

TRIBAL FUTURES 2017



Tamwed
Gellings Park West,
Harewood Rd, Calstock
Cornwall PL18 9QN, UK
www.tamwed.org



ISLAND Trust
14/56-58, Club Road,
Kotagiri - 643217
The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India
www.islandtrust.org.in

1. Summary

This plan is for a 12-month project to provide needed support for 1,274 tribal (Adivasi) people in 17 villages in the Nilgiri Hills of South India. It responds to serious indicators of deprivation and hardship among the indigenous population that is fast reducing due to a range of factors including emigration in search of work and a high mortality rate among women and children. The programme will aim to tackle the cause and effect of these and other indicators by providing practical solutions for those with the greatest need. Research after the review of a previous programme with 35 villages has established the priorities for action listed in this plan. The ultimate aim is to secure the long-term future and self-sufficiency of the most vulnerable of tribal communities in the area.

The project will be managed by the ISLAND Trust, an established local NGO with considerable experience of work with tribal people in the Nilgiri District.

2. Background

The Nilgiris is part of a range of forested mountains that is well known for their flora and fauna. Clearance for tea and coffee plantations together with poorly regulated development has had a negative impact on both the sensitive natural environment and the indigenous population. Displaced tribal groups have needed to adapt to a changing lifestyle with many of them taking up labouring, tea-picking and farming or, as a last resort, migrating in search of work. Climate change is causing an increasing problem with long periods of drought followed by severe storms that damage homes, crops and infrastructure. The ISLAND Trust staff became concerned about the level of malnourishment among mothers and children, which they found to be an indication of unacceptably poor standards of health and welfare and leading to a high rate of mortality. Stomach problems are very common which health workers say is due to a poor diet and inappropriate medicines. Staff also recorded that the level of enrolment and retention in school by tribal children, particularly girls, was extremely low with unreliable sources of government data.



Members of the Toda tribe at an event to raise awareness about land rights.

Many tribal farmers are allowed to clear land for small-scale farming that is becoming unviable as crops fail due to climate change and raids by wild elephants, gaur and other animals that are losing their habitat and sources of food. Ownership of 90% of lands, cultivated and cared for by tribal communities for generations, has been in dispute. The ISLAND Trust has found that illiteracy, ignorance and the timidity of tribal people makes them reluctant to claim their legal rights affirmed by a Supreme Court ruling. Most tribal families are eligible for basic and low quality government food and fuel rations due to their low level of income. Adults can attract a small wage by labouring on employment schemes that is both undignified and unsustainable. The most recent census revealed that 90% of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu earn less than Rs.5,000 (£60) a month and classified 60% of tribal people in Tamil Nadu under 'Deprived Groups'. The Centre for Tribal and Rural Development describes the situation affecting tribal people in the Nilgiris: "The living conditions

of these rural populations are often deplorable, with very low standards of living, little earnings, poor education and insufficient access to adequate healthcare.” A recent study titled: ‘Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve: Fading Glory’, reported that the literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes in the area is only 30% (18% for women) compared to a 52% average for the country.

3. Need

The need for this programme was established by research during December 2016 at the end of a project that tackled a range of issues in 35 tribal villages. It was decided to focus on the priorities suggested for action by the villagers themselves in 17 of the poorest and most isolated communities – those that are not receiving support available to those that are more accessible. The issues were:

- 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.



Many tribal people are obliged to work on tea plantations - developed from forest land that was once their traditional home.

4. Aims and Objectives

In response to these priorities, the overall aim of this 12-month programme is to help secure the sustainable and long-term future of tribal communities in 17 villages in Kotagiri Block. Members of the communities involved have negotiated the following objectives with the ISLAND Trust during surveys and liaison:

- 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. Ensuring that tribal communities are aware of their rights, particularly in relation to land, and are assisted in campaigns that promote their legal entitlement;
- c. Providing assistance for the production, consumption and sale of climate-adaptive fruit and vegetables and medicinal plants and herbs;
- d. Researching and piloting methods of defending people and land from threats caused by wild animals;
- e. Improving constant access to fresh water for consumption and irrigation by providing water tanks and access to public water supplies;
- f. Providing grants towards the purchase of sewing machines for young women completing training;
- g. Piloting solar energy units in a sample of villages.

5. Targets

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

- a. Appoint one volunteer from each village to act as a link between the ISLAND Trust and their communities which they will represent at meetings and events;
- b. Organise land rights and other campaigns with at least two major events while maintaining constant liaison with government officials;
- c. Develop at least five organic gardens in each participating village (or develop 15 acres of community land) that produce a range of climate-resistant, culinary and medicinal plants for personal consumption and sale;
- d. Undertake research into methods of protecting people and land from wild animals with at least two pilot schemes;

- e. Provide funding towards the purchase of at least four sewing machines for young women who have completed training;
- f. Provide water tanks and necessary pipes in seven of the neediest villages. Negotiate access to public water supplies for villages where this is feasible;
- g. Research and pilot a community solar lighting system in at least one village.

6. Method

An experienced Project Manager with the help of an Assistant Manager/Field Worker (one at least from tribal communities) and a Project Secretary will manage the Project. The ISLAND Trust CEO will supervise all activities. Detailed job descriptions will be agreed.

7. Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

Direct beneficiaries will be 347 families living in 17 remote villages of Kotagiri Block in the Nilgiris Hills. Indirect beneficiaries will be other tribal and marginalised communities in the District and beyond who will be invited to take part in events and project activities to learn from the experience and initiate similar programmes. Stakeholders will include Government departments, NGOs, tribal representative groups and academic institutions that will be engaged in the programme.

8. Training

Qualified health, agriculture and other professionals with experience in implementing community programmes will deliver induction and ongoing training. Records will be kept of all training sessions that will be evaluated by participants. Village representatives will attend basic training in health and other relevant issues and assist in the running of awareness-raising programmes. Project staff will attend training as recommended by their CEO.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Tamwed uses tried and tested M&E systems that begin with the establishment of baseline measurements using a sample of indicators in line with a project's objectives. The Project Manager is responsible to the CEO of the ISLAND Trust for quarterly reports on progress against targets that are discussed at meetings of a Project Monitoring and Advisory Group (MAG) of stakeholders that includes project beneficiaries. Tamwed's Secretary, who trains in Monitoring and Evaluation and conducts evaluations for overseas funders, will undertake a visit towards the end of the programme. Tamwed's committee, which includes those experienced in overseas project delivery, will review reports.

10. Exit Strategy and Sustainability

Before the end of the 12-month programme, there will be a review of progress and lessons learned. This will result in an assessment of the potential for any follow-up project that would tackle outstanding issues and/or increase scope to other needier beneficiaries. Those trained during the year will be expected to have sufficient skills and knowledge to be able to train others within their own and wider communities. The ultimate aim is for complete self-sufficiency for target communities.

11. ISLAND Trust

The ISLAND Trust has been working in the area since 1984 to support marginalised indigenous tribal communities. The organisation works with other NGOs and with government departments on rights, climate change and other issues. The ISLAND Trust which is based in Kotagiri, manages a health programme and a Care Home / Clinic in nearby Ooty the headquarters of the district.

12. Tamwed

Tamwed is a registered charity based in South West England managed by a committee with long professional and personal experience of work with NGOs in South India. The organisation has few overheads and expects high standards of project management and delivery from its partner NGOs. Tamwed only works with the neediest of communities with projects that aim to provide long-term social and economic self-sufficiency while respecting local culture.

13. Budget

Expenditure

No	Item	Rs
1	Project Manager (Rs.11,500 x 12)	138,000
2	Assistant Project Manager (Rs.6,000 x 12)	72,000
3	Village Volunteer's honorarium (Rs.200 x 17 x 12)	40,800
4	Documentation & Communication Secretary (Rs.4,000 x 12)	48,000
5	Training	60,000
6	Travel (participants & staff)	36,000
7	Meetings, events, land rights claims (Rs.10,000 x 5)	50,000
8	Medical equipment (donated or paid for by government)	0
9	Nutritional supplements to 200 women and children @ Rs.300	60,000
10	Medical Check-up for anaemia and village health camps	30,000
11	Sewing machines x 4 @ Rs.8,000	32,000
12	Seeds and equipment for gardens	20,000
13	Animal-proofing (or other measures)	120,000
14	Solar lighting units x 6	30,000
15	Exposure visits to other organisations.	30,000
16	Support to poor tribal schools to improve their infrastructure	20,000
17	Administration, phone, accounts etc (Rs2,000 x 12)	24,000
18	TOTAL	810,800
19	Management (ISLAND Trust @ 10%)	81,080
20	Minus ISLAND Trust's contribution (5%)	40,500
21	TOTAL (18 + 19 -20) ISLAND TRUST	851,380
21	Minus balance brought forward	200,917
22	TOTAL	650,463

£7,932*

Notes on budget:

Row 2: Rs1,000 is reduced from the previous budget in salary to Assistant Project Manager.

Row 3: Since a target is fixed to appoint one volunteer from each target village, we will appoint a tribal woman volunteer to function as link between the community and the organisation. Their role will be to conduct meetings in the village, inform land rights issues and help implement the project activities. Therefore it is desired to pay at least a small remuneration for their support in the village.

Income

Source	£*	
Ashworth Trust	3,000	Secured
Tamwed fundraising	4,932	
TOTAL	7,932	

***Exchange rate: Rs. 82 to £1 (01.02.2017)**

14. Programme

Month	Actions & Targets
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint staff. Set up admin. • Baseline survey in 15 villages. • Finalization of Annual Report and Statement of accounts • Participate in Grama Sabha (Jan.26th) and pressurize for resolution to distribute land title for tribes
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review survey. Drafting Action Plan. • Project awareness-raising event / 2 days training for staffs (Thengumarahada) • Set up MAG to meet each quarter / meeting with Anganwadi workers. • Painting of Hallimoyar Balwadi (Children Day Care Centre) – 40 tribal children • <u>Conduct feasibility study in 6 villages with Mr. Max, TAMWED volunteer to set up solar fencing in one or two villages.</u> • Depute TAMWED Volunteer Ms. Sarah with German Students for school intervention in Havvoor.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the Field Study report of Mr. Max with budget and submit to TAMWED. • Finalize the village/s for Solar Fencing. • Inaugurate Sewing Centre in Mallikoppaiyoor & Vakkanamaram (for Samaikodal, Mudiyoor and Kokkodu girls) • Conduct Health Camp in a new village – Vagappanai (Nutritional supplement)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly review and report / MAG meeting / Experience sharing of Volunteers • Provide 2 water tanks and PVC hose pipes in Koppaiyoor and Kolatty. • Conduct Health Camp in Kongattupudur (Nutritional supplement) and school improvement
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Camps:- Children's Camp (2 clusters) and Climate Change Camp (Exhibition / stall in 2 places) • Participate in Grama Sabha (May 1st) and pressurize land rights for tribes • Education Awareness Campaign in 2 /3 villages. • Initiate Solar Lighting in Purgur
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Environment Day Celebration: Seeds and Equipments distribution in 5 villages for organic farming. • Initiate Solar fencing activity in one village. • Land Rights Seminar at Kotagiri
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term (half yearly) review and report. • Health Awareness Camp, Sholurmattam / Karikaiyoor (Nutritional supplement)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Health and Environment Awareness Programme – 4 schools • Participate in Grama Sabha (Aug.15th) and pressurize for speedy implementation of FRA 2006 • Health Camp in 2 villages (Nutritional supplement)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Kitchen Garden in 100 houses • Exposure visit / training.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Grama Sabha (Oct.2nd) and follow up of the implementation of FRA 2006 and inclusion of missed out tribal families in the selection list • Quarterly Review and Report / MAG meeting • Consultation meeting with Government PHCs and Anganwadi workers
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a District Level Programme for Tribal Rights and Welfare • Monitoring visit of Mr. Oz – Annual Review and planning
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final month review and report. • Proposal Development and budget preparation