25 YEARS ENDING POVERTY AND HUNGER

It takes a long time for a tree to grow. It takes a long time for a child to reach adulthood. But the child will grow as sure as the tree will grow – given the chance. The world’s response to Band Aid meant millions of lives were saved. Now, TREE AID will give them a life.


TREE AID was launched in October 1987, following the devastating Ethiopian famine of 1984-5 which was brought to public attention in the UK by Band Aid and Live Aid.

The aim was to use trees to provide a long term solution to the challenges of poverty and environmental decline once emergency relief efforts had ended.

Our founders believed in an approach that put poor people’s needs first and worked with local culture and terrain. 25 years on, this thinking has proven vital to the long term success of our programmes.

From very humble beginnings, and with your help, TREE AID has grown significantly in reach and reputation.

We have directly transformed the lives of over half a million people – and many more indirectly through the impact on wider communities and through influencing national and international policies (page 3).

Yet, whilst so much has been achieved, the recent drought and food crises in East and West Africa shows how much more there is still to do.

In our anniversary year, we are again providing a practical response to famine – introducing new projects to provide those most vulnerable with a secure, year round supply of food (page 5).

How our work ends hunger is the focus of this Special Anniversary edition of Update (page 4).

Our founders had the vision. We now have the knowledge. Trees can end the devastating cycle of drought and famine.

Unfortunately, trees are yet to be fully recognised as part of the solution, and this National Tree Week we will be calling on you to help (page 6).

As Geldof indicated back in 1987, your support has given some of the world’s most vulnerable people control of their life. It has given them dignity and has helped them survive (page 8).

Thank you

Ludovic Conditamé
Director of West Africa Operations
#time4trees

NEWS AND VIEWS

Touching the lives of many

At TREE AID we constantly strive to reach more people. Not just through the direct reach of our programmes but also through bringing influence to bear on poverty reduction at local, national and international levels. In recent years we have achieved great success and recognition for this work.

In 2011/12 alone we have:

- Supported and advised national governments in our core areas of tree enterprise, forest governance and natural resource management.
- Shared the impact of our work at international events in Benin, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa and the USA on issues ranging from ending desertification to pro-poor forest governance.
- Had our work published in reports by the UN Food & Agriculture Organisation and by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) amongst others.

Our influence:

“I’ve worked with many extraordinary NGOs and individuals in Africa, but TREE AID’s staff rank right at the top. They work in challenging circumstances at the Sahara’s edge with miraculous results, bringing nature and communities back to areas long abandoned. Their passion, dedication, knowledge and vision are unsurpassed.”

- Angela Robson, award winning journalist and BBC documentary maker.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded so generously to our Size of Wales appeal this summer – we have been blown away by the scale of the response. We know that times are hard for many people at the moment, and quite a few of you phoned to tell us that you wished you could donate more. Appreciating that times are tough for many of you, we are more grateful than ever for your support. However much you can afford to give, please be assured that it is received with enormous gratitude and every penny is put to good use.

And of course we want to thank everyone at the Size of Wales project, who matched your gifts to help bring our final total to a staggering £105,221.79. Thank you so much everyone.

Front cover image and above: The next generation. Children of a mango orchard started 10 years ago by TREE AID continue to reap the benefits today.
It was the conviction of concerned foresters that human and environmental tragedies on the scale of the 1984/5 drought and famine in Africa, are cyclical and require long term solutions, which led to the formation of TREE AID

- Neville Fay, TREE AID founder.

It was the conviction of concerned foresters that human and environmental tragedies on the scale of the 1984/5 drought and famine in Africa, are cyclical and require long term solutions, which led to the formation of TREE AID.

- Neville Fay, TREE AID founder.

TREE AID’s founders understood what was needed to help communities revitalise their environment using trees. They also had the experience to help people maximise the economic benefits that would come with restored farmland and other forestry related enterprise (page 6).

What they couldn’t have imagined was just how powerful their approach would be in directly ending hunger for so many people in Africa’s drylands. Or the role that foods from indigenous, drought-resistant trees would ultimately play in providing nutritious, at hand sources of food when other crops fail.

A year-round solution

While individual tree foods have limited seasonal availability, each species is ripe at a different time of the year. With careful selection it is possible to ensure that there is a regular supply of tree foods all year round. Many tree foods can also be dried and stored to be eaten or sold when most needed.

The three trees featured opposite would work in this way. Moringa leaves are available all year with Saba Juice (May to September) and Baobab leaves (September to October) providing some variety throughout the year.

New life for old trees

Years of practical research into what is most suitable for addressing the needs of local communities, means we often lead the way in developing new and exciting forestry techniques.

Tree foods are particularly important during the dry season when they help people cope with food scarcity. Tree foods come from every part of a tree, their leaves, seeds, bark and roots – and can supplement dwindling supplies of stored cereals by adding important nutrients to diets that are otherwise dominated by cereal staples such as sorghum and millet.

- *Moringa*: said to be ‘the most nutritional plant on earth’, and also known as the “miracle tree”. Almost every part can be used for food. The leaves in particular contain vitamins A and C, calcium, potassium and various proteins.

- *Baobab*: known as ‘the nurse’. Its fruit contains six times more vitamin C than an orange, over twice the calcium level of milk, and has high iron content. Whilst its leaves are used to fortify less nutritious foods when other crops are unavailable.

- *Saba Senegalensis*: The fruit of Saba Senegalensis is used to make a high energy syrup-like drink. Many women sell the fruit and syrup, in demand in local markets, to generate an income to buy other foods during times of famine.

A full list of TREE AID’s top food trees is available on the back page.

Top 3 'hunger busting' trees

- *Moringa*:
- *Baobab*:
- *Saba Senegalensis*:

Marian Bamoulu from Burkina Faso is a farmer particularly excited by the role she has played trialling our latest practices to increase the productivity of trees – and therefore availability of food.

With lack of rains come a lot of problems. Small trees can’t survive – and big trees, like the baobab, don’t produce anymore. With TREE AID training I have learned how to graft young shoots onto old trees. They are now producing as many fruits as they did in their prime!

Tree Foods project launched

Almost exactly 25 years after the launch of TREE AID in October 1987, we are starting work on our new tree food project in five regions of Burkina Faso. As this issue of Update goes to press we will be:

- Preparing to conduct surveys to assess household nutritional security and current use of tree foods in poor, rural households.
- Developing training programmes to preserve and share local knowledge on the best ways to cook and store tree foods for maximum nutritional benefit.
- Raising market awareness for tree foods so communities can start to make money from them.
- Beginning to work with emergency feeding programmes and child nutrition centres to improve nutritional status of children, using tree foods.

Marian Bamoulu grafting trees in Yako, Burkina Faso.

A year-round solution

While individual tree foods have limited seasonal availability, each species is ripe at a different time of the year. With careful selection it is possible to ensure that there is a regular supply of tree foods all year round. Many tree foods can also be dried and stored to be eaten or sold when most needed.

The three trees featured opposite would work in this way. Moringa leaves are available all year with Saba Juice (May to September) and Baobab leaves (September to October) providing some variety throughout the year.

New life for old trees

Years of practical research into what is most suitable for addressing the needs of local communities, means we often lead the way in developing new and exciting forestry techniques.

Tree foods are particularly important during the dry season when they help people cope with food scarcity. Tree foods come from every part of a tree, their leaves, seeds, bark and roots – and can supplement dwindling supplies of stored cereals by adding important nutrients to diets that are otherwise dominated by cereal staples such as sorghum and millet.

- *Moringa*:
- *Baobab*:
- *Saba Senegalensis*:

Marian Bamoulu from Burkina Faso is a farmer particularly excited by the role she has played trialling our latest practices to increase the productivity of trees – and therefore availability of food.

With lack of rains come a lot of problems. Small trees can’t survive – and big trees, like the baobab, don’t produce anymore. With TREE AID training I have learned how to graft young shoots onto old trees. They are now producing as many fruits as they did in their prime!

Tree Foods project launched

Almost exactly 25 years after the launch of TREE AID in October 1987, we are starting work on our new tree food project in five regions of Burkina Faso. As this issue of Update goes to press we will be:

- Preparing to conduct surveys to assess household nutritional security and current use of tree foods in poor, rural households.
- Developing training programmes to preserve and share local knowledge on the best ways to cook and store tree foods for maximum nutritional benefit.
- Raising market awareness for tree foods so communities can start to make money from them.
- Beginning to work with emergency feeding programmes and child nutrition centres to improve nutritional status of children, using tree foods.

Marian Bamoulu from Burkina Faso is a farmer particularly excited by the role she has played trialling our latest practices to increase the productivity of trees – and therefore availability of food.

With lack of rains come a lot of problems. Small trees can’t survive – and big trees, like the baobab, don’t produce anymore. With TREE AID training I have learned how to graft young shoots onto old trees. They are now producing as many fruits as they did in their prime!

Tree Foods project launched

Almost exactly 25 years after the launch of TREE AID in October 1987, we are starting work on our new tree food project in five regions of Burkina Faso. As this issue of Update goes to press we will be:

- Preparing to conduct surveys to assess household nutritional security and current use of tree foods in poor, rural households.
- Developing training programmes to preserve and share local knowledge on the best ways to cook and store tree foods for maximum nutritional benefit.
- Raising market awareness for tree foods so communities can start to make money from them.
- Beginning to work with emergency feeding programmes and child nutrition centres to improve nutritional status of children, using tree foods.
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: THE BUSINESS OF FOOD

TREE AID was born out of the foresters’ traditional long term vision – a perspective of generations, life time and life cycles. One which should, but not always does, encompass the relationship between human livelihoods and environmental well-being.

- extract from the minutes of TREE AID’s first AGM 1987.

National Tree Week

National Tree Week is celebrated every year, and this year from 26th October to 4th December we will be illustrating the role trees, and the businesses born from them, can play in improving food security and eradicating hunger for some of the world’s poorest communities.

This is an issue close to our hearts. From day one we have always believed in the power of joining people with trees to help them help themselves – realising that the benefits to be had went way beyond simply improving the environment.

For people living in Africa’s drylands, being able to feed their families is one of the most pressing needs. And trees help them do this, protecting farmland and crops, providing nutritious sources of food – and making it possible to set up small, green businesses that safeguard their families for generations to come.

Take action

Unfortunately, the role trees play in providing food security and safeguarding families against hunger is seriously undervalued – and, in this, our anniversary year, we are asking you to help raise awareness of just how much they offer. This National Tree Week, you can take part in our ‘Time4Trees’ campaign. There are many ways in which you can help:

- PLANT a moringa tree by purchasing a gift from our catalogue [https://donate.treeaid.org.uk/onlineshop]
- FOLLOW us on twitter @TREEAID and retweet every #time4trees post
- LIKE our ‘time4trees’ photo story on facebook

We’ll also keep you posted with up to date information on how you can support with regular messages on our website www.treeaid.org.uk.

Ethiopian enterprise

In our 25th year we are once again developing new projects in Ethiopia, one of the first countries we worked in.

This month we begin work in Gurage, in the western region of the Great Rift Valley Basin. Here loss of trees has meant more than 5,000 people are now struggling to grow anything from the steep, rocky terrain.

We will be working with communities to identify which fruits and vegetables have the best potential for generating an income in the region – and supporting them as they start the beekeeping.

We will then help groups set up co-operatives to promote the most promising products – and, in the longer term, introduce them to organisations that can provide them with the funds to scale their businesses up.

10 years of mangoes

A recent trip to Burkina Faso by award winning journalist Angela Robson brought news of a mango plantation started ten years ago by TREE AID that is still benefiting communities today. David Akanwondi first met TREE AID in 2002.

“We were 15 people in the beginning now there are hundreds of people involved. Thanks to our activities, development agencies and other NGOs come to us because of the experience we gained with TREE AID.

“Mangoes are important because their fruits provide food and their leaves are used for medicine. We also sell them to make money, working together to reduce the risk of doing it alone.

“The money we make selling mangoes has been used to educate our children for the benefit of the whole community. Young villagers also know how to graft mangoes and are making a living out of this.

“The benefits are long lasting. This is what we like.

Mango Orchard in Burkina Faso

A real superfood: Roseline Kansole, 32, is part of a co-operative that provides dried Moringa leaves to support a feeding programme at CASE orphanage in Burkina Faso, where they use it to treat childhood malnutrition.

In our 25th year we are once again developing new projects in Ethiopia, one of the first countries we worked in.

A recent trip to Burkina Faso by award winning journalist Angela Robson brought news of a mango plantation started ten years ago by TREE AID that is still benefiting communities today. David Akanwondi first met TREE AID in 2002.

“We were 15 people in the beginning now there are hundreds of people involved. Thanks to our activities, development agencies and other NGOs come to us because of the experience we gained with TREE AID.

“Mangoes are important because their fruits provide food and their leaves are used for medicine. We also sell them to make money, working together to reduce the risk of doing it alone.

“The money we make selling mangoes has been used to educate our children for the benefit of the whole community. Young villagers also know how to graft mangoes and are making a living out of this.

“The benefits are long lasting. This is what we like.

Mango Orchard in Burkina Faso

A real superfood: Roseline Kansole, 32, is part of a co-operative that provides dried Moringa leaves to support a feeding programme at CASE orphanage in Burkina Faso, where they use it to treat childhood malnutrition.
“In the early days, hundreds of people would come to us every week to ask for our support. The list of the problems they wanted to address was so long, and the need so high, I wondered how we would manage.

“People wanted to end their poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and famine. They wanted to improve their soils. They wanted drinkable water.

“But rather than be overwhelmed, we stuck to our strategy of providing trees to address their immediate problems – believing everything else would follow.

“Women especially embraced new knowledge in forestry, started to improve their environment and alongside TREE AID, helped discover the forest products best placed to help their families.

“We focused on trees that provided the foods to help them get through the difficult periods, increased the nutritional value of their diets and that could be used to generate an income.

“I have seen poor, vulnerable women turn their lives around. They can now send their children to school, afford healthcare, enrich the family diet, dress themselves and their family well and support others.

“For them, with trees very definitely comes dignity. Many thanks TREE AID. Happy Anniversary.”

Pascaline Korga from Burkina Faso collects and markets Ziziphus fruits – an apple-like fruit that when ripe tastes like dates. Following training from TREE AID she established her own plantation of more than 40 Ziziphus seedlings.

Paulina Akandekumti from Ghana collects and processes the seeds from the Dawadawa tree into protein rich ‘soumbala balls’ for sale.

“With trees comes dignity. Women come out of the shade stronger, better unified and organised. They can now raise their voices with large smiles and contribute to the development of their communities.”

-Felicity Yiki Bazongo, Finance and Support Manager, TREE AID

Felicity Yiki Bazongo is one of TREE AID’s longest standing employees in West Africa. She’s been with us over 13 years and remembers the days when the team there shared a single computer between them. She would give up her evenings so she could get her work done during her allocated ‘pc time’ and continues to inspire us today with the work she makes possible in the field.

“It’s amazing when you see the confidence of the women we work with grow once they start working with TREE AID.”

“ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: THE FOOD OF LIFE

Women of the Sahel Unite!

Tree foods play a particularly vital role in rural areas because other sources of nutrient rich foods, such as vegetables, are only available for a few months during the rainy season. The fact that tree foods can be gathered for free is an addition benefit for women on a limited income who want a healthy diet for their children.

Pascaline Korga from Burkina Faso

Before my involvement with TREE AID I didn’t think that a woman could have the means to be financially independent. TREE AID has made it possible for us women to achieve sustainable income-generating activities. At first many women did not believe in the project but have been convinced by what I do and want to emulate me. I serve as an example, because what I do is very beneficial. I am proud of that.

Paulina Akandekumti from Ghana

I enjoy dawadawa processing because it yields a direct financial return. The women who have joined this project have become very different from before. We are motivated and have purpose. All those who joined the project are doing better at looking after their children. They can go to school and we are able to feed the family throughout the year. I have learnt about the ways to manage a small business successfully and am now more confident.”

“Transforming land and lives

Our 2011/12 annual review, ‘Transforming land and lives’, is now available online. It looks back at our achievements over the last year and illustrates how our supporters are making a significant difference to the lives of people like Pascalina and Paulina, who are successfully carving out new lives in the harsh environment of Africa’s drylands. Thank you.”
FUNDRAISING...

We are delighted to say the rainy weather this summer has not stopped some of our fantastic supporters taking part in sponsored events for TREE AID!

A huge thank you goes out to all of our wonderful challengers for their continued support. You can find out more about their individual adventures on our website along with details of how you can take part in a sponsored event for TREE AID.

"Having worked as a volunteer for TREE AID I know that they are making a difference with the work that they do in Africa. It was a pleasure to undertake the Jurassic Coast weekend trek for them. I am still receiving some sponsorship money, but am pleased to have so far exceeded my target of £900, with the support and generosity of friends and family. Many, many thanks – your donations will be put to good use" - Jane Spray

Thank you Jane for your continued devotion to TREE AID.

Edmund Hopkins completed the Norwich 100 cycle challenge in May this year. Here is what he said about the experience: "did the ride in good company and blazing sun and covered the 100 miles in 5 hours 39 minutes...we’ve raised over £200 that will buy far more human benefit than I can calculate and of course you plant a tree and those benefits are perennial". Thank you so much Edmund for taking part in such a challenging event and raising precious funds for TREE AID!

Erika Varga completed a Tandem Skydive for TREE AID this summer. She describes it as “an amazing experience to jump from 10,000 feet and I am happy to support TREE AID”. Thank you Erika for raising money for TREE AID’s projects and for sharing TREE AID’s work alongside your Bowen treatment events by distributing leaflets, gift catalogues and copies of our update.

If you are interested in taking part in a sponsored event or even organising your own, get some ideas from the TREE AID website www.treeaid.org.uk or contact Tom Urry, who will be happy to help you with some suggestions for your adventure or helpful fundraising tips.

tom.urry@treeaid.org.uk

GIFTS IN MEMORY

We were very moved to hear from Mrs Shirley Everard recently, talking about her decision to donate the collection raised at her late husband John’s funeral last year to support TREE AID’s work.

'We never discussed things like funeral arrangements or wishes while he was alive, we just lived and enjoyed life. But knowing John’s support of TREE AID for a long time, that was the obvious choice for a memorial donation.

John’s life had been connected with forestry, and, being a great friend and colleague of John Fletcher (TREE AID’s early president), he was inspired to support him in such valuable work.’

John was also an early inspiration for the Sculptree auctions, a long time mainstay of TREE AID’s fundraising.

‘Viewing the International Sculpture Exhibition at Bregenz, Switzerland prompted him to bring the idea back to Britain. An auction was held at the Forest of Dean, then transferred to Westonbirt Arboretum.’

Whilst they ran between 1993 and 2010, the Sculptree auctions raised a staggering £250,000.

‘These efforts pleased him very much’, reports Mrs. Everard, rather modestly.

John Everard was a supporter of TREE AID for more than 20 years while he lived. Thanks to the donations in his memory, his legacy will survive for generations to come.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift In Memory of a loved one, or leaving a legacy yourself, please contact Tom Urry on 0117 909 6363

President: Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG KCVO
Patrons: Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Lord Carrington KG GCMG CH MC PC DL, John Craven OBE, Jonathan Dimbleby, Mark Edwards, Prof Hosny El-Lakany, Fergal Keane OBE, Joanna Lumley OBE, Lord Plumb DL MEP FRAgS, Jonathon Porritt CBE, Tim Rollinson, Diana Schumacher, Zoë Wanamaker CBE.
The fragrant flowers give way to nutritious fruits, high in calcium and carbohydrates.

The seeds are made into soumbala balls, the basis of a protein-rich gravy, and the flowers attract bees for honey production.

The fruits are rich in Vitamins A, B and C.

The leaves provide beta-carotene, protein, vitamin C, calcium, potassium and iron – truly a superfood!

The tasty fruits can be eaten raw or made into juice. The seeds are eaten like nuts, providing much-needed protein.

The delicious mango fruits can be dried and eaten later in the year.

The pulp can be made into a refreshing drink, or ground into flour and made into biscuits.

Shea butter is used as cooking fat, and is also an ingredient in chocolate manufacture.

The leaves are used to flavour food, and the seeds can be eaten in times of famine.