



YOUR UPDATE

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Dear Supporters,

Hello and welcome to your August Update newsletter. In this edition, you'll find the latest news from our projects on the ground across West Africa and Ethiopia. We have various exciting updates to share with you, all of which wouldn't be possible without loyal supporters like you.

We are thrilled to announce a new project in Mali that will run for five years. This initiative aims to protect land and support the livelihoods of communities by sustainably producing tree products. In Burkina Faso, we are launching another innovative project to create income opportunities by using sustainable tree produce. Additionally, we were honoured to have our patron, Adjoa Andoh, visit one of our projects in Ghana, where she witnessed firsthand the positive impacts on the land and the communities.

Your gifts are empowering people in the drylands of Africa to grow trees, protect their environment, and build sustainable futures. Thank you for being a crucial part of this journey and for helping to create lasting change.

Best wishes,



Tom Skirrow, CEO



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Cover photo: Robert Atuwura © Islands In A Common Sea, Jenny Jefferies.

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NEWS & UPDATES

The power of nature: driving collective action

Our CEO, Tom Skirrow, was involved in a week of fascinating and exhilarating discussions about restoration hosted by the Global EverGreening Alliance in Zambia.

Here is what he had to say:

*"There is a phenomenal group of talented and ambitious people in **Generation Restoration***. Our opportunity to accelerate land restoration has never been greater and our collective spirit will be the driving force to achieving our combined goal.*

I'm humbled to be a part of such an inspiring movement. For us to collaborate effectively, we need to share and learn from each other. That's not just how we do things and

**Generation Restoration is an initiative dedicated to restoring ecosystems to benefit the environment and communities.*

Photos: The panel from the co-hosted talk on Forest Governance with Farm Africa and Global Shea Alliance (above), Art of Forests Alliance network meeting (below).



our successes but also, what are our failures, or how we are financed.

Restoring millions of hectares of land across Africa is going to take every tool we have available to us, and we should embrace them all."

Thanks to Dreaming Fish

This year marks the fifth anniversary of our business partner Dreaming Fish supporting Tree Aid. Their donations are equivalent to growing 1,000 trees. A huge thanks for your ongoing support!



NEW PROJECT: GROWING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BURKINA FASO

Why is this project needed?

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 21.3% of its population severely undernourished. Since 2016, a security crisis, exacerbated by climate change and COVID-19, has displaced over 1.7 million people.

Today, 86% of the population heavily relies on natural resources for their livelihoods. However, unsustainable farming practices, overgrazing, and water scarcity have severely degraded these resources and reduced farming, threatening to plunge rural families deeper into poverty.

In the Balés province there is a triple emergency of insecurity, poverty, and climate change. In this context, forest resources offer the potential for rural communities to diversify and grow their incomes, helping to combat food insecurity.

The solution

This new project aims to support farmers in 10 communes in the Boucle du Mouhoun region by improving soil fertility through nature friendly practices and creating income opportunities using sustainable tree products.

Improving soil fertility

Through this project, we aim to empower communities to **restore 5,000 hectares of land and grow 225,000 trees**, significantly combating deforestation. We plan to **train 16,250 local farmers** in soil and water conservation, soil protection, and agroforestry practices. Smallholder farmers will learn to grow seeds suited to local weather conditions and implement climate-smart agricultural techniques like agroforestry.

To boost land restoration and food security, the project aims to **set up 15 nutrition gardens** and provide tools and committees for managing five conservation sites, protecting non-timber forest products (NTFP).

Fostering cooperation with smallholder farmers

To improve the income of vulnerable groups and lessen the strain on tree produce, we plan to **establish 40 Village Tree Enterprise groups (VTEs)**, each with 20 members, to create goods from non-timber forest products (NTFPs), generating additional household income. Additionally, **800 farmers raising small livestock will receive training in group management and cooperative living**, along with access to vital financial resources.

The project aims to:

This project was made possible with funding from European Union.



Promote nature friendly practices in **10 communes** of the Balé province

Increase farmland productivity and food security for **22,300 people** from local communities



Support **1,855 small producers** to develop sustainable livelihood opportunities using non-timber forest products

Restore **5,000 hectares** of land by planting **225,000 trees** and training farmers on sustainable agroforestry practices



We look forward to sharing progress updates with you on this exciting new project!

This project was made possible with funding from Darwin Initiative.



NEW PROJECT: SECURING RIGHTS & SAVING FORESTS IN MALI

This five-year project will promote local forest governance in the Ségou region of Mali. Working with communities, the project aims to restore and protect 10,000 hectares of land and boost incomes through sustainable enterprises selling non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Why is this project needed?

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 44.7% of the population living in poverty. Agriculture employs 90% of the rural population but is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Communities heavily rely on tree resources for food and income.

The Safienso, Sanekuy, and Mio forests in the Ségou region are impacted by overgrazing, trees being cut down, unsustainable hunting, and rapid agricultural expansion. Forest ecosystems across the country suffer from deforestation and biodiversity loss, with an estimated 500,000 hectares destroyed annually.

The solution

The goal is to support three forest management cooperative groups made up of community members responsible for the care, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the forests. These members will receive training and support to create land management plans for 26,700 hectares. 2,300 farmers will be trained in soil and water conservation and partner with communities to plant two million native trees. The project will also build six boulis – large reservoirs that store water during the dry season.

Village tree enterprise groups

The project aims to **establish 30 village enterprise groups (VTEs)**, community-level businesses of around 25 members each, mostly women, who will grow sustainable businesses from NTFPs. The goal is to **create 30 nutrition gardens** planted with fast-growing and nutritious trees such as baobab and moringa, supporting communities with sustainable and nutritious food.

The project aims to:



Support **2,250 households** to grow livelihoods from non-timber forest products



Protect **26,700 hectares** of land under sustainable management



Grow **2,000,000 native trees**



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH ADJOA ANDOH

In the last two years, Adjoa has supported Tree Aid as one of our patrons and has been inspired by our work. Recently, she joined us as we visited one of our projects in Ghana. With a deep love for trees and a profound connection to one of our program countries – her father is Ghanaian – she has many happy memories of time spent with family in this vibrant country.

In the northern region, the Daka river is a lifeline for local communities. It provides a means for drinking, washing, cooking, and farming. But with the increasing loss of trees, degrading soil fertility and impacts of the climate crisis, the water level can easily run low, and the river dries out for months on end, leaving communities without vital resources. In partnership with Ecosia, we are working with these communities to grow millions of trees to provide food and income and restore the river and the land.

It's not just about trees

Adjoa saw much more than just trees growing, from making grass briquettes to turning shea nuts into shea butter and learning about climate-smart farming. She saw how these new approaches to restoration, and ways of generating

sustainable incomes from tree produce have transformed the lives of people here, particularly some of the women she met on her visit.

Adjoa reflected on how Tree Aid *“is supporting women into growing trees as a way of earning a living. Trees hold the land together and in times of climate crisis when soil is so badly eroded, we need more trees.”*

“We have to think about new ways to support people who live off the land at this time of great climate crisis, and Tree Aid is doing amazing work in this area.”

Adjoa has expressed her belief that the arts can help address both poverty and the climate crisis, particularly through storytelling.

“When we are told stories, we are given a window into a world which isn't the one we are preoccupied with day to day; it changes our worldview,” she said. *“That's what stories are for.”*

Watch the short film from her trip which has been produced by our business partners Dreaming Fish.



THE POWER OF MORINGA WITH ROBERT ATAWURA

Exciting news! Robert Atawura, one of Tree Aid's Project Officers in Ghana, has been featured in a captivating book on nutrition called "Islands in a Common Sea" by Jenny Jefferies.

The book delves into the stories and recipes of farmers and much more. Here's a passage from the book about what Robert had to say about moringa farming and its impact on household nutrition in northern Ghana.

"I currently have 10 gardens for growing moringa leaves as a source of nutrition, which are dotted around communities within the Yendi municipality of the northern region of Ghana.

I began farming moringa in 2019 with my first farm at Latagim community and have gradually added the rest of the communities over time.

One of the challenges faced when farming this medicinal crop

is access to irrigation. The northern part of Ghana has two seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. The dry season runs from October to March while the rainy season runs from April to September.

Due to climate change, farmers have been faced with inconsistent rain patterns which result in low harvests. During the dry season, we must either stop farming altogether or find an alternative. So to catch up with production of the nutritious moringa leaves, **I decided to drill boreholes at each farm to enable farming and seed production all year long thanks to a constant supply of water from deep underground.**

Once the moringa leaves have been harvested, we must use the right production methods and packaging equipment to process the leaves into powder and package them. **The leaves are pounded or blended to achieve a smooth texture and then packaged for sale.**

It has always been my dream to see a society made up of healthy individuals here, especially children. In northern Ghana, where the level of malnutrition within our population is high, I have trained women on how they can best use this plant to provide nutrition for their families.

I am passionate about resolving this situation with malnutrition, which particularly affects children, in the northern sector of my country to help and support healthy families."

Text and image from "Islands In A Common Sea", Jenny Jefferies, 2024.



RECIPE: MAKE A LOCAL GHANAIAN DISH

We grow numerous native trees across West Africa and Ethiopia that produce nutritious food and leaves. You may be familiar with the Moringa tree that we cultivate across the countries we work with, and we want to offer you a food recipe that Robert highlights in “Islands in a Common Sea”.

Moringa Stew

Preparation Time: 30 minutes

Cooking Time: 10 minutes

Serves: 5 people



Recipe and image from
“Islands In A Common Sea”, Jenny Jefferies, 2024.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups moringa leaves
- 2 bulb onions
- 4 chunks of ginger
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 2 red peppers
- 6 fresh tomatoes
- ½ cup cooking oil
- ½ tsp salt
- 250g Ghanaian smoked salmon

Method:

1. Chop moringa leaves to measure out 3 cups. Roughly chop one of the onions with the ginger, garlic and peppers. Slice the remaining onion.
2. Blend the chopped onions, ginger, garlic and red peppers together in a food processor. Set aside and then blend the fresh tomatoes. Wash the smoked fish and set aside.
3. Pour the cooking oil into your pot and once heated, add the sliced onions. Stir gently as they fry until light brown, then pour in the blended tomatoes. Cover and leave to simmer for 2 minutes.
4. Stir in the blended onion mixture, cover the pot again and leave to simmer for 3 minutes. Now add the salt, stir and taste to check the seasoning, then add the moringa leaves and smoked fish.
5. Stir gently, leave the stew to cook for a final 5 minutes and then serve with your favourite accompaniment.

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

Marathons for the forest

You may have seen Nick on our social media or featured in our last Update Magazine! Nick has been busy fundraising and spreading the word about Tree Aid to friends and family on his JustGiving page. Over the past year, he has participated in two events while raising funds for Tree Aid. First, he ran in the Boston UK Marathon after an injury prevented him from joining the Florence event. Then, he completed a 34-mile Ultra Run. During this time, he has raised £1,187 for Tree Aid. Thank you so much, Nick!

"The sun shone for the Sandstone Way Ultra Marathon across Cheshire in May which awarded me a first in the age category. I got there in the end and with extended sponsorship time! Thank you, Tree Aid, for motivating me to keep going and the essential work across dryland Africa."

Trekking Hadrian's Wall

Cathy recently set a challenge for herself and her husband to walk Hadrian's Wall over six days. She



mentioned that this has been on their bucket list for a while, ever since she lived in Newcastle as a student in the early '80s.

A huge well done and thank you to Cathy and her husband on completing their walk and raising £1,000!

Here is what Cathy had to say:

"I've always wanted the challenge of walking Hadrian's Wall, stemming from being a student in Newcastle during the early 80's! Yes I'm quite old!! Having decided on the challenge early this year, my mum, Maureen Fletcher, asked if I was doing it for charity and said 'why don't you do it for Tree Aid?' As my late father John Fletcher CBE was a co-founder and Director, I thought it was a perfect idea.

I'd like to thank Tree Aid and all my family and friends who have



supported me. Without their love and encouragement, the challenge would not have been achieved.

Most of all my dad would have been so thrilled and amazed to see how this charity has moved on so successfully from the early days of its fruition over a pint in a Somerset pub to being the success it is today ... thank you. One day I will visit Burkina Faso and see where the first soil was dug!!!"

Great Bristol Run

This year we had five amazing supporters run the Great Bristol Run 10K and Half Marathon on 19th May. During this glorious sunny and

vibrant day in Bristol, our supporters managed to raise £532. Thank you so much to everyone that took part, fundraised and donated! We really appreciate your support. Well done team Tree Aid!

Get involved!

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:

- Walk, run or cycle 80, 800 or even 8,000km in the Great Green Walk
- Get together with friends for tea and cake at your Tea for Trees fundraiser
- We're now a charity partner with Elite Adventures who offer a range of amazing outdoor challenges



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4

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