

TREE AID ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

# OUR **IMPACT**





**TREE AID helps people in the drylands of Africa to lift themselves out of poverty and protect their environment through the power of trees.**

## OUR VISION

Thriving, sustainable communities across the drylands of Africa.

## OUR MISSION

To enable people living in the drylands of Africa to unlock the potential of trees to reduce poverty and protect the environment.

### Mali

- 655,420 trees planted and regenerated
- 6,066 new hectares of land protected
- 71,395 people helped

### Burkina Faso

- 319,324 trees planted and regenerated
- 52,673 new hectares of land protected
- 328,225 people helped

### Ghana

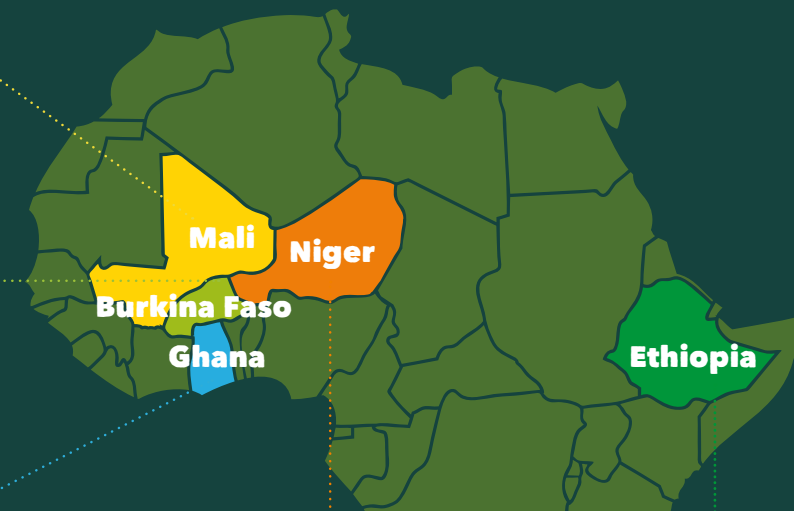
- 1,015,337 trees planted and regenerated
- 740 new hectares of land protected
- 15,925 people helped

### Niger

- 3,975 people helped
- 20,000 tree seedlings produced in nurseries

### Ethiopia

- 205,000 trees planted
- 26,550 people helped



## OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



Almost  
**2.2 million**  
**trees**  
planted and  
regenerated



**446,070**  
people helped

**1,734,344**

trees  
planted



**460,737**  
**trees**  
regenerated



**59,479**  
new hectares  
of land protected

**229**

new   
village tree  
enterprises

**4,902**  
**fuel**  
efficient  
stoves

**40**

community  
**forest**  
management plans



# Trees are a solution to the climate crisis, desertification and poverty

**2018-19 was another record-breaking year for TREE AID, with 1,734,344 trees planted and almost half a million regenerated. As well as improving the environment, soil fertility and acting as a carbon sink, these trees will help transform the lives of people living in poverty in Africa's drylands.**

In the communities where we work, the climate crisis is not a future threat but a daily reality. The effects of deforestation, desertification and a changing climate are widespread. There is clear evidence that temperatures are rising, a shorter rainy season is now a reality and droughts and floods are becoming more frequent and severe.

Forest resources are depleting faster in the drylands of Africa than elsewhere in the world. With scarce natural resources, people living in poverty are more vulnerable. It is getting even harder to grow food, leaving people struggling to feed their families and generate an income.

TREE AID is significantly expanding programmes to address these challenges and our partners and supporters are playing an important part in that. Trees are a solution that works for the environment and for people living in poverty.

In 2018-19, we helped nearly half a million people across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Niger through our four key approaches: Natural Resource Management, Forest Governance, Enterprise Development and Food Security and Nutrition.

In Ghana, we planted and regenerated one million trees, helping to preserve the Daka River, which is danger of drying up. In Ethiopia, we supported and trained enclosure groups to restore degraded land, which is now showing signs of recovery.

In Burkina Faso, participants have increased their income from non-timber forest products, such as baobab powder and shea butter, from an average of \$17.81 to \$39.07 per year.

We started three new projects, including a project in Niger to protect the biodiversity of National Park W, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, so that people and wildlife can thrive in harmony.

We are proud that all of our work contributes to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a shared vision to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. TREE AID's work directly supports five of the goals, with a focus on sustainable forest management (Goal 15), economic growth (Goal 8), empowerment of women (Goal 5), action to address the impacts of climate change (Goal 13) and, ultimately, ending poverty (Goal 1).

There are many significant global challenges right now that are directly threatening the people we work with in the drylands of Africa but our work last year has provided hope for a better future. Thank you to all the individuals, trusts, corporates and organisations who helped us scale up our work. We are looking forward to growing further with your support.

*John*

**John Moffett**  
Chief Executive

*Shireen*

**Shireen Chambers**  
Chair of Trustees





# OUR APPROACH

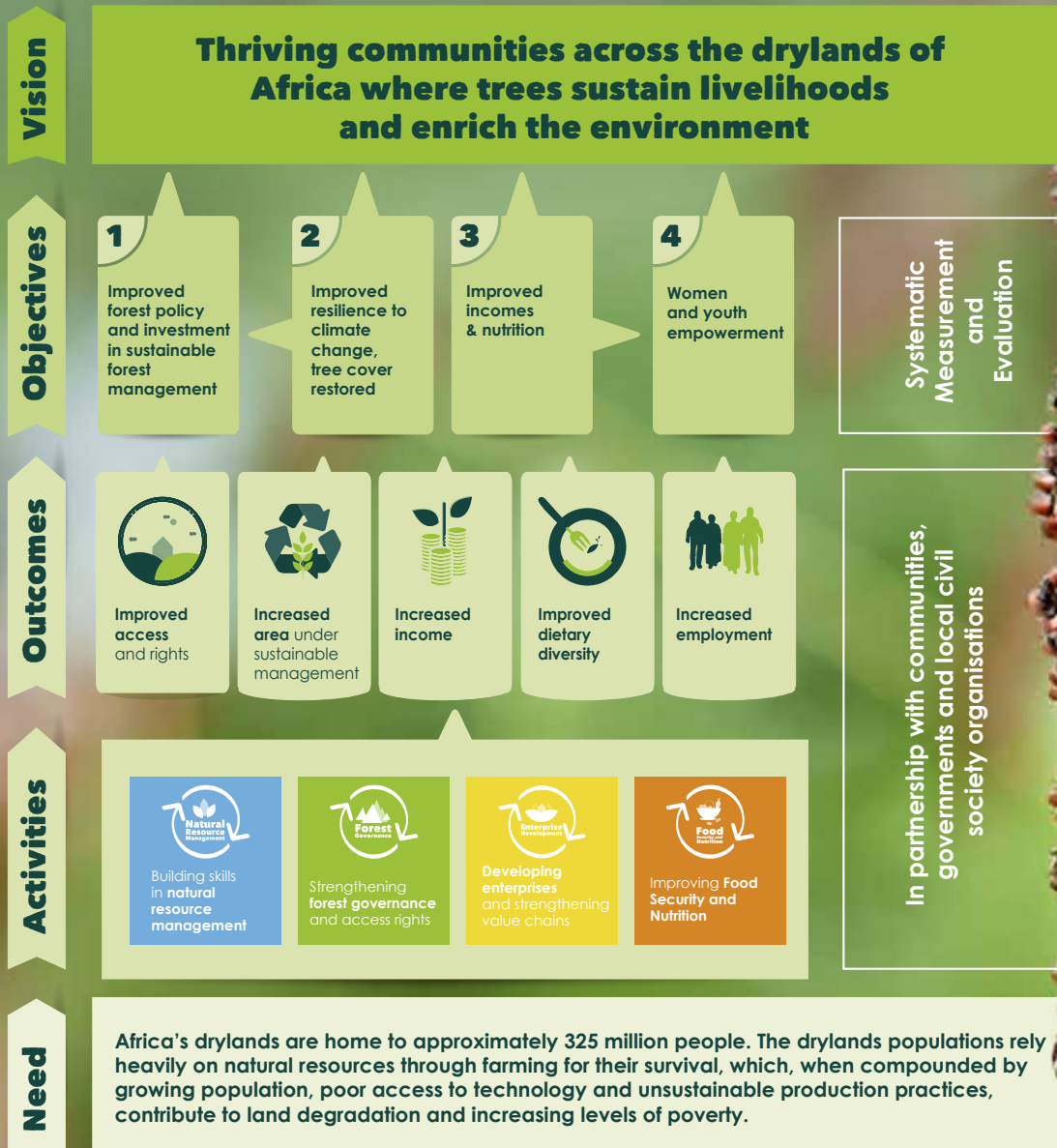
## Who we work with

The communities that TREE AID supports rely on the land for most of their food and 77% of their income. The majority live well below the poverty line of \$1.90 per person, per day. Low rainfall and poor soils in the drylands mean that often the harvest is insufficient to provide food for a full year. During the hungry months, when food is scarce, families often survive on just one meal a day.

Therefore, it is important for people to have an income outside of the farm and doubly important for women. Over 50% of the women we work with have reported concerns about their limited decision-making power when it comes to household spending.

"I am very happy with TREE AID's support because it has helped

me to improve my life. I didn't have the chance to go to school. Life was very difficult for me. I grew crops but I didn't get a good yield and getting enough food was a big challenge. I want to thank TREE AID and its donors so much for what they do for us." – Kabouga, Burkina Faso



## Great Green Wall, climate resilience and alleviating poverty

Every tree we plant or protect is part of a bigger movement of change. We restore degraded land, we build climate resilience and we help people to grow their way out of poverty.

We work with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to grow trees and restore land in support of the Great Green Wall. This is an African-led movement to grow an 8,000km natural wonder, spanning the length of the Sahel.

Our strategy lays out ambitious plans to grow over 8 million trees in 5 years and to support 2.5 million people through poverty-alleviating initiatives. We are helping communities in the drylands of Africa to build their resilience to a changing climate, reverse the growing desert and reclaim the land for themselves and their future generations.

Trees are resilient, withstanding drought and flooding when other crops can't. They also provide a vital resource for the whole world, acting as a carbon sink to cool the earth and reverse the effects of climate change.

We are helping to create lasting change for communities living on the frontline of the climate crisis in Africa's drylands, while also contributing to a bigger movement of change for the continent.

### IN OUR CURRENT FIVE YEAR STRATEGY PERIOD WE AIM TO

**Grow 8 million trees**

**Support 2.5 million people**



Elvis Paul Tangem, the coordinator of the Great Green Wall from the African Union, told us:

**"All the work that TREE AID is doing in the Sahel, and has been doing since it existed, has been supporting the work of the Great Green Wall.**

**In the Sahel, we have extreme rainfall with 400mm falling within a few days and then we can have complete drought for months. This leads to land degradation and lack of natural resources.**

**We thought, let's work together, let's form a wall, which is a metaphor for sustainable land and water management across the Sahel. We can see there is a clear impact of the Great Green Wall on the ground."**



# GROWING TREES RESTORING LAND



## OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

1,734,344  
trees  
planted



460,737  
trees  
regenerated



**Protecting and restoring natural resources is essential to slowing down the effects of climate change and stopping land degradation. In 2018-19, TREE AID planted 1,734,344 trees and protected 59,479 hectares of land.**

### Our approach Natural Resource Management



#### Tree planting and regeneration

Trees enhance soil quality, improve harvests, protect from wind and flooding, support ecosystems and increase biodiversity.

In Ghana last year, we worked with local communities to plant 898,368 trees along the Daka River. We also provided training on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration to encourage tree growth from degraded land and shrub vegetation.

#### Soil and water conservation

We help communities to adopt soil and water conservation techniques that reduce the vulnerability of their land to drought and climatic stresses.

After three successful years improving land management practices, the Drylands Development Programme in Burkina Faso drew to a close in 2019. In its final year, we trained 1,527 farmers (including 748 women) on conservation techniques, including forming water and nutrient conserving zai pits, which help crops and trees to establish better.

#### Firebreaks

Bushfires can cause large-scale destruction of trees, with fire spreading quickly across large areas of dry land. In Ghana last year, we trained lead farmers on bushfire management who then established 26kms of firebreaks to stop fire spreading.

#### Fuel-efficient stoves

The need for firewood depletes forest resources and means people – most often women – have to walk for miles each day to collect it.

In 2018-19, we introduced 4,902 fuel-efficient stoves across Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. These have three fantastic benefits: the stoves use half the firewood; they produce less smoke; and they free up time for women to focus on income-generating activities.



## 1 million trees to restore a river in Ghana

**In the first year of our Daka River Trees Restoration project in Yendi, Ghana, we planted 898,368 trees and regenerated a further 102,059, covering an estimated area of 740 hectares.**

The Daka River is drying up for a longer period each year, putting lives under threat as it is the main source of water for household needs, livestock and farming.

Thanks to support from Ecosia, we helped communities along the river to carry out a large-scale tree planting campaign. The trees will help to halt erosion and reduce siltation, restoring the river's water-holding capacity. They will also increase biodiversity and soil fertility meaning trees and crops grow better. Trees like mango and cashew will also provide food and income for communities in the future.

We established 25 Community Resource Management Committees and trained 625 lead farmers on tree planting, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and bushfire management. They passed on these skills, meaning 1,875 farmers are now adopting the practices on their farming fields.



## OUR IMPACT IN GHANA

1,015,337  
trees  
planted and  
regenerated



740  
new hectares  
of land protected

We helped  
15,925  
people

### Bilinari's story

Bilinari, aged 32, is part of the Daka River Trees Restoration project.

"My father didn't send me to school, so I find it difficult to work, apart from farming. In the past, you could get a bumper harvest. Now, with the change in rainfall patterns and the poor soil, my yields are very low and I struggle to make a small income.

We depend on the trees to protect the soil and to have fruit to eat and sell. But I have seen changes in the trees too – we used to have species here that now my children will never know of. We also rely on the river for our water, it is important for our survival, but now the water is drying up.

I have gained a lot from TREE AID's training. Before, when I was looking for firewood, I would cut the whole tree down, now I know to prune and just take the branches – it's also helping improve the fertility of my land. I have planted many trees too, including along the river to protect it for my family.

I wasn't happy about not going to school but having this training has given me a lot of hope. I share what I have learnt with other people and the whole community are benefiting."





# HELPING COMMUNITIES PROTECT FORESTS

OUR **IMPACT**  
THIS YEAR

**40**  
community  
forest  
management plans



**59,479**  
new hectares  
of land protected

**TREE AID is a world leader in forest governance, helping communities to access forest resources and play an active part in managing them. Our approach ensures that new trees thrive and forests are managed by the communities that depend upon them.**

**Our approach**  
Forest Governance



## Influencing policies

We support forest governance at all levels, helping to develop and implement effective policies that give rural communities greater access to, and responsibility for, their forest resources. Our forest governance work in Burkina Faso has seen the successful implementation of policies that are bringing positive change for communities.

## Forest Management Plans

Through training on sustainable land management techniques and developing Forest Management Plans, rural communities can safely access forest resources on their local land and grow these resources for the future.

In Ethiopia in 2018-19, we trained six groups who are now implementing their Forest Management Plans to restore degraded land, which is showing signs of good recovery. There is now 50km of stone bunding designed to conserve soil and water and prevent the growth of eroded gullies.

## Enclosure groups and Community Resource Management Committees

We set up enclosure areas and train community groups to protect these areas from unsustainable practices like tree felling, charcoal burning and overgrazing, allowing the forest to re-green effectively.

In our Daka River Trees Restoration project in Ghana last year, we formed 25 Community Resource Management Committees comprised of 250 members, including Fulani herdsmen (a semi-nomadic group) from all 25 villages in the project. The committees received training on managing natural forest resources alongside training on how to work together in groups to lead this.



# Local Forest Governance in Burkina Faso

Since 2007, TREE AID has delivered a Local Forest Governance project in eight communes across Burkina Faso. This was in response to the devastating rate of deforestation here, with over 1 million hectares of forest lost from 1990 to 2010. With forests rapidly disappearing and soil quality in decline, crops were failing and options for food and income were limited.

Capitalising on the government's policy decision to decentralise forest management to local authorities, we work with communities and local governments to create a lasting, sustainable support system for communities to be able to manage their forest resources. Through restoration and reforestation, 15 communal forests have been restored with over 32,000 hectares of forest now managed by 52 groups, protecting 33 local tree species.

Communities also have greater voice, access and control over local forests, reducing conflict over land ownership and integrating some of the most marginalised community groups in decision-making. We are now scaling-up the project into 17 new communes thanks to long-term support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). We will support over 112,000 people to restore, protect and manage their forests and sustainably use forest products to generate an income.

OUR **IMPACT**  
IN BURKINO FASO

**319,324**  
trees  
planted and  
regenerated

**52,673**  
new hectares  
of land protected

We helped  
**328,225**  
people

## Mouni's story

Mouni, aged 42, is a farmer and was trained by TREE AID as a volunteer forest guard in Burkina Faso.

"It is great to work with TREE AID. They teach me how to protect the forest and I use the techniques I've learnt, like Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, on my own farm too.

Thanks to the project, everybody is involved in protecting the environment, trees are no longer being destroyed and the forest is even being restored. People understand now why trees are important for them. Many things have changed for me. Food security is a reality for me now. I teach my daughters to take care of trees and they sometimes plant them too. They know that it is good to protect the environment. With a good environment, we can increase our yield of crops in the fields. Here, trees mean life, or as we say, Tiga Ya Vim.

Taking care of the environment is a problem for all humanity. If someone supports the environment, it is a very good thing – it is courageous."





# GROWING SUSTAINABLE INCOMES

OUR **IMPACT** THIS YEAR

**229**  
new  **village tree enterprises**



Meaning all our groups are generating an estimated **£1.3 million** in revenue

**Trees offer many opportunities for people living in poverty to earn a sustainable and secure income. They provide fruit, nuts, leaves, butters and fibres throughout the year, withstanding droughts and floods when other crops fail.**

## Our approach Enterprise Development



### Village Tree Enterprises

We support communities to form Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) so they can turn tree products into nutritious food and goods, such as shea butter and moringa powder.

We provide them with training, processing equipment and access to new markets so they can grow their way out of poverty. These groups are particularly important to women, who often have limited access to resources.

Last year, we formed 229 new VTEs. This means that, across all our projects, we are now supporting 565 groups, which have generated an estimated £1.3 million in total revenue from 1,200 tonnes of non-timber forest products.

In Ghana, we established and trained 42 new VTEs with 1,933 members and they have increased their income from \$47.74 to \$60.97 per year.

### Processing equipment and warehouses

Tools and equipment are essential for Village Tree Enterprises – they save time, keep people safe and allow groups to have greater autonomy.

In 2018-19, we constructed three storage warehouses in Ghana. This means produce stays in a better condition for longer, fetching a higher price at market. It also allows the groups to sell the products when they need the income. Buyers are now going directly to the warehouses, saving members time and long journeys to market.

### Kiosks and supermarkets

In Burkina Faso last year, we supported VTEs to set up five shops to market their tree products. We have started to develop TREE AID non-timber forest product shelves in supermarkets and shops, with agreements in place with 26 outlets.

Project participants have more than doubled their income from non-timber forest products, such as baobab powder, from an average of \$17.81 to \$39.07 per year.



# Enterprise and forest restoration in Mali

Over the last three decades, Mali has seen a devastating decrease in its forest area. Between 1990 and 2015, nearly two million hectares of forest were lost.

Our Strengthening Malian Forest Management project started in July 2017, with the support of the Darwin Initiative and Sahel Eco. The project aims to protect and restore the biodiversity of Duwa and Sutebwo forests in the Ségou region of Mali.

An important part of the project is to develop more sustainable income from forest resources. We are supporting two cooperatives to help members increase their income from sustainably-sourced shea and honey.

Last year, we provided a shea and honey processing unit to each cooperative and training on how to use it to make tree products to sell at market. These units are now supporting 28 shea butter VTEs and 16 honey VTEs across the two cooperatives.

We also provided training on marketing techniques to help cooperative members negotiate better prices at market and helped them to develop and produce professional labels. Members also participated in learning exchanges with other cooperatives and a new Market Information System model was set up to provide radio links between the cooperatives and buying customers.



## Sabine's story

Sabine received tools and training in shea butter and soap making as well as on how to respond to her changing climate.

"Many women didn't have the opportunity to go to school. Many, like me, don't know how to read or write. So, there is a lack of income sources for women. When I was young, the landscape here was covered with all sorts of plant species. Then came exploitation of natural resources. With the arrival of the project, we understood that these resources aren't infinite and that we must take care of them for our children and our grandchildren."

TREE AID helped Sabine to generate income from VTEs and to restore her degraded land to grow more food:

"Our income from shea butter and baobab has significantly improved so we can better guarantee our food security."

TREE AID also helped us to protect plant diversity and gave us training on the different techniques for reforestation of completely depleted areas."





# GROWING NUTRITIOUS FOOD

**In the communities where we work, hunger and malnutrition are a daily threat. Before people join our projects, they report having 2-3 months a year of food insecurity, which often means cutting down meals to eat just once a day and filling up on starchy foods like millet, with no money to buy nutrient-rich food.**

Trees are a climate-resilient source of nutritious food in the drylands of Africa. Nuts are packed with healthy fats and protein, fruits offer fibre and vitamins and leaves can be rich sources of minerals and vitamins.

**Our approach**  
Food Security and Nutrition



## Nutrition gardens

We work with communities to set up nutrition gardens to grow seedlings, including baobab and moringa. They provide edible, nutritious leaves after just three months – an important source of food for families in the “hungry months” when crops struggle to grow.

In 2018-19 in Burkina Faso, where four million people are undernourished, we planted 102 new nutrition gardens with local communities. There are now 200 nutrition gardens on this project, supporting 6,379 people in areas most affected by lack of nutritious food.

OUR **IMPACT**  
THIS YEAR



We planted  
**102**  
nutrition  
gardens  
in Burkina Faso



In Ethiopia we supported  
354 households  
to plant **5,600**  
mango and papaya trees

## Fruit trees

We distribute fruit trees to households that are struggling with food security. In Ethiopia last year, we supported 354 households who planted 5,600 mango and papaya trees. The papaya is already bearing fruit, with the mango trees expected to in the next few years.

## Increasing dietary diversity

All of these approaches help to increase the dietary diversity of people living in the drylands of Africa. Our research shows that TREE AID project participants in Burkina Faso have increased dietary diversity to a score of 5.61 compared to 5.40 for people who haven't been part of a project. This means they are able to get nutrition from a greater variety of foods, including green leafy ones.



# Growing our voice

**Our aim is to share our experience and research at the international, national and local levels to ensure policy makers and practitioners can learn from our work and implement approaches that enable communities in the drylands of Africa to thrive.**

## In 2018-2019 we:

**Presented** our forest governance work at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP24, in Poland.

**Promoted** the essential role of civil society in achieving the Great Green Wall Initiative to the African Union.

**Demonstrated** the success of Village Tree Enterprises at the Forest Livelihood Assessment Research and Evaluation conference and at a peer group conference at Wageningen University.

Our West Africa Forest Farm Interface research in conjunction with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) enabled communities in Ghana and Burkina Faso to self-assess their needs and self-identify better sustainable land management practice. We have shared the outcomes with local and national governments to assist with planning.

Shea trees are an important source of income for the communities where we work. Our shea research project tested a variety of methods of shea propagation and orchard management practice to improve yields. We are incorporating findings into our community training to share best practice.



## Our solution to a climate in crisis

**Here in West Africa, we are working in a challenging context. The climate crisis is adversely affecting our rural communities, who depend on the environment and the land for their daily needs.**

TREE AID's work in the drylands is more important than ever. I am very proud that we are able to build people's resilience to climate shocks and help them to rise up out of poverty. It means people have more hope, choice, opportunity and dignity.

Every year, we are growing and 2018-19 was our most impactful to date. We are using more technology in our projects to ensure we have excellent monitoring, evaluation and learning underpinning all our work. This helps us to continually improve and have the best possible impact for the people we work with. Through the Great Green Wall initiative, we're contributing to a movement that is re-greening the drylands at scale and giving communities more ownership of and rights to natural resources.

Thank you to everyone who supports us to make our daily work with communities and governments possible. Thank you especially to our local partners, without whom we could not support as many communities.

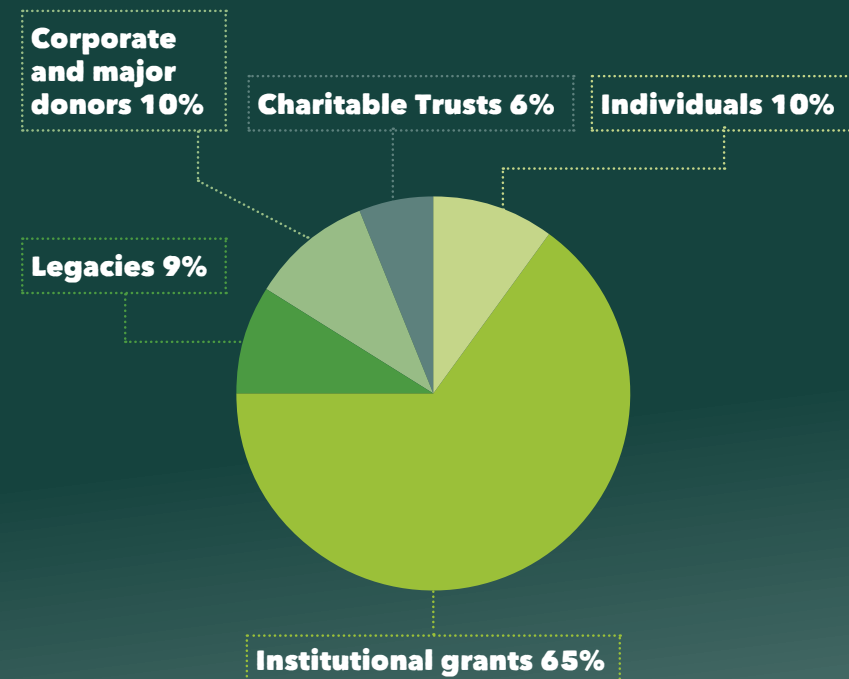
I'd like to leave you with one last thought. In Burkina Faso, we say “N'del tiig N tilg naong” - it means “lean against the tree to fight poverty”.

*Georges Bazongo, Director of West Africa Operations*



# Where did the money come from?

TREE AID's income for 2018-19 grew to £5.7 million. This was due to the generous support of individuals, trusts, corporates and institutions.



## Where we spend the money?

Our total expenditure in 2018-19 increased to £5,206,493 of which £4,513,996 was spent on charitable activities.



## Working in partnership

Our impact is only possible because of a network of people and organisations who provide TREE AID with fantastic support.

Thank you to the 24 local partner organisations we worked with last year who share our knowledge, expertise and passion and help us achieve our goals for communities in the drylands of Africa.

### Meet Clifford from our partner, ORGIIS



Clifford Amoah Adagenera is the Programme Manager for ORGIIS, our partner for six years in Ghana that currently supports our Grow Hope project.

"The power of trees cannot be underestimated, especially in this part of northern Ghana, where the environment itself is so dry, the rainfall pattern is changing and we are losing our tree cover.

On the Grow Hope project, we are supporting communities by looking at issues of climate change, community livelihoods and producing non-timber forest products. We ensure that the Village Tree Enterprises have market opportunities to sell their baobab, shea nuts and shea butter.

We appreciate all the support that is being given (by TREE AID) to the communities right now. When I see that the women are excited because we are being able to make a change, I also get so excited especially as, anytime they feel happy about our work, they tend to sing a lot of songs. I feel part of the change and like I belong to the communities."

## Our tree investment:





# THANK YOU

**Thank you to all the individuals, trusts, corporates and institutions who supported us in 2018-19, including:**

- Blue Diamond Ltd
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Christadelphian Meal a Day Fund
- Darwin Initiative
- UK government's Department for International Development (DFID)
- Ecosia GmbH
- IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA)
- Jersey Overseas Aid
- Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd
- Oak Philanthropy UK
- RPS Group PLC
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The A.G. Leventis Foundation
- The Blue Sky Trust
- The Christmas Forest
- The Headley Trust
- The Kirby Laing Foundation
- The Langdale Trust
- The Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation
- The Paul Foundation
- The Roughley Charitable Trust
- The Triodos Foundation
- Turing Foundation
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

## JUST ONE TREE

Provides nutritious leaves to eat after 3 months

CO<sub>2</sub> Acts as a carbon sink

Offers wind protection and shade

Enriches the soil

Stores water

Prevents erosion



# In Africa, trees mean life



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