

HALF YEAR REPORT - 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH JUNE 2018**Tribal Futures:**

Implementing schemes relating to improve and sustain the quality of life for tribal people in the Nilgiri Hills of South India.

Reporting period

1st January to 30th June 2018

Report Completed By:

Report Consolidated by: Mr. Kumar, M.Sc., Project Manager and Mr. Thiruselvan, B.A. (Field Coordinator)

Report Edited and Computerised by: Mr. M.L. Alphonse Raj, CEO, ISLAND TRUST.

Thrust Areas:

- a. Health;
- b. Human rights;
- c. Agriculture;
- d. Defence from attack by wild animals
- e. Irrigation and access to water
- f. Sewing Machines
- g. Solar Lighting
- h. Access to government support and resources to meet basic needs;

1.Aim

The overall aim of this 12-month programme is to help secure the sustainable and long-term future of tribal communities in 20 villages in Kotagiri Block.

2.Objectives

ISLAND Trust staff, Tamwed evaluators and members of these communities have agreed the following objectives:

- a. Ensuring that villagers have access to governmental and non-governmental health programmes, in particular those that improve diets and hygiene, and by promoting traditional and other medicines;
- b. Providing assistance for the production, consumption and sale of climate-adaptive fruit and vegetables and medicinal plants and herbs and for purchase of coffee pulper machines;
- c. Researching and implementing appropriate schemes for defending people and land from threats caused by wild animals;
- d. Improving constant access to fresh water for consumption and irrigation by providing water tanks and access to public water supplies;
- e. Providing grants towards the purchase of sewing machines for young men and women completing training for self-employment;
- f. Expanding solar village solar energy projects where possible;
- g. Ensuring that tribal communities are aware of their rights, particularly in relation to land, and are assisted in campaigns that promote their legal entitlement;
- h. Mobilising government resources wherever possible to meet the fundamental needs and infrastructure facilities of the tribal people.

3.Targets

A Project Manager, Field Coordinator and 10 village level volunteers will be appointed. They will be responsible to the ISLAND Trust CEO for meeting the following targets:

The following targets were suggested as relevant and achievable in relation to the objectives:

- a. Organise health camps and medical screening with Government Health Department and private players to identify and address health issues. Negotiating financial assistance from the Dept of Disabilities for those affected by Sickle Cell Anaemia (new scheme).
- b. Develop at least five organic gardens and/or 10 kitchen gardens and/or 15 acres of community organic gardens for climate-resistant, culinary and medicinal plants for consumption and sale. Purchase at least one coffee de-husker;
- c. Undertake research into methods of protecting people and land from wild animals with at least one pilot scheme in collaboration with the WWF and other partners;
- d. Provide water tanks and pipes in four of the neediest villages. Negotiate access to public water supplies for villages while educating communities on water conservation methods;
- e. Provide funding towards the purchase of at least ten sewing machines for unemployed young men and women and provide starter and on-going training in tailoring;
- f. Replicate the Kokkode solar village model with at least one more village;
- g. Organise land rights and other campaigns with at least two major events while maintaining liaison with government officials. Continue to negotiate land titles as per the Forest Rights Act;
- h. Strengthen tribal community organisations in at least 15 villages to enable representation for infrastructure and facilities such as housing, water supply and roads.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD IN RELATION TO OBJECTIVES & TARGETS

Objective A: Ensuring that villagers have access to governmental and non-governmental health programmes, in particular those that improve diets and hygiene, and by promoting traditional and other medicines.

Target A. Organise health camps and medical screening with the Government Health Department and private organisations to identify and address health issues. Negotiating financial assistance from the Dept of Disabilities for those affected by Sickle Cell Anaemia (new scheme).

Activity:

- Monthly awareness meetings were conducted in our tribal villages with Village Health Nurses, Village Health Visitors and Integrated Child Development Centre Health workers to sensitize the community on various health schemes of the government and addressing the anaemia and sickle cell issues among the community. The community was also motivated to make use of the Government's Mobile Clinic visiting them once every 15 days to each village. Our staff members work in close collaboration with this Government Health Care Providers during their field visits and make the medical facilities available to our villagers.
- **A consultation meeting** was held with the Medical Officer (Doctor), Nurses and mobile unit members of Primary Health Centre, Sholurmattam on 11.06.2018 to review the health status of tribal people in our working villages. The Government Health Functionaries expressed happiness about the response of our target group people to the PHC for their health needs and the reduction of anaemia among women and children in our working villages. It was appreciated that more number of tribal women now preferred deliveries in the hospital than in the houses.
- Special focus was given to new villages such as Vagapanai and Semmanarai which are isolated from the main road. Adolescent girls and young women were given sensitization training on health and

reproductive health care on 9th and 10th March. The village health nurse Mrs. Shanthamani conducted the training and answered to the FAQ of the young women. 20 kgs. Of nutritional supplement were distributed in each village.

- 6 persons and 3 children who are affected by Sickle Cell Anaemia in Araiyoor and Bangalapadigai have been referred to the District Disability Department for monthly financial assistance.
- World Tuberculosis (Prevention) Day was observed in Karikaiyoor village on 24th March 2018 and awareness was given to tribal people about the causes, symptoms and effects of TB. 42 people participated. Sputum collection was done for 34 people who had one or the other symptom of TB with only 2 being tested positive. Yet due to smoking, alcohol and sneezing without protection many of the tribal people are prone to become positive. This was highlighted and proper education was given.

Objective B. Providing assistance for the production, consumption and sale of climate-adaptive fruit and vegetables and medicinal plants and herbs and for purchase of coffee pulper machines.

Target B: Develop at least five organic gardens and/or 10 kitchen gardens and/or 15 acres of community organic gardens for climate-resistant, culinary and medicinal plants for consumption and sale. Purchase at least one coffee de-husker;

Activity:

- Vegetable seeds have been distributed to 184 families in 20 villages for Kitchen garden. 10 varieties of vegetable seeds and greens have been given. Already people have begun to harvest the culinary / greens for their domestic use and sale. They are yet to harvest the vegetables. Only iron and protein rich vegetable seeds have been given. All families have been clearly instructed to cultivate them organically. People are also conscious of this practice.
- Training on Organic Farming and preparation of organic manure and insecticide was conducted on 6th and 7th March 2018. 40 farmers attended in this training. One of the progressive farmers who is practicing organic agriculture in a tribal community conducted the two day training with demonstrations. The simple techniques of preparing manure and insecticide with locally available materials were found to be very useful for tribal people.
- 6 types of herbal plants (e.g. Thyme, Rosemary, Peppermint, Tulsi, Vasambu, Vettiver) were distributed to the farmers to be grown in their gardens.
- A herbal garden was inaugurated on 17th March in Island Trust campus at Kotagiri in memory of Mr. Periyasamy who served in Island Trust for several years as its Care Taker. The idea was given by Mr. Oz Osborne and as per his suggestion a herbal demo garden has been established.
- 10 farmers have also started organic vegetable cultivation in their farm lands in Mallikoppaiyoor, Nadoor, Anilkadu and Kongattupudur. They are cultivating Curry Beans and creeper varieties of vegetables in their garden. Another 30 farmers have started cultivating small millets (traditional food grains) in 25 acres of land in Vakkanamaram and Samaikodal area. They are now requesting for Solar Fencing for protecting their crops.
- Coffee de-husker have not yet been purchased but will be supplied during the Coffee season in November.

Objective C. Researching and implementing appropriate schemes for defending people and land from threats caused by wild animals;

Target C: Undertake research into methods of protecting people and land from wild animals with at least one pilot scheme in collaboration with the WWF and other partners;

Activity:

- After lengthy discussions and serious analysis, work has been started for making solar fencing in Bargur tribal village at an estimate of Rs.1,45,085. People are quite fascinated about having the solar fencing. Due to cost escalation of materials Rs.10,000 of the project cost has increased. Island Trust will bear the extra cost.
- More villages are asking for the fencing. Already two villages have been visited and site inspection has been done. WWF and Island Trust are going to study the necessity and feasibility of such fencing in those villages.
- Island Trust has also made efforts to meet the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Tamil Nadu Government for getting some funds to extend this support to many villages.

Objective D: Improving constant access to fresh water for consumption and irrigation by providing water tanks and access to public water supplies;

Target D: Provide water tanks and pipes in four of the neediest villages. Negotiate access to public water supplies for villages while educating communities on water conservation methods;

Activity:

- Island Trust mobilized funds from American College, Madurai to provide drinking water facility to the tribal school in Kongattu Pudur. The college students donated a 1000 litre water tank with necessary pipes and tapes. This was given to the school in the month of February. TAMWED resource is not used so far for providing water tanks and pipes during this six months. Since the summer this year was not very severe and there was no shortage for drinking or irrigation water, the need did not arise. But due to our campaign and pressure, the district administration fitted a motor pump in an open well to provide drinking water for the tribal people of Jakkapadigai village who were demanding the pump set for years.

Objective E: Providing grants towards the purchase of sewing machines for young men and women completing training for self-employment;

Target E: Provide funding towards the purchase of at least ten sewing machines for unemployed young men and women and provide starter and on-going training in tailoring

Activity:

- 10 sewing machines were purchased in the month of March 2018 and distributed to the following villages: **1.** Sholurmattam Training Centre: 3 machines (10 girls completed training. New batch will start soon). **2.** Samaikodal: 2 machines (20 youth are learning) **3.** Kokkal (Kota Tribes): 2 machines. One is given and next one will be given after seeing the progress of the centre (10 women are learning) **4.** Semmanarai: 2 machines. One is given and next one will be given after seeing the progress of the centre (15 girls are learning) **5.** Kongattupudur: 1 machine (5 girls are learning).
- Already 5 machines had been given to Mallikoppaiyoor, Vakkanamaram and Kokkode villages during last year which are being used by young women.

- Totally around 80 boys and girls are learning sewing in our villages. We hope that these young boys and girls will get employment in Kotagiri and surrounding towns or self employed in their own villages or nearby towns.
- Our staff are motivating more young boys and girls to join the training sessions.

Objective F: Expanding solar village solar energy projects where possible;

Target F: Replicate the Kokkode solar village model with at least one more village;

Activity:

- Three villages- Semmanarai, Vagappanai and Koppaiyoor - have applied for getting solar lighting. Due to cost escalation and fund shortage during the first half year, this activity will be carried out in the coming half year.
- Kokkode scheme is a good success. People are happy about the solar lights. SELCO company has done their follow up service. No complaint was raised by the people.

Objective G: Ensuring that tribal communities are aware of their rights, particularly in relation to land, and are assisted in campaigns that promote their legal entitlement;

Target G: Organise land rights and other campaigns with at least two major events while maintaining liaison with government officials. Continue to negotiate land titles as per the Forest Rights Act;

Activity:

- A two day land rights workshop was conducted for the tribal leaders of our working villages on 16th and 17th of April 2018 in Island Trust Hall. Tribal leaders from 10 districts of Tamil Nadu also participated to review the situation of forest land distribution to the tribal people in the state. It was reported that Nilgiris was the first district to receive the land title. It was informed that more than 200 tribes from Nilgiris had received IFR and majority of them were from Kotagiri Taluk. Yet it was observed that the extent of land given to the individuals was less than the lands enjoyed by them for generations. Therefore it was decided to submit revision petition for all those who received lesser extent of lands than their original enjoyment. It was also decided that villages that had received Individual Forest Right (IFR) should now work towards getting Community Forest Right (CFR).
- **Case Study:** Anilkadu was a forest settlement of Kurumba tribes. Because of forest settlement, no infrastructure facilities were given by the government. Island Trust first gave the 12 families Solar Lighting system in 2013. Then we applied for land rights (title deeds). This year all the families have got individual land rights from the government and therefore the village has become Revenue Village which is eligible to get all facilities including housing, water, sanitation, road and electricity.
- As a follow up of the two day workshop, one day training was conducted for the youth leaders of Tribal Futures project in the Field office at Sholurmattam on 24th June. 22 youngsters participated. They were trained on the procedures of applying for CFR and the documents to be enclosed. Then a team of 3 members were selected to follow up and guide all the 20 village communities to apply for the CFR. They were given specific assignment of preparing maps for getting CFR for their villages.
- Two members of the youth also participated in the state level tribal federation meeting on 9th July in Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai district and highlighted the problems in getting land rights according to the letter and spirit of the Forest Right Act 2006.

Objective H: Mobilising government resources wherever possible to meet the fundamental needs and infrastructure facilities of the tribal people.

Target H: Strengthen tribal community organisations in at least 15 villages to enable representation for infrastructure and facilities such as housing, water supply and roads;

Activity:

- With the cooperation of the people from Vagapanai, we submitted a petition and then visited the forest department and the district administration to get a road for Vagapanai village which is 7 kilometers away from the main road. The District Collector has ordered the Forest Department to prepare plans for a road to this village. The obstacle of the forest department has been removed.
- In the same way, Semmanarai village also had problems from the Forest department for getting a cement road. This also was resolved by mobilising people to represent to the district collector. The road is being laid now.
- One more achievement was getting road facility to Araiyoor- Kakkakoonda village from the Mettupalayam highways road. Previous road had been laid about 25 years back. Now after many years struggle and by our constant intervention from last year, the road scheme was sanctioned for 4 kilometers from the connecting road and a good road has been laid.
- House renovation has been sanctioned for 10 houses in Kumaramudi village which had been poorly constructed by the Government Contractors 15 years back. After exposing this issue in the media last year and also by submitting personal petition by the people, the district admin has sanctioned funds for renovation.
- The Kota tribe women from Kokkal village were asking for Pottery Wheel for their self employment. We have been trying to get one from the government department. We could not get from any government department including Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It has now been identified that we can get the wheel from Coimbatore for Rs.20,000. We have taken efforts to get this amount from the Tribal Welfare Department to revive this traditional artisan work which would be run by Kota women.

Month	Actions & Targets	Achieved / Not achieved
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint staff. Set up admin. Draft Roles and Responsibilities for Staff and sign contracts. • Baseline survey in 20 villages. • Finalisation of Annual Report and Statement of accounts • Participate in Grama Sabha (Jan.26th) and pressure for tribal land titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfilled • Accomplished • Submitted • Attended and pressurized
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review survey. Draft Action Plan. • Project awareness-raising event / 2 days training for new staff (Kotagiri) • Set up MAG to meet each quarter / meeting with Anganwadi workers. • Initiation of Solar Fencing Work in Burgur with WWF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized • Training conducted • MAG team formed • Delayed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of Field office in Sholurmattam. • Purchase of 10 Sewing Machines from Coimbatore • Inauguration of Tailoring Training Centre in Sholurmattam • Distribution of seeds and saplings • Conduct Health Camp in a new village – Vagappanai (Nutritional supplement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field office opened • 10 Sewing machines purchased & distributed. • Tailoring Centre inaugurated • People did not want in this month (on set of summer) • Conducted and nutritional supplement distributed

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly review and report / MAG meeting / Village Animators meeting • Provide water tank and PVC hose pipes in Kolatty • Conduct Health Camp in Kongattupudur village and school and distribution of nutritional supplements • World Water Day / Forests Day / Earth Hour seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAG meeting and Animators meeting conducted • Not given • Joined with Government Health Dept. Nutritional supplements distributed • Not observed
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Camps:– Children’s Camp (2 clusters) and Climate Change Awareness Camp (Exhibition / stall in 2 places) • Participate in Grama Sabha (May 1st) and pressurize land / social rights for tribes • Education Awareness Campaign in 2 /3 villages (Rally and Cultural programme) • Completion and inauguration of Solar Fencing in Burgur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s camps conducted in two areas. Climate Change Exhibition during summer festival in Kotagiri. • Participated and raised tribal issues in 3 panchayat Grama Sabha meetings. • Conducted in Karikaiyoor and Kadinamala (Kothimukku) • Delayed
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Environment Day Celebration: Seeds and Equipments distribution in 5 villages for organic farming • Consultation meeting with Government PHCs and Anganwadi workers re health issues • Feasibility study for Solar fencing activity in one village • Land Rights Seminar at Kotagiri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted in Kadasolai school and saplings distributed • Conducted in Sholurmattam office with stakeholders • Ongoing. • Conducted in April at Kotagiri and June (at Sholurmattam field office)

CONCLUSION

Island Trust has started its 8th year of partnership with TAMWED in Nilgiris district. Our partnership initially began as a Climate Change Education and Mitigation project, but now the scope of our work has expanded to improve livelihoods to tribal communities in a cluster of villages. We owe our gratitude to TAMWED for being flexible and open to new ideas and situations. Even though our financial and human resources are limited, we have been able to produce the desired results because of the goodwill and cooperation of tribal people. We have been able to resolve fundamental issues of their life which not many organizations endeavour to address. We are grateful to Tamwed for its true sense of partnership and encouragement to Island Trust to function as rights oriented organization while at the same time paying attention to the extreme situation of the tribal communities. We have inducted new staff this year and in spite of their first exposure to social work, they have been able to build good rapport with the tribal communities and able to produce tangible results in the past six months. If TAMWED could consider higher salary to the committed youngsters, we can ensure sustainability of the project results and proper continuity.

We also experienced an unexpected tragedy that happened to our accountant who was looking after Tribal Futures funds. Luckily she has recovered (partially) and resumed duty from 23rd July. Despite her illness, she has prepared the accounts statement for this report. I thank TAMWED for donating Rs. 10,000 for her treatment.

M.L. ALPHONSE RAJ
Managing Trustee
28.07.2018

ACCOUNTS 01.01.18 – 30.06.2018

EXPENSES

	ITEM	12 MONTH BUDGET	ACTUAL JAN-JUN	FORECAST JUL-DEC	FORECAST BALANCE
1	Project Manager Salary: Rs 7,000 x 5 months (to June). Rs.8,000 x 6 months (to Dec)	83,000	35,000	48,000	00
2	Field Coordinator: Rs6,000 x 5 months(to June). Rs.7000 x 6 months (to Dec)	72,000	30,000	42,000	00
3	Animators honorarium 10 x 2 villages (Rs.500 x10 x 11)	55,000	20,000	25,000	-10,000
4	Documentation & Communication Secretary (Rs.4,000 x 12)*	48,000		24,000	-24,000
5	Training, seminars, events (Staff, Youth, Volunteers)	50,000	13,000	37,000	00
6	Travel – staff and volunteers	47,800	14,000	30,000	-3,800
7	Meetings, events, land rights claims	50,000	12,320	35,000	-2,680
8	Medical equip't (donated or paid for by government)	0			
9	Nutritional supplements to 150 women and children	20,000	12,000	8,000	00
10	Medical Check-ups for anaemia and health camps	15,000	6,000	9,000	00
11	Sewing machinesx10@Rs.6,500+Training (Rs2,500 x12)	95,000	57,120	36,000	-1,880
12	Seeds, fencing, net, water tanks	50,000	8,200	41,800	00
13	Animal-proofing (or other measures) – 1 village	85,310*		85,310	00
14	Solar lighting – One village of 12 houses (if feasible)	80,000		80,000	00
15	Coffee De-husker	27,000		27,000	00
16	Exposure visits (farmers) and land rights (tribal youth)	30,000		30,000	00
17	Support (shoes, books etc) for tribal schools	20,000	15,000	5,000	00
18	Admin, tailor centre, phone, accounts (Rs.3,000x12)	36,000	18,000	18,000	00
19	TOTAL	864,110	240,640	581,110	-42,360
20	Management (ISLAND Trust @ 10%)	86,410	43,205	43,205	
21	GRAND TOTAL (19+20) ISLAND TRUST	950,520	283,845	624,315	-42,360
22	2017 – Underspend with Island Trust	154,930			
	2018 – Funds Received from TAMWED	416,377			
	Total available in Jan 2018	571,307			
23	Total expenditure from Jan to Jun 2018	283,845			287,462
24	Funds Required (Rs.379,213 – Rs.42,360)	336,853			

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Opening Balance	571,307
Expenditure	283,845
Balance	287,462
Required Funds For Next Half Year	336,853