



YOUR UPDATE

**MARCH 2023
ISSUE 23**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Olympic Forest
project update**

**News from two
projects in Mali**

**Restoring the Daka
River – phase 2!**

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE...



Page 4

Growing the Olympic Forest in Senegal



Pages 6-7

Project updates from Mali



Page 8

The second phase of the Daka River project underway

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to your latest edition of the Update. As always, it's packed with news and stories. You can read about the progress of the Olympic Forest in Senegal. A part of the Great Green Wall initiative, this vital project will help restore degraded landscapes across the Sahel region (page 4).

I also have some exciting updates to share from Mali. On a project focusing on women's empowerment, we've been supporting women's participation in cooperatives to improve their economic and social status (page 6). While on another project promoting forest governance, we are working to prevent further deforestation and encourage the restoration of degraded land (page 7).

And finally, the second phase of the Daka River restoration has started! Working with more communities along the river, we're continuing to grow millions of trees to provide food and incomes and restore the river and land (page 8).

Thank you for your continued support. As you flip through these pages, I hope you realise how important your contribution is. We are very grateful.

Best wishes,

Lamine Sebogo
Head of Programme Implementation in West Africa



Cover image: Diarawa with tree seedlings in Gourel Mamadou Bara, Senegal.



www.treeaid.org | info@treeaid.org | 0117 909 6363

Tree Aid is a registered charity, no. 1135156, and a company limited by guarantee, no. 03779545, incorporated in England. Registered office: Tree Aid, Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square, Bristol, BS2 8PE.



NEWS

Resilience in a Nutshell appeal update

Thank you for your support for our Resilience in a Nutshell winter appeal. We were able to raise £208,869, a fantastic result.

Your support means that more communities in dryland Africa will be able to improve their cashew yield and boost their income. By growing cashew trees, people like Ayishetu and Musah are taking land restoration into their own hands, and building their resilience to climate change.



Amplifying our voice

COP27 in November

Tree Aid went to COP27 to support the growing coalition of climate actors focused on the Sahel and African drylands more broadly. These regions are some of the worst hit by the ongoing climate crisis, and therefore require focused and dedicated attention to resolving their specific issues.

Tree Aid had the opportunity to meet many influential stakeholders who will determine where and how the Great Green Wall (GGW) pledges will be disbursed.

We also met with private sector investment representatives who are interested in the region, taking the opportunity to highlight the same messages.

We'll continue to work with these GGW key stakeholders to ensure that decentralisation and community engagement remain the focus in the coming months, so that action can start in earnest on the ground.

The GGW is an African-led, epic ambition to grow trees and restore land 8,000km across the Sahel. Look out for more news of our GGW work over the coming weeks.

Desertification summit in France in October

Our UK team were in Montpellier, France for the Desertif' Actions Summit. Our Head of Programme Quality and Advocacy, Pietro Carpena, spoke about the successes of agroecology when used in our Growing Food & Incomes project in Burkina Faso.

"Tree Aid puts agroecology at the heart of the agenda to combat desertification and land degradation. The fight against desertification is a long-term struggle. We need to change our behaviours, our mindsets, our relationship with nature and our perception of ecosystem values and services."

New York climate week in September

Our CEO, Tom Skirrow, was a discussion lead at a Sustainable Development Impact meeting at the World Economic Forum on scaling-up public, private & civil society action to accelerate impact-oriented solutions to protect and restore forests.

"Being at New York Climate week and helping to facilitate the World Economic Forum's impact summit was a great opportunity to discuss the issues most important to Tree Aid and find consensus within the international restoration and reforestation community. As a key partner in delivering on the Great Green Wall, we were invited to showcase our role in the Sahel and beyond."

GROWING THE OLYMPIC FOREST IN SENEGAL

In your August Update we announced the expansion of our work into a new country, Senegal.

The project with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) aims to grow over 589,000 trees and restore huge areas of land across Mali and Senegal, contributing to the Great Green Wall initiative.

The IOC visited Senegal late last year to plant a symbolic native tree at the future Youth Olympic Village in Dakar.

This celebrates the first phase of tree-planting activities for the Olympic Forest in Senegal and Mali, where 70,000



seedlings have already been planted to date.

Désiré Ouedraogo, Tree Aid's Head of Programme design and advocacy, said: "The Great Green Wall is one of the leading solutions for communities and ecosystems in African drylands. We are very proud of our partnership with the IOC, whose commitment helps us increase our resources to preserve and restore fragile ecosystems and support vulnerable communities that are living at the forefront of the climate crisis."



GROWING FOOD & INCOMES PHASE 2

In our Leaves for Livelihoods appeal we told you about our project in Burkina Faso, working with communities to grow food and incomes from forest products. We're delighted to tell you that **phase two has started and will run until 2024.**

Building on the success of phase 1, we are expanding our work with women to include young people and groups of internally displaced people.

Through this project, we are providing these groups with the tools and training they need to grow nutritious foods to eat. We are working with government, local authorities and organisations in the tree product sector to increase local understanding of the value of forest products and ensure the sustainable management of forest resources.

Why is this project needed?

In Burkina Faso, poverty and hunger are widespread issues. During the long dry months, when people struggle to grow enough food, many can only eat once a day. Children often suffer the effects the most, with mothers relying on non-nutritious foods like maize to feed them.

One-third of the country's farmland is already degraded due to the climate crisis and deforestation. This is making it even harder for people to grow enough

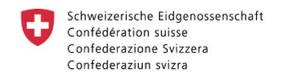
crops to eat and sell to earn an income. Due to recent conflicts and ongoing issues facing communities in Burkina Faso, such as poverty and environmental issues, some people have been forced to leave their home.

Project objectives

This project aims to support women, young people and internally displaced people who are often the most vulnerable to hunger and poverty. Nutrition gardens are being created and people are being trained to grow and care for moringa and baobab trees. This will help to improve their resilience to climatic and security shocks through diversified and sustainable food production systems.

We are also supporting women with tools, training and opportunities for women entrepreneurs to improve their competitiveness and have better access to finance and markets to grow their businesses.

This project has been made possible with funding from the Swiss Development Co-operation and Netherlands Development Cooperation. We are working with local partners to implement this project.



OUR IMPACT SO FAR...

100

nutrition gardens have already been constructed for vulnerable rural households, and 15 new production sites for baobab and moringa are now under construction.

33

community groups have been equipped with tools to process raw forest products.

39

nutrition gardens have been constructed for internally displaced peoples and their host communities, and 11 more are now underway.

UPDATES FROM MALI

1) Empowering women in Koulikoro

We have recently expanded our She Grows project in Mali's neighbouring Koulikoro region.

The project will help support 1,000 women to improve their economic and social status. We will achieve this by promoting greater forest access rights for women, as well as encouraging management responsibilities and supporting women's participation in local tree product enterprises, through the promotion of Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs).



Why is this project needed?

The climate crisis is causing temperatures to rise and weather patterns to shift across Africa. Land is losing fertility and people can't grow enough food. As a result, over one third of the population

of Mali (43%) are living in poverty. Here, many people face insecurity over their rights to natural resources. Women in particular rarely have access to the land, equipment and training they need to grow food to eat and sell.

Trees provide a solution, improving soil fertility and absorbing carbon dioxide to tackle the climate crisis. When crops fail to grow, trees survive to produce products to eat and sell, helping communities build resilience to the effects of the climate crisis.

During this project we aim to:

- Ensure long-term secured access to forest resources is granted to women's cooperatives in 11 villages.
- Support the implementation of effective and sustainable land management practices by women's cooperatives in 11 villages.
- Help ensure women's enterprises that utilize forest resources are developed and profitable across 11 villages.
- Promote the uptake of sustainable economic activities, to reduce the pressure on natural resources.

This project is funded by The Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD).



2) Promoting forest governance in Segou

This three-year project (running from 2021-24), will work to promote local forest governance, investments in forests and support for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Mali's Segou region. In doing so, we aim to stimulate a sustainable improvement of livelihoods for 3,000 rural households in the Tominian Cercle area.

The project is based on the successful Strengthening Forest Management project, also implemented in Mali, where Tree Aid supported local communities to use, protect, and restore the Duwa and Sutebwo forests.



Why is this project needed?

Over the last three decades, nearly two million hectares of forest have been lost from Mali, mostly to make space for farmland – this is known as deforestation. The Ségou region of Mali has been hit

particularly hard by deforestation and the effects of the climate crisis.

With rainfall becoming more unpredictable, and soil losing its fertility, people are struggling to grow trees and crops – something which they depend on for food and income.

During this project we aim to:

- Strengthen the governance and management of four communes (Yasso, Tominian, Benena and Sanekuy) in the Tominian Cercle area.
- Increase women's participation in this governance work, which will involve the redistribution of management roles for forest resources.
- Promote the adoption of land restoration activities to help restore degraded land.
- Reduce pressure on forest resources, by providing training in improved charcoal production.
- Increase income for eight Village Tree Enterprises (comprising 400 members), as part of wider plans to stimulate the economic development of forest resources.

This project was made possible with funding from The Darwin Initiative and support from our local partner, Sahel Eco.



OUR IMPACT SO FAR...



11

cooperative enterprise groups have been established for entrepreneurs, particularly women, to work and learn together.



8

wells have been established to improve access to water in the communities.



118

people have been trained in water and social conservation techniques, and 192 people were trained in plant production methods.



RESTORING THE DAKA RIVER PHASE 2

In the March 2022 Update we told you about the completion of the Daka River restoration project in Ghana.

In partnership with Ecosia, we are continuing to work with riverside communities to grow more trees and restore the river in the next phase of this project.

Why is this project needed?

The project seeks to further restore and protect communities on the Daka river catchment area in the Mion, Yendi and Gusheigu Districts.

For many people in northern Ghana, the Daka river is a vital source of water for drinking, washing, cooking, and farming. But a rapid loss of trees and soil fertility, and the effects of the climate crisis, mean that the water level can easily run low, and the river dries out for months on end.

For local people, this has made growing enough food difficult. As a result, many people are living in poverty. But trees offer a solution.

Project objectives:

Working with local people, we're continuing to grow millions of trees to provide food and incomes and restore the river and land.

The trees we plant mean stability and protection for the people living along the river. The roots stabilise the soil and prevent nutritious topsoil from being washed away in floods. They also help improve the land's fertility so that other crops can grow and provide communities with food.

Alongside more planting and Natural Resource Management training, **we are creating and strengthening 50 nutrition**

gardens, encouraging the growth of tree-produce businesses from them, as well as **developing 50 Village Loans and Savings Associations (VSLAs) and creating 15 grass briquette groups**. These briquettes can be used as an alternative to firewood or charcoal fuels, an innovative way to tackle deforestation.



What is Natural Resource Management training?

During the next phase of this project, we're continuing to support families and communities with the tools and training needed to help them restore and protect their land - this is part of our Natural Resource Management Approach.

Some techniques communities are being trained in include bushfire management, tree grafting and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) — a method used to restore ecosystems. Using this technique, **we will regenerate 1,749,000 trees**. As part of this approach, we'll also be identifying shea saplings to protect and graft, and providing boreholes to 10 communities to assist with water use and conservation.

This project has been made possible with support from Ecosia. Why not switch your search engine to Ecosia? Plant trees just by simply searching the internet!

ECOSIA

DEVELOPING RURAL RESILIENCE AND RESTORING LAND

People in northern Ethiopia are living on the frontline of the climate crisis where temperatures are rising and land is becoming infertile. Ethiopia's Metema forest is in the last green belt before the start of the desert. But the climate crisis and deforestation has taken hold, and without action it could be extinct in 20 years.

This research focussed project in Metema, Ethiopia will continue until Autumn 2024. It will run alongside the UK Aid Match-funded Future Forest project, a project which shares many of the same objectives and activities.

Why is this project needed?

The climate crisis, high rates of tree felling, forest fires and unsustainable tapping for frankincense, is stopping the frankincense forest from regenerating. This will have a devastating impact on communities that rely on the forest for food and income. There will be no buffer between them and the encroaching desert.

Projects objectives:

- To increase farmland productivity, reducing the need for further agricultural expansion into woodlands.
- To improve and inform sustainability of frankincense harvesting and increase the health of Boswellia frankincense trees.
- To provide tools and training to local enterprises, improving the quality of the frankincense resin they produce.
- **To increase incomes of 360 households, by establishing 18 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs)**, to sell sustainably sourced forest products, such as frankincense and honey. This will allow local people to diversify

and improve their incomes, whilst incentivising sustainable use of the forest.



Why frankincense?

The Metema forest is particularly special because of its frankincense trees which are a lifeline for local communities. In this part of Ethiopia, they provide up to 30% of household income for the families who sell their resin which is used as incense and in essential oils around the world.

While frankincense trees can provide a vital source of income, unsustainable practices used to extract the resin, are putting their future at risk. That's why, through this project we are supporting communities with the tools and training they need to sustainably use frankincense trees and protect them for the future.

This project has been made possible with funding from the Darwin Initiative with match funding from some trusts and foundations. We are working with our local partner, SUNARMA, to implement this project.



FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

GET INVOLVED!

The press-ups challenge

A big thank you to Sushil and Srik, two friends who set themselves a fitness challenge. They decided to do 3,000 press-ups over the course of November to raise money for Tree Aid. They smashed their initial target and raised £1,889. Well done both!

"We supported Tree Aid because it touches all the things we care about; rebuilding ecosystems and helping those most affected by the climate crisis, but with a long lasting vision to allow support and management for future generations. Our 3,000 press-ups in the November challenge was something that pushed us both and was hopefully inspiring to others too.

We are grateful to all people who donated and hope they will choose Tree Aid if they do fundraising in the future. Keep up the good work Tree Aid!"



A school competition

A school in the Isle of Man is taking part in One World Charity Challenge, a competition which gives students the opportunity to represent and fundraise for a charity working in the Global South – and they chose to support Tree Aid.



Students at St Ninian's High School have been busy showcasing some advocacy work through their Instagram page, alongside doing fundraising at their school and sharing more about Tree Aid's work.

We'd like to say a big thank you to them!

"With our fundraiser we have raised almost £200 from our bake sales, Tree Aid is a charity for everyone and focuses on places that need help which we enjoy hearing about."

If you'd like to take part in an event or fundraising activity in your community, **please get in touch**. Any funds you raise will help to tackle poverty and food insecurity today while restoring land and protecting the environment for tomorrow.

If you have an idea for fundraising, or you would like some resources, please contact our Supporters Team at info@treeaid.org or by calling **0117 909 6363**.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Scan the QR codes below to get stuck in!



TEA FOR TREES

Get together with friends for tea and cake at your Tea for Trees fundraiser.



GREAT GREEN WALK

Walk, run or cycle 80, 800 or even 8,000 km in the Great Green Walk.



GIFTS THAT GROW

Why not fundraise for a £250 Nursery Starter Kit with our Gifts that Grow?



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a gift in your Will is an incredible way for you to make a lasting impact. Gifts in Wills enable us to plan ahead and expand the reach of the amazing projects that your support makes possible. A gift in your Will is also a way of ensuring that you can continue supporting the things that are important to you.

To find out more about gifts in Wills, visit treeaid.org/will. You can also request a free legacy pack in the post. Simply tick the legacy pack box on the form that came with this magazine and return it to us. Alternatively, you can email info@treeaid.org or call **0117 909 6363**.

If you are considering remembering Tree Aid in your Will, thank you. Gifts in Wills ensure that communities can grow nutritious food and incomes today while growing trees and restoring the environment for future generations.

Find out more
about gifts in Wills
by scanning here:

