SIMPACT RING



How we are tackling poverty and the

effects of the climate crisis **TREE AID ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

Tree Aid works with people in the drylands of Africa to tackle poverty and the effects of the climate crisis by growing trees, improving people's incomes, and restoring and protecting land.

EVISION

Thriving, sustainable communities across the drylands of Africa.

EMISSION

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

Since we started in 1987, we have...



Grown almost

22 million
trees



Worked with over

1.8 million
people



Supported **36,350** people in enterprise groups

Mali 2019/20:

- 165,203 trees grown
- 22,905 people supported
- 5,299 new hectares of land protected

Burkina Faso 2019/20:

- 1,111,548 trees grown
 317,786 people supported
- 5,268 new hectares of land protected

Ghana 2019/20:

- 494,914 trees grown
- 9,990 people supported
- 138 new village tree enterprise groups worked with

Mali Niger Burkina Faso Ghana Ethiopia

Niger 2019/20:

- 20,000 trees grown
- 8,731 people supported
- 69% reduction in damage to crops by wild animals

Ethiopia 2019/20:

- 190,752 trees grown
- 6,000 people supported
- 560 local people supported to produce fuel-efficient stoves

IMPACT IN 2019/20



1,982,418



365,412

more people supported than last year



54%

of the groups of local people we worked with were women



274

local communities supported to set up village tree enterprise groups to process and sell tree products



10,94

new hectares of land protected, that's around the same size as 27,036 football pitches



1,807

people supported to produce new fuel-efficient stoves that use half as much wood as traditional ones



54

new forest management plans put into action, working with local people to manage land sustainably



Our projects provide food and income for communities, tackling poverty today. They also offer long-term change, improving the environment and soil fertility and tackling the effects of the climate crisis, for tomorrow.

This report shows the amazing impact we've had in 2019/20, thanks to supporters like you.

We take a holistic approach

Tackling poverty and protecting the environment are inseparable and simply planting trees is not enough. We work with local people to make sure communities have the skills and tools they need for each tree to thrive. Trees can then provide food and income for local people, help restore land and protect the environment.

Without local ownership and management, forests can wither and die. This is why we work with communities and local government to make sure community ownership of forests is fully agreed and management plans are put in place. This year, we've put 54 new community forest management plans into action to make sure communities have roles and responsibilities, as well as rights to forest resources.

We strengthen resilience

Our work helps build local communities' resilience – their ability to adapt – in the face of a crisis. That could be the climate crisis, the global pandemic, or economic shocks.

In times of crisis, rural communities in the drylands of Africa can rely on the trees we support them to grow for essential food and income. We work with local people to protect and restore their natural environment so it can withstand floods and droughts and support them to diversify their income. We grow trees which grow businesses, often led by women. This gives communities an income today and stability for the future.

In Mali, for example, we worked with 467 farmers to restore 203 hectares of land to fertility, ready to grow food. And in Burkina Faso, we joined forces with local people to create 200 nutrition gardens, helping to diversify diets and incomes for some of the 4 million people in the country that are undernourished.

We see the bigger picture

All of our work contributes to a bigger movement of change, including the Great Green Wall. This is an African-led movement with an epic ambition to grow a wide belt of trees, vegetation and fertile land across the Sahel.

By 2030, the movement aims to have restored 100 million hectares of land across the entire width of Africa

Across all of our projects we grow trees, restore land and create green jobs in support of the Great Green Wall. This year, we worked with the United Nations and the African Union, promoting the

essential role of civil society at the fifth regional steering committee of the Great Green Wall in Senegal.

Our ongoing contribution to this urgent movement is providing futures for millions of people living in poverty.

We need to act now

Since we started in 1987, Tree Aid has restored and protected 155,222 hectares of degraded and infertile land, about the size of around 383,561 football pitches. With communities, we have grown almost 22 million trees across the Sahel region. We've also supported 36,350 people in enterprise groups to work together to process the seeds, fruits and nuts from trees and sell them.

As you will see in this report, joining forces with people in the drylands of Africa is working. They're benefitting from bigger harvests and more food to eat and sell.

There is still so much more to be done.

With your support, we will grow even more trees and restore huge areas of land. Together, we will stand with people living in the drylands of Africa to tackle poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

Tom Skirrow
Chief Executive

Shireen Chambers
Chair of Trustees





OUR APPROACH

We grow and protect trees so people can live from them for years to come.

In the Sahel region of Africa, people live with the effects of the climate crisis every day. Land is rapidly losing its fertility. People can't grow enough food and poverty is increasing. We believe tackling poverty and protecting the environment are inseparable.

Trees offer a solution. They help land to stay fertile so people can grow food and produce items to sell. Trees protect our planet, absorbing carbon dioxide, a cause of the climate crisis.

Every year, we grow millions of trees and protect huge areas of land. We don't just plant trees and walk away. We make sure local people have the training and tools they need to make each tree

At Tree Aid, we learn what works and share it – locally, nationally and internationally. Together with local communities, we influence policy and push for change that protects trees, people and our planet.



WHO WE WORK WITH

Our work is led by local people in the Sahel region of Africa. They have local knowledge and expertise. Together, we find long-term solutions to poverty and the climate crisis.



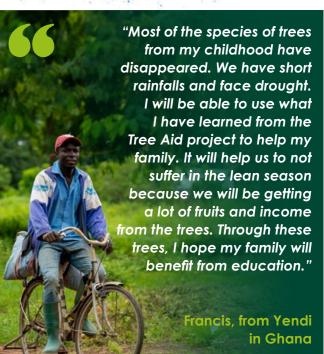
Local communities

The communities we work with in the drylands of Africa rely on land for most of their food and 77% of their income. They live with low rainfall and poor-quality soil, which means that, sometimes, families survive on just one meal a day.

We believe everyone has the right to live a healthy life, free from poverty. We support communities to get an income outside of farming. This is particularly important for women who have few options when it comes to earning money. Over 50% of the women we work with have concerns about their limited decisionmaking power when it comes to household spending.

"We gain from Tree Aid's rich experiences in forest management and natural resources regeneration and, by working together, can execute our development objectives. Together, we have helped local communities to regenerate their local area, improve household income and gain practical life skills. We are happy to work with Tree Aid to tackle deforestation and the climate crisis that threatens the world, in general and our country, in particular."

Dessisa Kabeta, Director at Vision of Community Development Association, a Tree Aid local partner in Ethiopia



Local partners

We join forces with local, national and international organisations to grow trees, improve people's incomes, and restore and protect land. Working in partnership, we find long-term solutions to tackle poverty and the effects of the climate crisis. Together, we influence policy and push for change that protects trees, people's livelihoods and our planet.

This year, we worked with 38 local partner organisations who share our knowledge, expertise and passion and support communities in the drylands of Africa to achieve their goals.



We support people to use trees to improve the fertility of soil and sustainably manage land in a way that helps them deal with the effects of the climate crisis.

This is our natural resource management approach.

Growing trees

Trees have the power to protect people from poverty, hunger, drought and floods.

This year, we joined forces with local communities in Africa's drylands to grow 1,982,418 trees and protect 10,941 new hectares of land.

In Burkina Faso, we planted over 500,000 trees as part of a three-year forest management project.

Tackling soil erosion

We support people to manage land in a way that stops more fertile soil being lost.

In Mali, we worked with 467 farmers to restore 203 hectares of land to fertility. Through our training, they learnt about everything from using stones along the natural contour of land – known as stone bunding – to creating small planting holes, known as zai pits.

Reducing forest fires

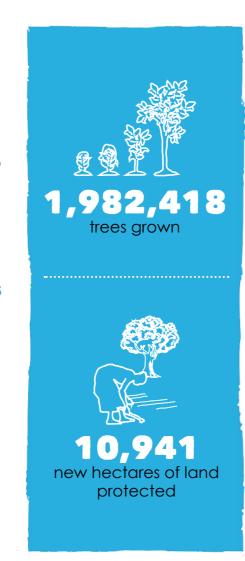
Forest fires destroy trees, spreading quickly across large areas of dry land.

University of Edinburgh research found that our work with local communities in Burkina Faso reduced forest fires by nearly two thirds. We talked to communities about developing a more managed approach to forest fires and helped create gaps in vegetation to act as firebreaks.

More fuel-efficient stoves

Many people in the drylands of Africa have no choice but to cut down trees for firewood to sell and cook with.

We helped local people in Ethiopia and Ghana to produce 1,807 fuel-efficient stoves so communities have another option. The stoves use half as much firewood as traditional ones, meaning fewer trees are being cut down and people have more time to focus on earning an income.



MANAGING LAND IN NIGER

In the Tamou region of Niger, people like Moussa Hima are using the skills they've learnt through Tree Aid to protect their environment and live peacefully with nature.

Before we joined forces with local communities in the Tamou region of Niger, trees were being cleared to make room for things like farms.

As a result, animals in the National Park were forced out of their homes into local villages. They caused damage to people's homes, crops and cattle as they searched for food.

There were also limited opportunities for local people to make an income. People were hungry because their land wasn't good enough to grow enough food on.

"It was a time of insecurity," says Moussa, from Tchoura village. "The reserves were empty, there were very few income-generating activities and we were waiting for the first rains. The only alternative was to go to the gold mining sites with all the risks and dangers that this brings."

A joined-up approach

Since 2018, with support from the Darwin Initiative and Contribution a la Gestion des Zones Humides, Tree Aid has worked with communities like Moussa's. Together, we are restoring and protecting land and trees, and managing conflict with wildlife.

Locals have grown 40,000 trees and 12 villages have established plans to manage them. We supported 770 farmers to learn conservation techniques to tackle soil erosion and regenerate trees – helping trees to replace themselves from their seeds that fall and grow.

We also worked with the wider community,

"The Tree Aid project came at a time when the population was in great need of it."

Moussa, from Tamou in Niger

supporting people like Moussa to join forest management patrols that are protecting local forests. Through our training, around 2,000 people learnt about everything from planting spices, to using scarecrows to deter animals. As a result, this year, fewer crops and livestock have been destroyed by displaced animals.

We have also supported 250 women with tools and training to turn tree products, such as mosquito repellent from neem trees, into sustainable businesses. This is increasing their household income and protecting forests at the same time.





For lasting change, local people need to protect and manage the forests and land they depend on. Working with communities, organisations and policymakers, we do everything we can to make sure forests thrive.

This is our forest governance approach.

Influencing policies

Together with local communities, we influence policy and push for change that protects trees, people and our planet.

In Burkina Faso, we've worked with local people to put policies in place that are changing the way communities use forest resources. This includes taxing forests to fund how they are managed.

Managing forests

We work with local people to make sure communities have the training and tools they need for each tree to thrive. Trees can then provide food and incomes, help restore land and protect the environment.

In Burkina Faso, we worked with communities to develop forest management plans to protect the 550,000 new trees we planted over four central regions of the country in the last year.

Creating protected areas

Working with local people, we set up areas of land protected from damaging practices, like clearing trees for farming.

In Ethiopia, 245 people had refresher training on how to manage these spaces, called enclosure areas. They learnt how to look after the soil and put 37km of stone bunding in place to prevent water from running off the land. Now, trees in the areas are starting to replace themselves from seeds that fall and grow.





SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN BURKINA FASO TO MANAGE THEIR FORESTS

Communities that rely on forests often don't have the authority to manage and protect them in the way they need to.

We've joined forces with communities in Burkina Faso to change this. Working with local people and government, we're helping to agree rules for using forests and their resources and providing tools and training to protect them.

This is important because the effects of the climate crisis and cutting down trees for things like farm land, are causing the land to rapidly lose its fertility. As over 70% of people in the country rely on the land to eat, many are living in poverty and are hungry.

This year, we worked with communities that depend on 25 forest areas in Burkina Faso to develop plans to protect them for years to come. Communities said they wanted two things: more trees and a solution to the lack of water that they live with.

With forest management plans agreed, we then worked with local people to plant 510,000 trees in 13 forests that support seven communities. We also looked at how to capture more of the large amounts of rain that falls from mid-June to September which runs off the land because it is so dry.

Water conservation

One of the best ways to reduce run-off water and get the maximum benefits from the limited season of rainfall is to build boulis. These are large pits dug deep into the ground that hold significant amounts of water throughout the year

"Thanks to the project, today people are working together to protect the forest within the forest management group. Decisions are made together and activities are agreed by all." Loungo women's group from Lâ Toden in Burkina Faso

and keep it cool, even when temperatures are very high.

We carried out a study of the areas to assess exactly where rainfall water is collecting in the 25 forests and understand its natural flow. By the end of March 2020, we'd identified 145 sites for boulis. Each of the boulis will hold around 2,500m³ of water, the same as an Olympic sized swimming pool.

Over time, the soil quality around the boulis improves. Communities can use the land to grow crops as a source of nutritious food, all year round.









We support communities to make and sell tree products, like shea butter and soap. The income they make from their businesses helps them to pay for essential healthcare and education.

This is our enterprise development approach.

Sustainable income

We grow businesses, often led by women. This gives communities an income today and stability for the future. We work with local people in groups called village tree enterprises. They work Ethiopia, we provided shelter together to produce things that come from trees which aren't wood, like seeds, fruits and nuts, and process them to sell.

This year, we supported people to form 274 new village tree enterprises, bringing the total we work with to 882.

In Burkina Faso, individual enterprise groups had average annual sales of \$1,927.

We joined forces with over 70 groups in Ghana to produce more and better-quality shea and baobab products. This has helped to triple individuals' annual income from \$52 to \$162 a year.

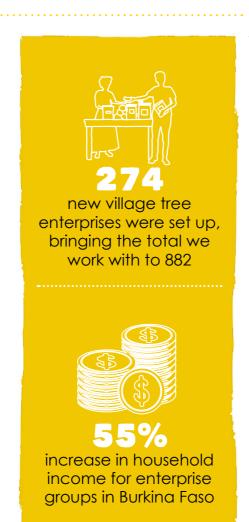
Skills and equipment

Our support for village tree enterprise groups includes everything from production skills and tools, to storage warehouses. In the Dugda-Meki region of and equipment and taught skills to local people so they could establish an enterprise group to turn moringa leaves into soap. Group members have sold 1,119 bars of soap to the local community.

Selling products

Enterprise groups need markets to sell their products to.

We've focused on this aspect of our work in Burkina Faso this year. After supporting village tree enterprise groups to get their tree products into shops and supermarkets, members' household income increased by 55%, or \$200.70 a year.



ENTERPRISING SOLUTIONS IN MALI

From 2017 to 2020, we worked with partners the Darwin Initiative and Sahel Eco and over 2,500 households in Segou, Mali, to reduce poverty by over a third.

Large parts of the Duwa and Sutebwo forests there have been cleared to make space for farmland. The climate crisis is also making rainfall unpredictable and the soil infertile.

With our local partner Sahel Eco we grew more than 670,000 trees, protected over 11,500 hectares of land and set up 44 enterprise groups to process and sell tree products, like shea butter.

Our evaluation work found that overall household income from tree products increased by 1,673%. Now, over a quarter comes from trees, compared to less than 3% before the project began.

Naomie's story

We worked with Naomie through our three-year project with her local community in Bokuy-Mankoina, Ségou, Mali.

"Here, the land belongs to the men. But us women, we depend on trees.

I have always made shea butter. I didn't go to school or know how to read or write.

Before Tree Aid, the rains weren't enough to ripen the shea fruit we were growing. We also had problems processing the butter. We had a lot of trouble feeding, clothing and nursing our children. Their sickness was our everyday life.

Our poverty was from a lack of income opportunities. Tree Aid facilitated gatherings for women so we could process and sell shea together and helped us with machines to process it.



We got training in good planting techniques. I planted cashew and mango trees, locust bean, baobab and shea plants, and eucalyptus.

Now, during the dry season, I grow lettuce, onions, chilli and tomatoes in a plot given to us women through the project. We eat some of the food as a family and I sell the rest.

We make more money thanks to the better quality of our shea butter and because we sell other forest products, like the locust bean and the baobab. We also make compost to fertilise the fields from tree products.

The project is bringing us women together. Thanks to it, I have studied literacy and can now tell the time and use a phone."





Trees provide nutritious fruit, nuts and leaves, giving people stable supplies of food, even when other crops fail. They provide an alternative, reliable source of food, supporting communities to adapt to the effects of the climate crisis.

This is our food security and nutrition approach.

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 and become an important source of food for families when crops struggle to grow.

Our project in Burkina Faso supported communities to create 200 nutrition gardens from 2017 to 2019. This is helping to improve diets and incomes for some of the 4 million people that are undernourished in the country. Evaluation of the project found that 45% more local people from these communities now eat processed tree products like baobab powder (see page 15).

Fruit to eat and sell

We distribute fruit trees to households that don't have enough food to eat.

In Ethiopia, some of the 354 households that received a papaya tree from Tree Aid are selling as well as eating its fruit. They're spending the money they're saving from not buying papaya at the market on other things they need, like utensils and food. Income from sales is expected to increase next year.

More diverse diets

We need to eat a range of food to stay healthy. Of course, this is difficult when you don't have access to much food at all, as people living in the drylands of Africa often don't.

To evaluate the impact of our work, we measure the diversity of the diets of the people we work with in local communities. In Mali, for example, this year, dietary diversity per household improved from 6.38 to 7 in the good growing season and 2.38 to 2.75 in the bad growing seasons.



DIVERSIFYING DIETS IN BURKINA FASO

Samine helps run one of 200 nutrition gardens that we set up with local communities.

Since it launched in 2017, those involved in the project have become even more aware of the benefits of nutritious food - 93% said child malnutrition in their community has decreased.

An external mid-project review found that the number of people now including fruit, nuts and leaves from trees in half of their meals increased from 21% to 55%.

Samine and others are growing and caring for moringa and baobab trees in the nutrition gardens, which are supporting 6,379 people in total.

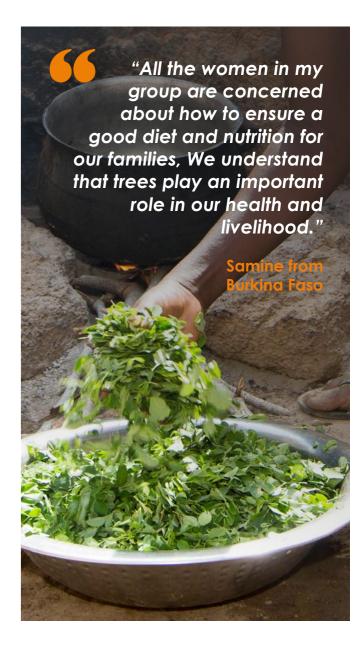
"We have learned how to maintain and manage sustainable moringa and baobab tree gardens, including planting and transplanting techniques and sustainable watering methods," says Samine.

The 26% increase in harvesting of moringa leaves and 137% rise in that of baobab leaves, has improved families' diets and provided a vital increase in income.

"In time, this will help us cover the cost of our children's clothing, school fees and health needs," says Samine. "The work that we do will also contribute to the development of our communities and our province."

As part of the project, you can also find nutritious tree products, like seeds and leaves from some of the 375,000 trees Tree Aid helped to grow, in two local shops and 14 kiosks.

"Local people see more benefit in planting and looking after trees than they used to," says Samine.



Thanks to this work with local communities in Burking Faso:

- Fewer women are involved in gold mining, which can be extremely dangerous, to earn income for food.
- Household income increased by 55%, or \$200.70, a year.
- Household income from things that come from trees which aren't wood, like seeds, fruits and nuts, increased by 127%.





Household income increased by

THANK YOU

Thank you to every one of our supporters and partners.

Together, we stand with people in the drylands of Africa so they can grow trees and nutritious food, earn an income and protect the environment for future generations.

Our work is only possible because of you.



LOOKING AHEAD

We are entering a period of unprecedented challenge for the environment and the future of the world.

The climate crisis, conflict, environmental damage, migration and the impact of COVID-19 present complex challenges and risks to the lives and wellbeing of millions of families in the drylands of Africa.



Our partners include:

- ActionAid Ghana
- Aduna Ltd
- Blue Diamond Ltd
- CIFOR
- Darwin Initiative
- Ecosia GmbH
- Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
- Gibbs Charitable Trust
- Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust

- ICRAF
- IDH
- Jersey Overseas Aid
- Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd
- Oak Philanthropy UK
- Ohh Deer Ltd
- Pines & Needles
- RPS Group PLC
- Sida
- Swedish Postcode Foundation

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Taronga Conservation Society Australia
- Timberland
- Treedom srl
- The A G Leventis Foundation
- The Headley Trust
- The Patrick & Helena

Frost Foundation

- The Paul Foundation
- The Ray and Leslie Trust
- The Roughley Charitable Trust
- The Triodos
 Foundation
- Turing Foundation
- UK Aid
- Unicorn

"Before Tree Aid, we didn't have

money to buy clothes or extra food.

Now, with income and knowledge.

At Tree Aid, we are working with these challenges every day. But we also see new and positive opportunities for communities and land-use. Trees are vital to achieving change. Looking after them will help to create income opportunities for communities and tackle the climate crisis, preventing fertile land being lost.

This year, we have significantly contributed to urgent global objectives to protect forests and restore land, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Great Green Wall, which will restore 8,000km of land across the Sahel.

Now, with 10 years left to achieve the targets of these initiatives, our work has never been more needed. There is a spirit of cooperation and call to action set out in the SDGs and trees and forests have a vital role to play in achieving the goals.

In 2020/21, we will:

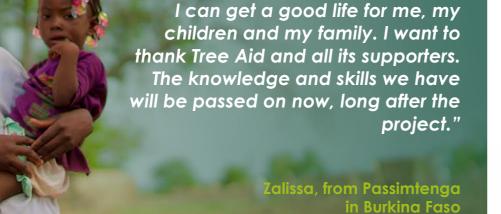
- Develop new relationships with Great Green Wall partners and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative to help restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030.
- Scale up our project growing trees and restoring land along the Daka River in Northern Ghana to restore it as a reliable source of water to grow nutritious food and incomes.
- Reach more people through our Burkina Faso project which provides communities with the tools and training they need to grow food to eat, process and sell.

- Build 145 boulis in 25 forests in Burkina Faso so that communities can use the water conserving tools to grow crops, all year round (see page 11).
- Share learning and impact data from our projects with policymakers and those in the international development sector, to push for change that protects trees, people and our planet.
- Continue to work responsively with local partners during the global pandemic and put the wellbeing of our project members and staff at the centre of project planning.

Thanks to your support, our projects will continue to make an impact now and are helping protect everyone's future.

Georges Bazango
Director of Operations





When you invest in a tree, you invest in people and our planet.







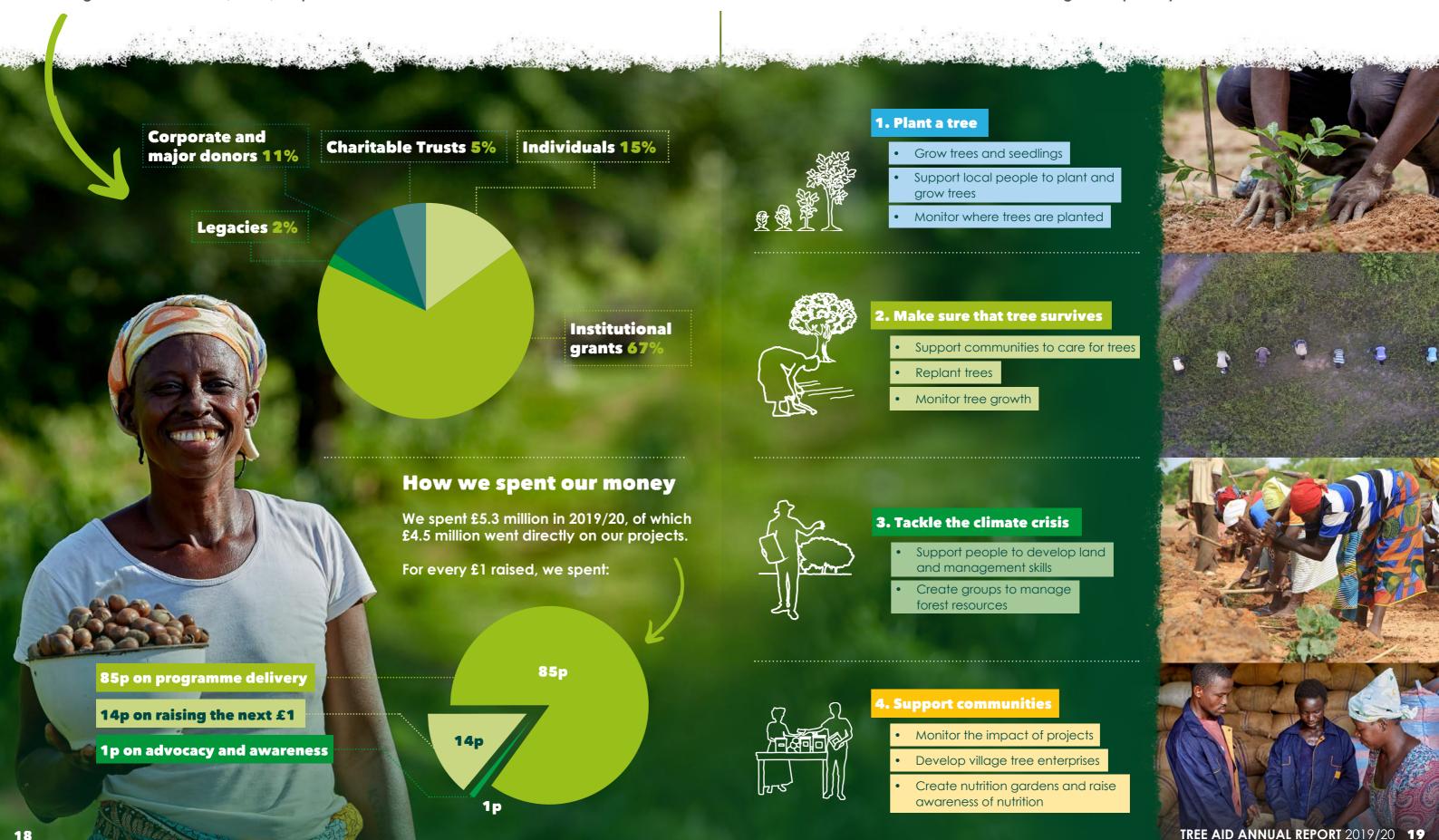
Donate to Tree Aid today and you will join forces with communities in the drylands of Africa to grow trees, food and incomes.

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

In 2019/20, Tree Aid's total income was £5.5 million. The money came from generous individuals, trusts, corporates and institutions.

GROW A TREE THE TREE AID WAY

Every tree we grow or protect is part of something bigger. It's helping to challenge the effects of the climate crisis and tackle hunger and poverty.



ABOUT TREE AID

We work with people in the drylands of Africa to tackle poverty and the effects of the climate crisis by growing trees, improving people's incomes, and restoring and protecting land.



Led by local people, our projects make sure trees thrive so they can provide nutritious food and incomes today and look after the environment for tomorrow. We support people to manage their land and resources in a way that helps slow down the effects of the climate crisis and stops fertile soil being lost.

Together, we influence policy and push for change that protects trees, people's livelihoods and our planet.



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