

TRIBAL FUTURES 2019



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1. Summary

This plan is for a 12-month project to provide much needed support for 1,600 tribal (Adivasi) people in 22 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 middle aged men due to Sickle Cell Anaemia, poor diet and malnutrition 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 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.



Community consultation prior to adopting priorities for the annual plan.

The programme will be managed by the ISLAND Trust, an established local NGO with considerable experience of work with tribal people in the Nilgiri District. This builds on the experience and lessons learned from eight years of collaboration between Tamwed and the ISLAND Trust to respond to the urgent needs of some of the poorest and most isolated of tribal communities

2. Background

The Nilgiris is part of a range of forested mountains that is well known for its 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. 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.

Many tribal farmers are allowed to clear land for small-scale farming which is becoming unviable as crops fail due to climate change and raids by wild elephants, Indian 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 which 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 field visits by staff and interviews conducted by Mr. Alastair Tinto, a Tamwed Committee member. The 2018 programme had tackled a range of issues in 20 tribal villages. It was agreed that a further two villages would be added for this year. These 22 villages do 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. Income-generating micro enterprise;
- g. Climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Tribal women during exposure visit

4. Aim

The overall aim of this 12-month programme is to help secure the sustainable and long-term future of tribal communities in 22 villages in Kotagiri Block.

5. Objectives

Appoint and provide training for staff and volunteers appropriate to the focus and scope of the project who will respond to the following objectives:

- a. Ensure that villagers have access to governmental and non-governmental health programmes, with a focus on those that improve diets and hygiene, and by promoting traditional and other medicines;
- b. Ensure that tribal communities are aware of their rights, particularly in relation to land. Mobilising government resources wherever possible to meet the fundamental needs and infrastructure facilities of tribal people.
- c. Provide assistance for the production, consumption and sale of climate-adaptive fruit, millets and vegetables and medicinal plants and herbs;
- d. Research and implement appropriate schemes for defending people and land from threats caused by wild animals;
- e. Improve constant access to fresh water for consumption and irrigation by providing water tanks, supply pipes, motor pumps and access to public water supplies;
- f. Support the provision of tailoring training and equipment to augment income;
- g. Educate about climate change impact, mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management.



Villagers, community animators and staff at a project review meeting.

6. Targets

Appoint a Project Manager, Field Coordinator and at least 10 Voluntary Community Animators to act as a link between the ISLAND Trust and their communities which they will represent at meetings and events. Staff will:

- a. Raise awareness about health Issues and link with Government health services to improve provision;
- b. Organise land rights and other campaigns with at least two major events while maintaining constant liaison with government officials;
- c. Develop at least a one-acre organic garden or 15 kitchen gardens in each participating village (or develop 15 acres of community cooperative agriculture) to produce a range of climate-resistant, culinary and medicinal plants for personal consumption and sale;
- d. Undertake a study into methods of protecting people and land from wild animals in at least one village;
- e. Provide water tanks and necessary pipes in four of the neediest villages. Negotiate access to public water supplies for villages where this is feasible;
- f. Seek additional resources for the purchase of at least one coffee grinding machine to be placed in a centralised location to add value to a crop that can attract a reasonable income.
- g. Continue to run seven sewing centres for unemployed young men and women for skills training and for further employment;
- h. Educate and inform communities about the cause and impact of climate change among and introduce climate adaptive agriculture through field tested methods and exposure.

7. Method

A trained Project Manager with the help of a Field Coordinator (one at least from a tribal group) and a Project Secretary will manage the Project. The ISLAND Trust CEO will supervise all activities and provide reports to Tamwed. Detailed job descriptions will be agreed.

8. Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

Direct beneficiaries will be 600 families living in 22 remote villages of Kotagiri District 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 the programme objectives. The CEO of the ISLAND Trust will provide quarterly reports on progress against targets for Tamwed and the Project Monitoring and Advisory Group (MAG) of stakeholders that will include 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.

11. 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 activities 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.

12. 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 and Clinic in nearby Ooty, the headquarters of the district.

13. 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.

14. Programme Timetable

Month	Actions & Targets
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint staff. Set up admin. • Review and Planning with beneficiary communities. • Baseline survey in 22 villages. • Finalisation of Annual Report and Statement of accounts • Participate in Grama Sabha (Jan.26th) and promote tribal rights.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review survey. Consolidating data. • Visit of Mrs. Jane and Mr. Ian – Field Visits. • Set up MAG to meet each quarter & meeting with Government Creche workers. • Distribution of Seeds for organic farming. • Fund Raising Strategies Workshop for the CEO.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with Government departments on tribal rights. • Exposure to 'Kani' Tribal Area to learn about Community Forest Use and advantages.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly review and report, MAG meeting & Village Animators meeting. • Provide water tank and PVC hose pipes. • Campaign with Parliamentary Election Contestants for Tribal Rights (Tribal Manifesto). • World Earth Hour/Water Day/Forests Day – Climate Change Awareness
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Camps:– Children's Camp (2 clusters) and Climate Change Awareness Camp (Exhibition & stall in 2 locations) • Participate in Grama Sabha (local level council - May 1). • Education Awareness Campaign in 2 /3 villages. • Summer Camp for tribal children.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Environment Day Celebration: Tree Planting & Seeds and Equipment distribution in 5 villages for organic farming. Climate Change Awareness in Schools. • Study about Human – Animal conflict and resolution in Vakkanamaram village. • Climate Change Awareness Seminar at Kotagiri
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term (half yearly) review and report. • International Indigenous Day Celebration – Traditional and Cultural Heritage Seminar & Exhibition - Tribal Meeting. • Promotion of Kitchen Garden in 100 houses. • Health Awareness Camp in collaboration with Government Health Dept.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Health and Environment/ plastic Awareness Programme – 4 schools • Facilitate people's Participation in Grama Sabha (Aug 15) and request for basic facilities. • Climate Change and Health awareness Camp in 2 villages.

9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Fencing Work Initiation in Vakkanamaram village Promotion of Kitchen Gardens in 50 more houses and organic farming in 5 more villages. Exposure visit & training for Tribal youth.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in Grama Sabha (Oct 2) and follow up of the implementation of people's demands submitted in the previous Grama Sabha Meetings. Quarterly Review and Report/MAG meeting. Consultation meeting with Government PHCs and Child Care Centre workers.
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise Block Level Advocacy Meeting for Tribal Development and Welfare. Monitoring visit from TAMWED – Annual Review and planning.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final 12-month review and report. Programme proposal development and budget preparation

15. Budget Forecast

	ITEM	Rupees
1	Project Manager Salary: Rs.10,000 /month	120,000
2	Field Coordinator: Rs.10,000 / month	120,000
3	Voluntary Community Animators' honorarium 10 persons (Rs.600 x10 x 12)	72,000
4	Training and External seminars/meetings (Staff, Youth, Animators)	50,000
5	Travel expenses for project staff and volunteers to be paid on proof of expenditure	40,000
6	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting & visit support expenses for CEO @ Rs. 4,000 (this to replace the Documentation and Monitoring Secretary of 2018	48,000
7	Meetings, events on Climate Change Awareness & Plastic Abolition (Rs.12,500 x 4)	50,000
8	Medical equipment (donated by Island Trust or paid for by government)	0
9	Nutritional supplements for severe anaemic patients	20,000
10	Sewing Training: Trainer allowance @Rs. 3000 x 12	36,000
11	Seeds/ Fencing equipment/nets/water tanks & pipes	80,000
12	Study & installation of animal-proof fencing for 15 acres of Vakkanamaram village	100,000
13	Exposure visits on organic agriculture and value addition of Minor Forest Products	35,000
14	Field Office/Tailoring centre rent, phone, accounts etc. (Rs. 4,000 x 12)	48,000
15	Capacity Building & Fund Raising Strategies Workshop for CEO – Fees and Travel	8,580
16	TOTAL	827,580
17	Management (ISLAND Trust @ 10%)	82,750
18	Grand TOTAL (16 + 17)	910,330
19	Minus balance brought forward from 2018	34,995
21	Total Funds Needed for 2019 Project Period	875,335
22	TAMWED CONTRIBUTION £9,000 @ Rs. 92/ £ 1	828,000
23	LOCAL FUND RAISING CONTRIBUTION	47,335
24	TOTAL PROJECT COST (22 + 23)	875,335