

# TRIBAL FUTURES 2020



**Tamwed**  
Gellings Park West,  
Harewood Rd, Calstock  
Cornwall PL18 9QN, UK  
[www.tamwed.org](http://www.tamwed.org)



**ISLAND Trust**  
14/56-58, Club Road,  
Kotagiri - 643217  
The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India  
[www.islandtrust.org.in](http://www.islandtrust.org.in)

## 1. Summary

This plan is for a 12-month project to provide much needed support for 1,500 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 / Evaluation 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 and 10 long years of partnership with TAMWED. This builds on the experience and lessons learned from these 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. Unemployment and lack of purchasing power in the recent years has led to depression and large scale migration to the nearby towns and cities.

Many tribal farmers are entitled 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 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.



Tribal women during exposure visit

### 3. Need

The need for this programme was established by field visits by staff and interviews conducted by Mrs. Jane and Mr. Ian, the Chair and the Treasurer of Tamwed and by Dr. S. Udhayakumar, the Evaluator at the end of 2019. The 2019 programme had tackled a range of issues in 22 tribal villages. These villages do not receive adequate support available to those that are more accessible. The issues were:

- a. Health;
- b. Human and Land 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.

### 4. Aim

The overall aim of this 12-month programme is to help secure the traditional knowledge of health systems, skills and promote 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, and are assisted in campaigns that promote their legal entitlement and financial resources to develop lands given under the Forest Rights Act. 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, herbs and native medicines;
- d. Lobby with local governments and tribal departments to mobilize welfare schemes for sustainable livelihood;
- e. Train the elected representatives of local governance and make them effective leaders for supportive of tribal development.

- f. Improve constant access to fresh water for consumption and irrigation by providing water tanks, supply pipes, motor pumps and access to public water supplies;
- g. Support the provision of tailoring training and equipment to augment income;
- h. 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 / development rights training 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 traditional usage of indigenous treatment methods and document their knowledge of various herbs and medicinal plants in forests or tribal areas;
- e. Provide water tanks and necessary pipes in some of the neediest villages. Negotiate access to public water supplies for villages from local bodies (panchayats) where this is feasible;
- f. Continue to run 5 sewing centres for unemployed young men and women for skills training and for further employment;
- g. Educate and inform communities about the cause and impact of climate change and introduce climate adaptive agriculture through field tested methods and exposure.

### Special Target:

- h. Seek additional resources from other sources for re-greening of 50 villages in 5 panchayats through sowing 50,000 seed balls.

## 7. Method

A trained Project Manager (who will be mainly lobbying with government departments for mobilising government schemes / financial assistance) with the help of a Field Coordinator (who takes care of field level activities and herbal promotion), a tribal health counsellor (a Kota tribal woman who counsels ante-natal tribal mothers and takes care of post-natal mother and child) and a herbal health worker (an Irula tribal woman who promotes traditional medicines and documents the herbs and their usage) 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 Nilgiri Hills. Indirect beneficiaries will be other tribal and marginalised communities (approximately about 1,000) 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 and other community's elected local body leaders, other 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 within or outside the district 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"> <li>• Appoint staff. Set up admin.</li> <li>• Discussion on the Evaluation report, review and Planning.</li> <li>• Finalisation of Annual Report and Statement of accounts</li> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (Jan.26<sup>th</sup>) and pressure for the fair distribution of tribal welfare schemes by panchayats.</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation / induction training to the team of staff</li> <li>• 5 days rural camp with MSW students in tribal villages and conducting medical camps</li> <li>• Set up MAG to meet each quarter &amp; meeting with Government Creche workers.</li> <li>• Preparation of the list of 14 herbs and medicinal plants to be planted in Village Demo garden (1 in each village). Herbal awareness in 3 villages</li> <li>• Establishment of Green Crèches (vegetable garden) in 2 tribal villages (external source) .</li> <li>• Submission of at least 10 applications for tribal welfare schemes</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit of Ms. Karen from TAMWED from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Field visits</li> <li>• Preparation of land for 22 village level and 1 Master level Herbal Garden ( 1 in the Herbal Health worker's village with at least 30 herbs / medicinal plants) Herbal awareness in 5 villages</li> <li>• Submission of at least 10 applications for accessing government resources for tribals.</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for newly elected tribal leaders of local bodies (panchayats).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Staff review and report, MAG meeting &amp; Village Animators meeting.</li> <li>• Provide Crop protecting Nets and wires to eligible farmers.</li> <li>• Herbal awareness in 5 villages</li> <li>• World Earth Hour/Water Day/Forests Day – Climate Change Awareness Seminar</li> <li>• Follow up of applications submitted in the previous months</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Camp:– 3 days’ Children’s Camp and training in Kotagiri</li> <li>• Climate Change Awareness Camps (Exhibition &amp; stall in 2 locations) – Herbal Plants Exhibition in summer festival stalls.</li> <li>• Mobilize at least 150 people to participate in Grama Sabha meeting (local level council - May 1) and press for tribal land rights.</li> <li>• Submission of at least 30 applications in the 3 tribal grama sabhas.</li> <li>• Education Awareness Campaign in 2 /3 villages.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Environment Day Celebration in Schools and Communities: Tree Planting &amp; Seed Ball throw in 5 villages (5000) and Seeds and Agri-equipment distribution for Kitchen garden and organic farming.</li> <li>• Seminar on Native Medicare systems – Herbal plants and Medical applications Demo</li> <li>• Submission of at least 10 applications for government welfare and follow up of old ones</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term (half yearly) activity and staff performance review and report.</li> <li>• MAG meeting</li> <li>• Promotion of Kitchen Garden in 100 houses and seed ball throws in 5 villages (5000).</li> <li>• Health Awareness Camp in collaboration with Government Health Dept. Herbal awareness in 5 villages and follow up in 5 villages</li> <li>• Submission of 10 new applications to government and follow up</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Indigenous Day Celebration – Traditional and Cultural Heritage Seminar &amp; Rally - Tribal Network Meet</li> <li>• School Health and Environment/ plastic Awareness Programme – Seed ball throw by children in school surrounding and village areas – 5000</li> <li>• Facilitate people’s Participation (at least 150 persons) in Grama Sabha (Aug 15) and request for basic facilities at least 50 applications.</li> <li>• Distribution of Seed Balls in 5 village panchayats for grama sabha participants ( 2500)</li> <li>• Climate Change and Health awareness Camp in 2 villages.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of 22 village level herbal farms and 1 Master Level Demo farms with minimum 25 varieties of herbs / medicinal plants</li> <li>• Campaign with Tribal Welfare Dept. Officials : Organising of grievance redress meeting</li> <li>• Promotion of Kitchen Gardens in 50 more houses and organic farming in 5 more villages.</li> <li>• Exposure visit &amp; training for Tribal youth.</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in Grama Sabha (Oct 2) and follow up of the implementation of people’s demands submitted in the previous Grama Sabha Meetings.</li> <li>• Quarterly staff Review and Report preparation / MAG meeting.</li> <li>• Consultation meeting with Government PHCs and Child Care Centre workers.</li> <li>• Follow up of applications submitted to government</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration of Panchayats Day and honouring of elected tribal leaders</li> <li>• Seed ball throw in 3 panchayats with community participation – 20,000</li> <li>• Monitoring visit from TAMWED – Annual Review and planning.</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of all planned activities</li> <li>• Final 12-month review and report.</li> <li>• Programme proposal development and budget preparation</li> </ul>

## BUDGET FORECAST 2020

NO	BUDGET HEAD	1 YEAR BUDGET	QUARTERLY				ACTUAL
			JAN - MAR	APR - JUN	JUL - SEP	OCT - DEC	
1	Indigenous Health: Training and facilitation (Mrs. Sivagami) Rs.5000 x 1 x12	60,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
2	Mother and Child Health Care: Tribal Counsellor (Mrs. Meenakshi) Rs.5000 x 12	60,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
3	Publication of Indigenous Health materials	30,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	30,000
4	Leadership development and resource mobilization training	50,000	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	50,000
5	Vocational Training in Sewing and Handicrafts – trainer’s fee, rent etc	63,500	15,875	15,875	15,875	15,875	63,500
6	House repairs, education, income generation, emergency relief etc.	69,200	17,300	17,300	17,300	17,300	69,200
7	Organic Farming: Seeds, Fencing, nets, water tanks etc	69,200	17,300	17,300	17,300	17,300	69,200
8	Exposure visit to Organic Tribal Farms and model Panchayat areas	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	30,000
9	Village meetings, training and community events, programme coordination expenses including honorarium for facilitators (Kumar and Thiruselvan) and 2 volunteers @ 1,080 x22 villages X 12 months	285,120	71,280	71,280	71,280	71,280	285,120
10	Travel for facilitators, volunteers and monitoring visits @2500/ month.	30,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	30,000
11	Documentation, Communication and Monitoring Secretary (Rs.4,000 x 12)	48,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	48,000
12	Medical equipment(donated by Island Trust or paid for by government)	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>795,020</b>					<b>795,020</b>
14	Management (ISLAND Trust @ 10%)	79,502					79,502
15	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>874,522</b>					<b>874,522</b>
16	<b>Less: Previous Year Balance as on 31.12.19</b>	128,906					128,906
17	<b>Required Funds</b>	<b>745,616</b>					<b>745,616</b>

**Rs745,616 = £8,017 as at 23.02.20**  
**Rs269,442 = £3,000 transferred 05.02.20**

### **Notes On Budget:**

Due to funding constraints with TAMWED, the team of Island Trust (the Tribal Futures Staff, CEO and accounts manager) sat on 14<sup>th</sup> January and discussed about redrafting the annual plan. Accordingly some of the usual activities and budget have been dropped and new and relevant activities have been included with a very stringent budget.

1. The budget has been worked out on the basis of the communication of Mr. Oz Osborne after the meeting of the board of Tamwed on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and his e-mail communication dated 14<sup>th</sup> January.
2. The size of village animators has been reduced from 10 to 2. Instead of the part time animators, one full time animator who is well versed in traditional system of medicine, herbs identification and treatment has been included (budget no.1). She will function full time and visit all our focus villages to train the community to identify locally available herbs and how to prepare home based native medicines. Her honorarium will be treated as trainer's honorarium.
3. In the same way the honorarium of tribal counsellor (budget no. 2) will come under a project activity. As the promoter of Mother and Child Health Care, she will receive her honorarium which is treated as programme expenditure.
4. Thirdly, as per the rules of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of India, the salaries and admin cost should not exceed 15% of the total project cost. But our staff salaries and admin cost were approximately more than 35%. Therefore we had to change the staff salaries as programme expenses. Thus we have changed the clause of the staff salaries and honorarium of volunteers as Programme Coordination, Village meetings, training and community events. This includes the salaries of our 2 full time staff @Rs.10,000 each and honorarium of 2 volunteer's @Rs.800 each. The two part time volunteers will assist the project managers to organize training and mobilize people for various activities in the project area. The total amount has been divided into 12 months and the staff will receive their salary in the name of programme coordination expenses for 22 villages.
5. Fourthly, Island Trust has come forward to take part in sharing the responsibility of Fund Raising for Tribal Futures. Climate Change reduction initiatives have been one of the important components of Tribal Futures project. We still want to give priority to this activity. But due to fund constraint this year, Island Trust has taken the responsibility of mobilizing funds for this component. Therefore the Re-greening of villages in our project area through seed ball sowing has been included in the activity schedule of TAMWED project but the required funds will be mobilized by Island Trust. The progress will be informed to TAMWED and will be reported in the half yearly and annual reports. If the funds are mobilized within India, the expenditures will not be reflected in the Accounts Statement.
6. In addition to the amounts mentioned here Island Trust will mobilise more direct support to our villages from Colleges and other NGOs as in the past.
7. Since the budgeted activities are minimal, the staff of tribal futures will be committed to mobilizing the local resources especially the government funds and schemes for our tribal communities as much as possible. Therefore monthly targets will be fixed for them to mobilize the resources /schemes.

M.L. ALPHONSE RAJ  
MANAGING TRUSTEE