and Cenchrus ciliaris (African foxtail)

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	1.4 By EoP, 2 Maasai women groups apply inclusive decision-making practices to determine the use and investment of income, ensuring fair and equitable benefits for all members. (Project target: decisions are taken collectively, and benefits are equally shared)	1.4 a) Meeting attendance records and meeting notes; b) Administrative records showing income and expenses; c) Testimonials from women and implementing partners about how income was used and how this was decided; collected with FGDs and Key Informant Interviews;	
2. Proven restoration techniques effectively implemented on 122 hectares of degraded land.	2.1 By EoY2, at least 50 hectares of land has been cleared from invasive species (mainly Acacia Nubica) and has been replaced with bunds and/or reseeded with indigenous grass seeds where needed. (project baseline: 0 hectares cleared, project target: 50 hectares cleared) 2.2 By EoY2, 8 hectares of rangeland has been brought under intensive restoration by the establishment of two grass seed banks. (Project target: 8 hectares). (DI-D01a & DI-D01b) 2.3 By EoY2, 100 hectares of rangeland has been brought under intensive restoration through the digging of 8100 bunds (81 per hectare). (Project target: 100 hectares) DI-D01b)	2.1 a) Quarterly partner progress reports (AET); b) Field observations and visual documentation by JDI MEL and technical staff during monitoring visits; c) GIS mapping of the cleared area; d) Field observations and pictures during midterm review and final evaluation 2.2 a) Quarterly Partner progress reports (AET); b) Field observations and and visual documentation by JDI MEL and technical staff; c) GIS mapping of the grass seedbanks 2.3 a) Quarterly partner records and report; b) field observations and and visual documentation by JDI MEL and technical staff; c) GIS mapping of the area under bunds; d) Annual remote sensing data analysis	9. There will be sufficient rain and a long enough rainfall period to enable proper water harvesting and sprouting of grass seeds.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	2.4 By EoY2, 2000 trees have been brought back through PMNR practices in the intensive restoration sites. Baseline: to be established Project target: 20 trees per hectare, on 100 hectares of land DI-D01b) 2.5 By EoY2, stone lines have been established in at least 4 hectares or rangeland.¹⁵ (Baseline: no stone lines or other erosion preventing structures present in the area). (DI-D01b) 2.6 By EoY2, at least 10 hectares have been chisel(DI-D01b) ploughed.¹⁶	2.4 a) Field observation reports and visual documentation by JDI MEL and technical staff b) Tree count and registration during restoration activities; c) GIS mapping of the restoration area 2.5 a) Quarterly Partner progress reports (AET); b) field observation and visual documentation by JDI MEL and technical staff; c) GIS mapping of the restoration area 2.6 a) Quarterly Partner progress reports (AET); b) field observation and visual documentation of JDI MEL and technical staff; c) GIS mapping of restoration area	
3. Training and capacity building provided on landscape restoration and sustainable land management practices.	3.1 By EoY2, 146 community members capable of implementing restoration techniques (bund digging, PMNR and managing grass seed banks) (Baseline: 0 community members; project target: 146 community members, of which at least 60% are women).	3.1 a) Training attendance records; b) Partner progress reports (AET); c) JDI monitoring visit & training reports; d) Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews during midterm review	10. Participants will actively engage in training sessions, workshops and capacity building activities and demonstrate a willingness to learn and apply the knowledge and skills acquired.

¹⁵ The establishment of stonelines is depending on the restoration needs, when there are steep slopes or signals of erosion. The amount of stonelines is depending on the site selection and the baseline assessment.

¹⁶ Within the restoration sites.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	(Disaggregated by gender and type of activity). 3.2 By EoP, 22 grazing committee representatives (from 11 grazing zones) are capable to better enforce grazing rules and grazing management plans and coordinate grazing pressure in 11 grazing zones covering 15,000 hectares. Baseline: to be established 3.3 By EoP, 5 implementing partner staff (AET) and 22 community members (grazing committees) apply new tools, knowledge, and skills to monitor improved vegetation and rangeland health, for informed decision making about grazing. Baseline: 0 staff and grazing committees trained	3.2. a) Training attendance records; b) Partner progress reports (AET); c) Baseline assessment and annual assessments of performance of the grazing committees; d) Wet and dry season Vegetation assessments with remote sensing; e) Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews during midterm review 3.3 a) Training attendance records; b) Training feedback and reports; c) Data quality checks and validation; d) Partner & community feedback on the tools	11. Communities will respect the grazing committees and adhere to the grazing rules.
4. Community members are consulted, informed, and engaged	4.1 By EoP, 9 community groups from 11 zones have increased awareness on restoration and protection through media-related activities. (Disaggregated by geography, type of activity, and local/ national level). Baseline: to be established (DI-C08)	4.1 a) Event agenda's; b) Event attendance records; c) Visual documentation of activities; d) Campaign reports from media partners; e) Focus Group Discussion with community members 4.2 a) Event agenda's; b) Event attendance records; c) Visual	12. The key stakeholders identified will be willing and open to engaging in the project and actively participating in discussions and decision-making processes. 13. Key stakeholders will be committed to the project's goals and will be willing to

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	4.2 By EoY3, members from 9 communities (including village leaders, grazing committees, women groups) have participated in 5 annual community consultation meetings and have contributed to restoration plans and activities. Project target: 45 community meetings organised. At least 50 % of participants are women. (attendance records disaggregated by gender)	documentation of activities; d) Campaign reports from media partners; e) Focus Group Discussion with community members	collaborate in implementing restoration initiatives and providing necessary support.
5. Stronger governance structures, improved land management plans	5.1 By EoP, all grazing committees have participated in 3 annual performance assessment workshops and at least 75% has improved their grazing performance (Baseline: first assessment has been done with the tool; project target: 3 annual assessments and workshops have taken place; 75% of grazing committees have improved their grazing management performance. 5.2 By EoP, representatives from 11 grazing committees have participated in 3 zonal cluster meetings, exchanged knowledge and information, and agreed on improved coordination between grazing zones.	5.1 a) Annual assessment of performance of grazing management committees, using the grazing management assessment tool; b) Reports of the validation and feedback workshops with the grazing committees 5.2 a) Meeting minutes and attendance records; b) Partner (AET) progress report; end of project evaluation c) Focus group discussions with grazing committees	14. Local communities and landowners will be actively engaged and involved in the sustainable land use or grazing management plans, ensuring that the proposed changes align with their needs and aspirations. 15. Aligning grazing management in connecting ecosystems, ensures that availability and use of resources on landscape level becomes more balanced and grazing pressure is spread over the wider Amboseli landscape area.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	(Baseline: 0 zonal cluster meetings) 5.3 By EoP, 20 key stakeholders (e.g. chiefs, police officers, community rangers, and warriors) have participated in bi-annual engagement meetings and actively supporting the grazing committees to monitor and enforce grazing rules. (Baseline: 0 engagement meetings) 5.4 By EoP, 9 community groups have actively participated in county-level stakeholder meetings, with key landscape stakeholders (e.g., county government) and highlighted their initiatives to gain support. (Baseline: 0 community groups) 5.5 By EoP, AET influenced 5 county-level policy processes through evidence-based recommendations from AET. (Disaggregated by type of government organization and level.) (Baseline: to be established) 5.6 By EoP, at least 2 community conservancies¹⁷ in the larger	5.3 a) Meeting minutes and attendance records; b) Partner (AET) progress report; c) Outcome harvesting workshop during mid-term review 5.4 a) Meeting and policy engagement records; b) partner progress reports (AET); 5.5 a) Meeting minutes and attendance records; b) Partner (AET) progress report; c) Resources produced for policy influencing. d) Outcome harvesting workshop during mid-term review 5.6 a) Meeting minutes; attendance records;	
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¹⁷ The community conservancies in the Amboseli Ecosystem are crucial in securing the intricate balance for the wildlife and communities in the landscape.

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

	Amboseli landscape have developed and implemented conservancy management plans to improve grazing practices, protect wildlife habitats and adopt natural greening techniques. (Baseline: to be established) (DI-B01)	b) Conservancy management plans, c) Quarterly partner reports, d) Testimonials of reported sighting of wildlife by community members and rangers, e) Reported incidents of human wildlife conflict in Amboseli Landscape (from Big Life Foundation annual reports)	
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for examples 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.) Output 1 1.1 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support AET and women's groups with technical advice and materials to establish two grass seed banks. 1.2 Identify and organise 40 women for the grass seed bank project, conduct baseline and needs assessments, and train them in market literacy, group dynamics, and technical skills. 1.3 Train AET staff and 40 women on record-keeping; analyse inventory and records. 1.4 Monitor group performance and assess group dynamics and livelihood benefits through focus group discussions. Output 2 2.1 Provide technical support to clear 40 hectares from invasive species, conduct monitoring visits, GIS mapping, and monitor vegetation to prevent new spreading. 2.2 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support establishment of grass seed banks, conduct monitoring visits, GIS mapping of site and monitoring visits. 2.3 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments, consult communities for site selection, support implementation of rainwater harvesting, GIS mapping and monitoring of bunds and vegetation. 2.4 Provide training on PMNR to bring back 2,000 trees; conduct monitoring visits. 2.5 Provide technical support and identify locations for stone lines, monitor effectiveness for erosion control, and make recommendations in the two conservancies. 2.6 Conduct suitability analysis and site assessments and support implementation of chisel ploughing; monitor impacts and map sites using GIS. Output 3 3.1 Train 40 Maasai women on grass seed bank techniques and 106 community members on restoration techniques (e.g., bund digging, PMNR, stone lines, clearing).			

Project Title: Restoring the Amboseli: Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration Initiative

3.2 Organise workshops for grazing committees on skills, mandate, and platform use; conduct vegetation monitoring.

3.3 Train 5 AET staff and 11 grazing committees on vegetation monitoring tools, establish a baseline, validate data, and support decision-making based on findings.

Output 4

4.1 Organise 16 school presentations, one annual radio show, five social media videos, and 20 annual market day events; analyse campaign reports.

4.2 Organise 45 community and Conservancy leadership meetings (5 annually) for consultation and awareness creation.

Output 5

5.1 Host three annual workshops with AET to review grazing committee performance and award the best zones; conduct annual assessments.

5.2 Facilitate three zonal cluster meetings annually to improve grazing coordination; conduct annual assessments.

5.3 Host bi-annual stakeholder meetings with local enforcers such as chiefs, police, community rangers, and warriors (youth) to support enforcement of grazing plans.

5.4 Facilitate community conservancy participation in county meetings and develop materials highlighting community-led conservation and restoration initiatives successes.

5.5 Participate in stakeholder consultations and develop policy recommendations aligning governance improvements with restoration goals.

5.6 Facilitate the development of a conservancy management plan, provide technical advice, and monitor implementation.