Practical ways to make space for place in the evaluation of Regreening

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Getting to know each other…

Q1: What is your technical background?



People Stuff - *Health, education, communities etc.*



Money Stuff - *Economics, business, markets etc.*



Environmental Stuff – *Soils, water, biodiversity etc.*

Getting to know each other...

Q2: How comfortable do you feel including biophysical changes in the environment in your evaluations?

 Not at all comfortable

 A little bit

 Very comfortable

Sometimes regreening impacts appear obvious



Somaliland, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration. 2024

But not always…



Baringo County, Kenya March 2023

World Vision and Ecosystem Restoration

1.6 million hectares of land under restoration, across **49 countries** since 2023.

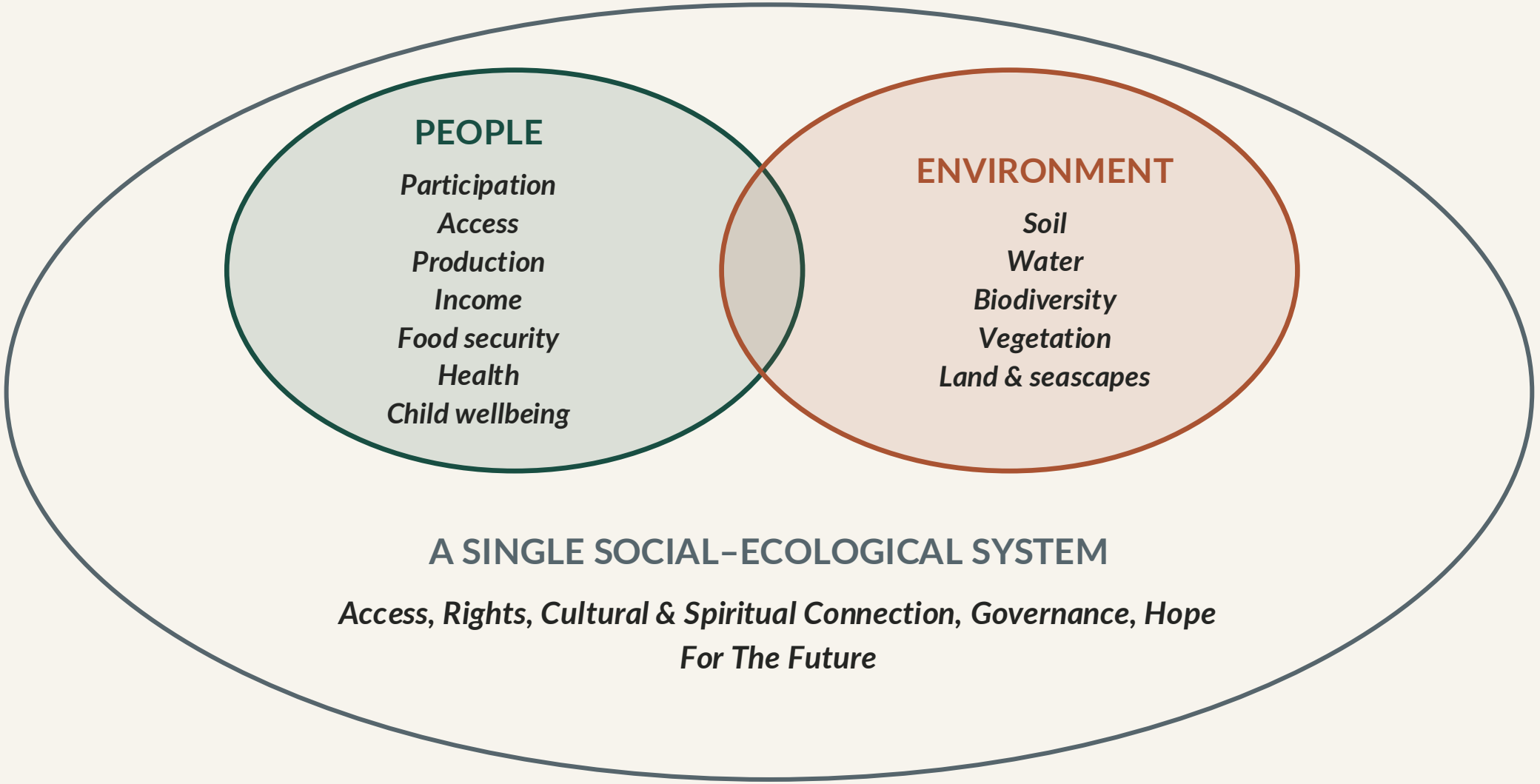
The current global project portfolio will take this to **3.2 million hectares.**

World Vision has committed to bring **27 million hectares under restoration** through our own programming and contribute to **scaling beyond** by 2033



The challenge…

How to bring in the environment to our organisational M&E systems….practically and at scale.



Regreening Communities Project Model – *Unique M&E Elements*

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Local foundations and organisational accountability drive systems change at scale.



1. COMMUNITY MAPPING & MONITORING

Local meaning

2. REGREENING INDEX

Comparable evidence

3. SPATIAL MAPPING

Understanding scale

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Define value: communities map & measure what matters



1. A Regreening Map

A landscape is never only land.
A map is never just a map.

Map…

- land or seacape
- valued places and resources
- seasonal uses and risks
- now & future vision

…Together:

- All groups in the community represented
- Different uses and benefits
- Different priorities and trade-offs
- Build common understanding

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Define value: communities map & measure what matters



2. Community led monitoring of change

- Community defined indicators of change
- Community observations and records
- Annual reflection and plan adaptation

"Imagine you are sitting here in 5 , 10 or 15 years time, what does your environment look like? What is different from today?"

"If your Regreening Plan is working, what things will you see, hear, feel, taste…?"

"Who can keep track of these?"

It's not about the data… it's about slowing down, observing, connecting and reflecting to make meaning together.

Try it out

Picture a land or seascape you know well....

What changes do you notice happening over time?

What do these mean do you think?

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Assess change: local judgement, made repeatable









How "regreened" is your landscape?

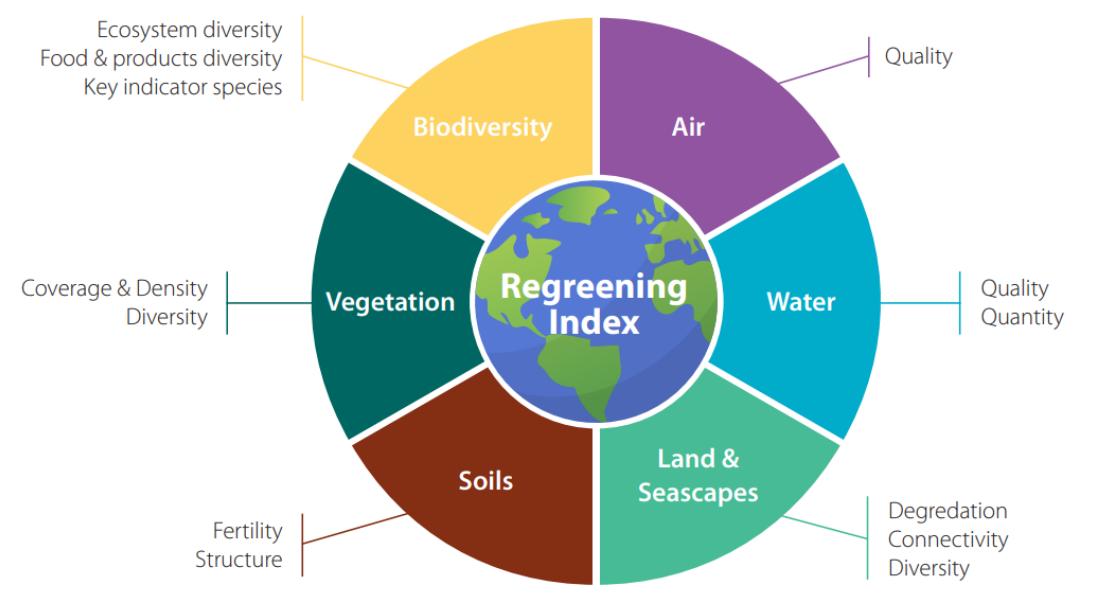
The Regreening Index allows communities to judge if their landscape has improved, in a way that is reportable by project staff

The conversation creates meaning.

The score creates consistency.

Regreening Index

A simple method to track Regreening Progress



For each domain of interest:

1. What is the current condition? Scored from 1 to 5.

1. Very degraded → 5. Ideal condition desired by the community

2. How is this aspect of the environment changing over time?

Getting better over time

No Change

Getting worse

Regreening Index Score calculated between 0 - 5

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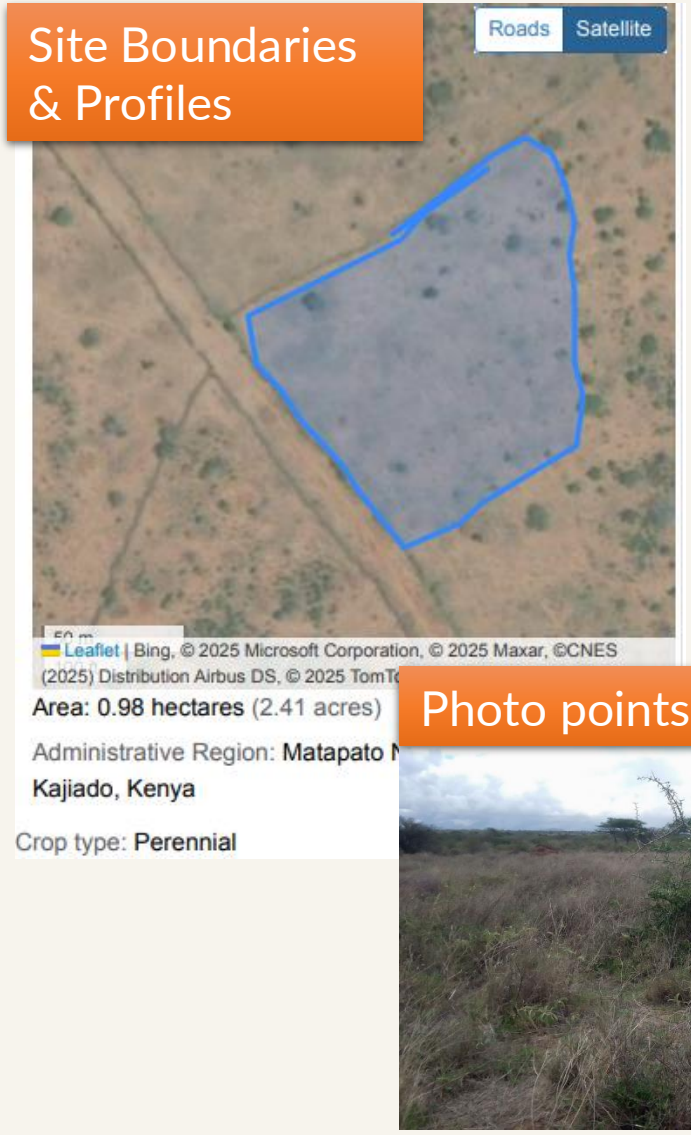
Make evidence transparent: identify where change is occurring

Restoration Site Mapping is done via mobile spatial data collection tools in the field to:

- Accurate measurement of area
- Records site management practices
- Tree counts or other rapid field observations
- Photo points

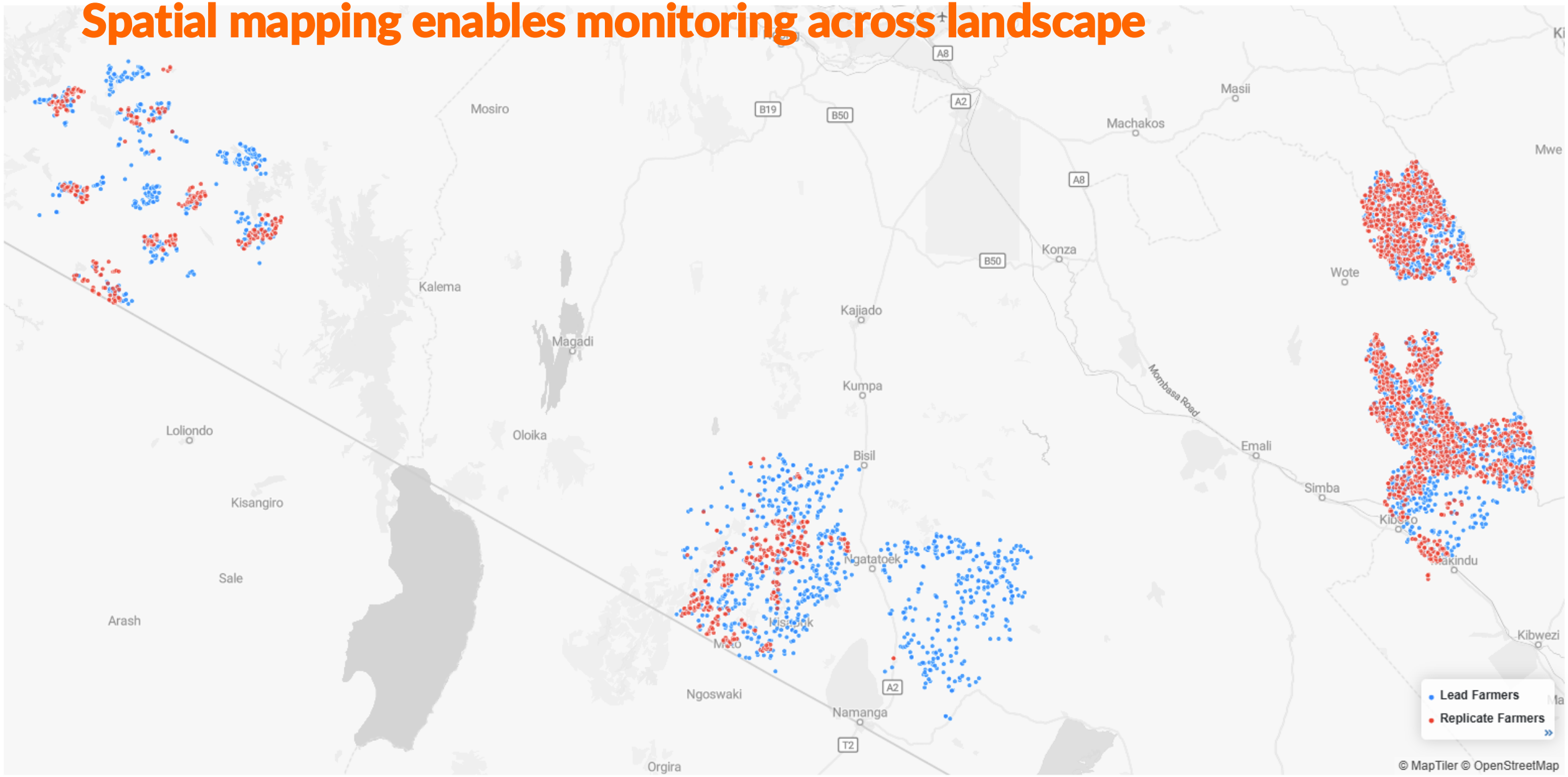
Mapping requires safeguards

- Site location and personal data protection
- suitable aggregation and reporting
- community understanding and support



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Spatial mapping enables monitoring across landscape



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Spatial mapping enables monitoring over time





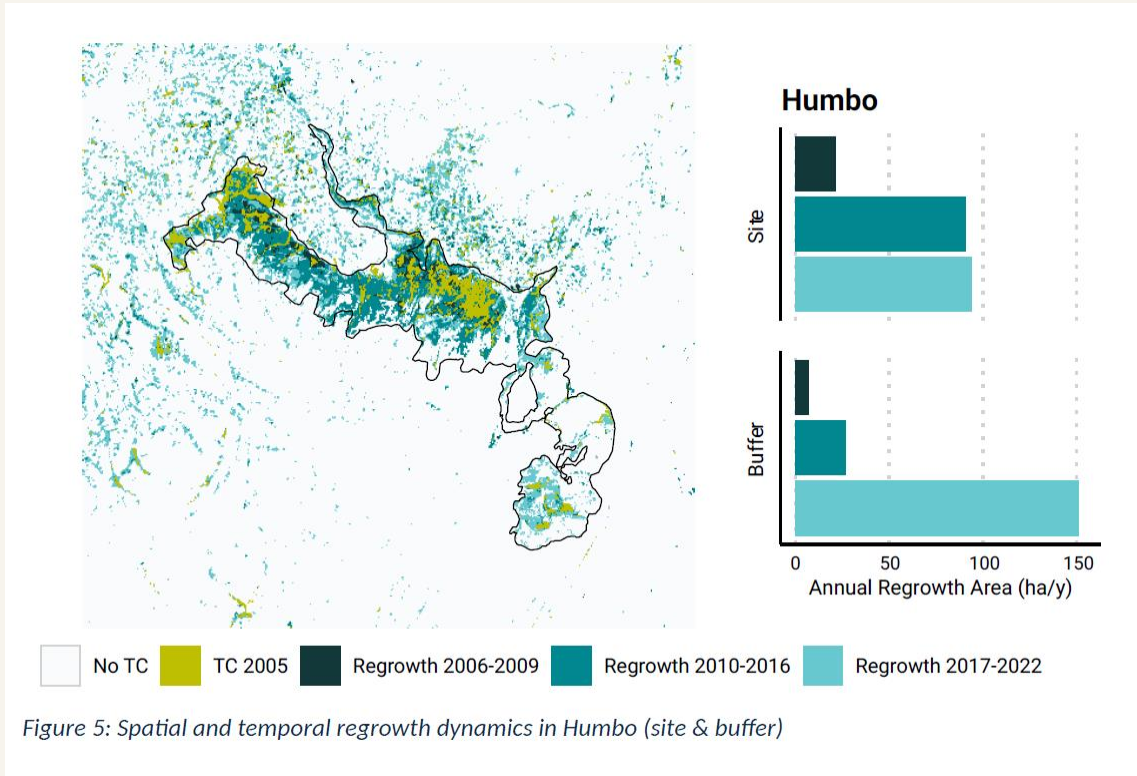


Figure 5: Spatial and temporal regrowth dynamics in Humbo (site & buffer)

Humbo, Community Forest Restoration Project, Ethiopia

So what?

There are practical ways to evaluate regreening at scale…

Place **communities as experts** and interpreters for the **environmental change that matters to them most**

Including **community perspectives in organisational systems** provides meaningful insights into the socio-ecological system of our work

Mapping makes regreening visible, and enables portfolio level learning and influence for scaling

What's Next?

- *Crowd in others, for greater understanding of collaborative impact across landscapes*
- *Develop more ways of observing and recording change through Citizen Science approaches*
- *Plan to account for long time horizons for some changes*
- *Recognise there are uneven benefits, tenure + power at play in all systems*
- *Comparisons of different ways of understanding change across different knowledge systems*
- *Tracking the journey of a community AND their landscape together*



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Join us...

Solstice for monitoring FMNR & Regreening

Solstice is a free, open-source, cloud-based, software platform available to *everyone*, *everywhere*.

We have developed freely available customizable tools for mapping and monitoring restoration sites within Solstice

Use these tools to easily share your restoration footprint and learn how your sites are changing over time, accurately and easily.

Go to the FMNR Hub to find out more.


Evaluating regreening in ways that are grounded in local knowledge not only improves our impact and demonstrates accountability…
… but provides compelling evidence to enable restoration at scale to meet the challenges that we face