

# TRIBAL FUTURES 2018



**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 programme to provide much-needed support for 1,450 tribal (Adivasi) people in the Nilgiri Hills of South India. The indigenous tribal population is fast reducing due to a range of factors including a high mortality rate among women and children and emigration in search of work. This programme will address serious indicators of malnutrition, deprivation and hardship among 4 tribal groups living in 20 villages. The programme will tackle the cause and effect of these and other indicators by providing practical solutions and material support for those with the greatest need. Research and a review of the previous annual programme with 25 villages has established priorities for the actions listed. The ultimate aim is to secure the long-term future and self-sufficiency of the most vulnerable tribal communities in the Nilgiri District.

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

## 2. Background and Need

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 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. ISLAND Trust staff, working closely with the local population, became concerned about the level of malnourishment among tribal mothers and children. They found this indicated unacceptably poor standards of health and welfare which led 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 recorded that the level of enrolment and retention in school by tribal children, particularly girls, was extremely low and that the more isolated tribal communities were not able to attract the support for health, housing and employment which was available to more accessible communities

“More than half of the tribal people in the area where the government health project is implemented are anaemic, according to activists and doctors working with the Irular and Kurumbar tribes, heightening concerns among health department officials about their health and well-being. Statistics suggest that a little less than 50% of all the women in the hamlets suffer from anaemia, and doctors are looking at measures that can be adopted to treat the condition where prevalence is high. The health department is trying to identify the most serious cases, especially among women, some of whom are less than 40 kg in weight, and work with them towards adopting a more nutritious diet. (The Hindu – October 2017) .



*Weaving is a tradition among Toda women with little access to employment.*

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.



*A couple from Irula community, deprived of a good diet, medical facilities and protected environment.*

A review of the 2017 programme by an experienced Tamwed representative included interviews with staff and a sample of beneficiaries. The success of previous actions were evaluated while highlighting those issues that were considered to be a priority for the future. It was decided to focus attention on 20 of the poorest and most isolated suggested for action by the villagers themselves in 20 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. Agriculture;
- c. Defence from attack by wild animals;
- d. Irrigation and access to water;
- e. Sewing machines;
- f. Solar lighting.
- g. Human (including land) rights;
- h. Access to government support and resources to meet basic needs;

### **3. 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.

### **4. 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.

## **5. 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.

## **6. Method**

A trained Project Manager with the help of a Field Coordinator (one at least from tribal area/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 450 families living in 20 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 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 development 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, Evaluation and Learning**

Tamwed uses tried and tested MEL 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. One or more representatives from Tamwed will undertake a review 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

The review of the programme will reveal lessons learned about the success or otherwise of aspects of the programme. 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 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

	Item	Rupees
1	Project Manager Salary: Rs7,000 x 5 months (to June). Rs8,000 x 6 months (to Dec)	83,000
2	Field Coordinator: Rs6,000 x 5 months(to June). Rs.7000 x 6 months (to Dec)	72,000
3	Village Animators' honorarium 10 persons x 2 villages ( Rs.500 x10 x 11)	55,000
4	Documentation & Communication Secretary (Rs.4,000 x 12)*	48,000
5	Training, seminars, events (Staff, <b>Tribal Youth</b> , Volunteers)	50,000
6	Travel – staff and volunteers	47,800
7	Meetings, events, land rights claims	50,000
8	Medical equipment (donated or paid for by government)	0
9	Nutritional supplements to 150 women and children	20,000
10	Medical Check-ups for anaemia and village health camps (new villages)	15,000
11	Sewing machines x 10 @ Rs.6,500 + Training (Rs2,500 x12)	95,000
12	Seeds, Fencing, net, water tanks for drinking and irrigation	50,000
13	Animal-proofing (or other measures) – 1 village	85,310*
14	Solar lighting units – One village of 12 houses (if feasible)	80,000
15	Coffee De-husker	27,000
16	Exposure visits (farmers) and land rights (tribal youth)	30,000
17	Support (shoes, books etc) for tribal schools	20,000
18	Administration, tailoring centre rent, phone, accounts etc. (Rs. 3,000 x 12)	36,000
19	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>864,110</b>
20	Management (ISLAND Trust @ 10%)	86,410
21	<b>GRAND TOTAL (19+ 20) ISLAND TRUST</b>	<b>950,520</b>
21	Minus balance brought forward	154,930
22	<b>TOTAL Budget for 2018</b>	<b>795,590</b>
23	<b>Opening Grant at 01.01.18</b>	<b>373,877</b>
	<b>Required balance</b>	<b>421,713</b>

\* Total Project Cost: Rs135,310 – 50,000 (WWF) = Rs85,310

## 14. Schedule

Month	Actions & Targets
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint staff. Set up admin. Draft Roles and Responsibilities for Staff and sign contracts.</li> <li>• Baseline survey in 20 villages.</li> <li>• Finalisation of Annual Report and Statement of accounts</li> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (Jan.26<sup>th</sup>) and pressure for tribal land titles</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review survey. Draft Action Plan.</li> <li>• Project awareness-raising event / 2 days training for new staff (Kotagiri)</li> <li>• Set up MAG to meet each quarter / meeting with Anganwadi workers.</li> <li>• Initiation of Solar Fencing Work in Burgur with WWF.</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of Field office in Sholurmattam.</li> <li>• Purchase of 10 Sewing Machines from Coimbatore</li> <li>• Inauguration of Tailoring Training Centre in Sholurmattam</li> <li>• Distribution of seeds and saplings</li> <li>• Conduct Health Camp in a new village – Vagappanai (Nutritional supplement)</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly review and report / MAG meeting / Village Animators meeting</li> <li>• Provide water tank and PVC hose pipes in Kolatty</li> <li>• Conduct Health Camp in Kongattupudur village and school and distribution of nutritional supplements</li> <li>• World Water Day / Forests Day / Earth Hour seminar</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Camps:– Children’s Camp (2 clusters) and Climate Change Awareness Camp (Exhibition / stall in 2 places)</li> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and pressurize land / social rights for tribes</li> <li>• Education Awareness Campaign in 2 /3 villages (Rally and Cultural programme)</li> <li>• Completion and inauguration of Solar Fencing in Burgur</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Environment Day Celebration: Seeds and Equipments distribution in 5 villages for organic farming</li> <li>• Consultation meeting with Government PHCs and Anganwadi workers re health issues</li> <li>• Feasibility study for Solar fencing activity in one village</li> <li>• Land Rights Seminar at Kotagiri</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term (half yearly) review and report.</li> <li>• International Indigenous Day Celebration – Movement building</li> <li>• Promotion of Kitchen Garden in 50 houses</li> <li>• Health Awareness Camp, Kokkal (Kota village) and Bettumandhu (Toda village)</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Health and Environment Awareness Programme – 4 schools</li> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (Aug 15) and pressurise for speedy implementation of FRA 2006</li> <li>• Health Camp in 2 villages – Semmanarai and Mettukkal (nutritional supplements)</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of Kitchen Garden in 50 more houses and organic farming in 5 more villages</li> <li>• Exposure visit / training for Tribal youth.</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (Oct 2) and follow up of the implementation of FRA 2006 for Community Forest Rights</li> <li>• Quarterly Review and Report / MAG meeting</li> <li>• Consultation with Government PHCs and Anganwadi workers and review of action taken</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise Block Level Advocacy Meeting for Tribal Rights and Welfare</li> <li>• Monitoring visit of Mr. Oz – Annual Review and planning</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People’s week – evaluation of the project with people</li> <li>• Final month review and report</li> <li>• Proposal Development and budget preparation</li> </ul>