



Year 2 Annual Report for the Olympic Forest Project



Prepared by Tree Aid for Plan Vivo, February 2026

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List of Abbreviations

BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
FMP	Forest Management Plans
SWC	Soil and water conservation
IOC	International Olympic Committee
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PVC	Plan Vivo Certificates
OHADA	Organisation pour l'harmonisation en Afrique du droit des affaires/ organisation for the Harmonisation of Corporate Law in Africa

Summary

The Olympic Forest Project, implemented by Tree Aid in collaboration with local partner, La Lumière, and financed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is a large-scale reforestation initiative across Mali and Senegal. Launched in 2021 with planting beginning in 2022, this project aims to restore over 2,000 hectares of degraded land, contributing to the wider Great Green Wall initiative—a pan-African effort to combat desertification across the Sahel region.

The intervention zone covers the dryland regions of western Mali and eastern Senegal, areas that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. These regions suffer from severe desertification, irregular weather patterns, and declining soil fertility due to unsustainable agricultural practices and land overuse. Frequent droughts and floods in these zones are exacerbating poverty and food insecurity for local communities.

The project works closely with local populations, focusing on two primary methods: enrichment planting (high-density tree planting on communal land) and agroforestry (tree integration on private farms). These efforts not only help sequester carbon but also boost soil fertility, water retention, and biodiversity. Additionally, the trees provide non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as fruits, nuts, and seeds, which can serve as sources of food, fuel, and income for the community.

A key aspect of the project's sustainability is its emphasis on forest governance. Village-level and inter-village cooperatives have been established, along with forest monitoring brigades and formalised Forest Management Plans. These structures ensure long-term forest stewardship and engage communities in landscape restoration.

The project has faced challenges due to harsh climate conditions, including early and intense fires in 2023, which affected certain sites where trees were planted in 2022 and 2023. However, thanks to the determination of local communities and newly formed cooperatives, the project has made strong progress — restoring over 1,570 hectares of degraded communal land in 2024, with 429,809 trees planted. Building on this, 2025 has seen a further 431,900 seedlings planted across both countries, restoring over 1,500 hectares of degraded community land, alongside a marked improvement in seedling survival rates. The project has also continued to support private landowners in establishing agroforestry parklands, with 4,811 fruit trees planted in 2025. This Annual Report will focus on all the activities from 2025, including planting.

Table 1: Project Overview table

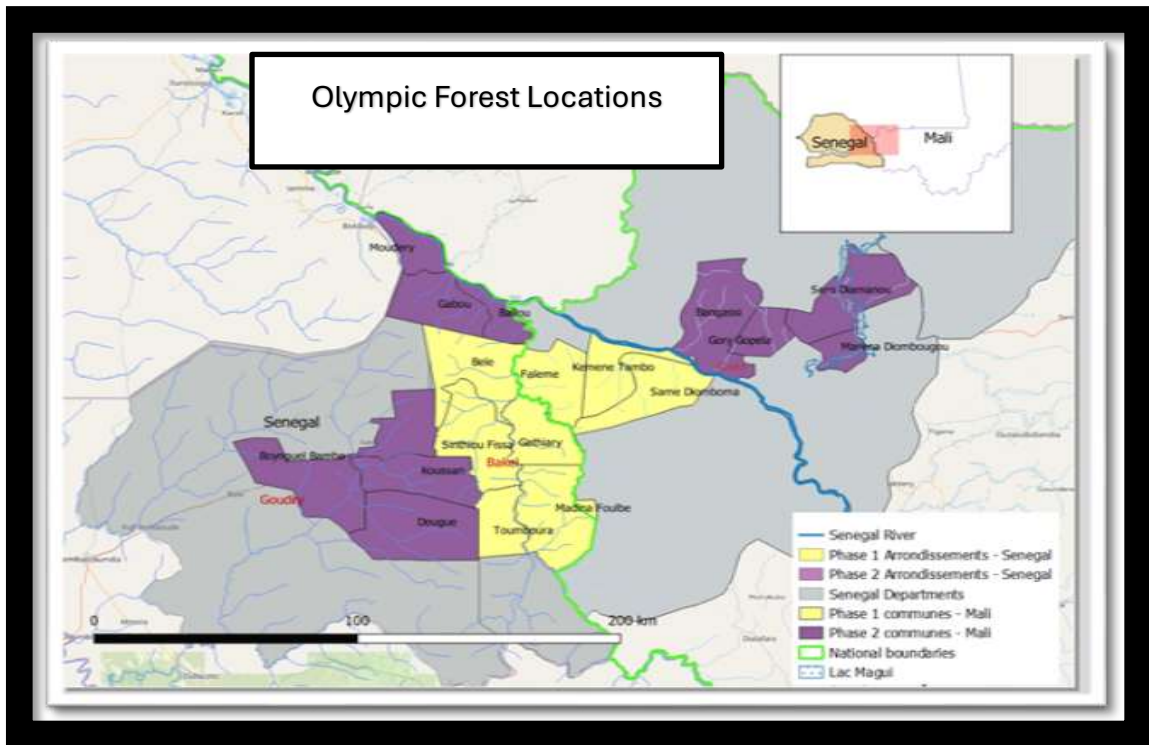
Project overview	
Reporting period	January 2025 – January 2026
Geographical areas	The project is taking place in two sub-catchments that are direct tributaries to the Senegal River, the Kolimbiné-Lac Magui (KLM) sub-catchment in Mali and the Falémé sub-catchment in Senegal.
Technical specifications in use	Enrichment Planting Agroforestry
Certificate Type	vPVC, ex-ante

Table 2: Project indicators table

Project indicators Mali	Historical	Added/ Issued this period	Total
No. smallholder households with PES agreements	186	0	186

No. community groups with PES agreements (where applicable)	10	0	10
Approximate number of households (or individuals) in these community groups	743	0	743
Area under management (ha) where PES agreements are in place	637	453	1,090
Total PES payments made to participants (USD)	0	0	0
Total sum held in trust for future PES payments (USD)	0	155,544	155,544
Total BSM payments (USD), including payments 'in-kind' made to project participants	228,735	165,328	394,063
Total ringfenced BSM payments (USD) to project participants	500,059	420,117	920,176
Total remaining ringfenced for PES payments (USD) for project participants	155,544	195,000	350,544
Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO2)	25,023	13,561	38,584
Saleable emissions reductions achieved (tCO2)	100,091	54,246	154,337
Unsold Stock at time of Submission (PVC)	0	0	0
Total Unsold Stock (PVC)	0	0	0
Plan Vivo Certificates requested for issuance (2025 Vintage)	100,091	54,246	154,337

Project indicators Senegal	Historical	Added/ Issued this period	Total
No. smallholder households with PES agreements	54	7	61
No. community groups with PES agreements (where applicable)	17	0	17
Approximate number of households (or individuals) in these community groups	1,447	0	1,447
Area under management (ha) where PES agreements are in place	933	0	933
Total PES payments made to participants (USD)	0	0	0
Total sum held in trust for future PES payments (USD)	0	155,544	155,544
Total BSM payments (USD), including payments 'in-kind' made to project participants	228,735	165,328	394,063
Total ringfenced BSM payments (USD) to project participants	500,059	420,117	920,176
Total remaining ringfenced for PES payments (USD) for project participants	271,324	13,554	284,878
Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO2)	22,733	13,450	36,183
Saleable emissions reductions achieved (tCO2)	90,935	46,451	137,386
Unsold Stock at time of Submission (PVC)	0	0	0
Total Unsold Stock (PVC)	0	0	0
Plan Vivo Certificates requested for issuance (2025 Vintage)	90935	46,451	137,386



PART A: Project updates

A1 Key events

Preparation of seedlings in community-led nurseries and local nurseries

In the first half of 2025, Tree Aid Mali concentrated on seedling production, working in close partnership with local nurseries. As in the previous years, a dual approach was used: collaborating with private nurseries while also supporting the women-led nurseries established by the project. This strategy reduces risks of shortfall, ensures sufficient supply for the season, and maintains both local ownership and high-quality production standards (see Table 1).

For the first time, the project partnered with DOK INNO SOLUTION, a nursery located just 15 km from the plantation bloc. To further safeguard against supply gaps, an additional 10% buffer was added to all the production targets.

Table 1: Nursery Production in Mali

Nursery	Nursery Type	Production Target
Groupe ment femmes Bada	Cooperative	20,000
Groupe ment femmes Tambocané	Cooperative	20,000
Souleymane N'Diaye	Local Private	80,000
DOK INNO SOLUTION	Local Private	100,000
	Total	220,000

Species selection was finalised in April 2025 through meetings between Tree Aid UK, Tree Aid Mali, and representatives of the forest cooperatives. Priorities were informed by:

- Community workshops highlighting demand for non-timber forest products
- The project's carbon sequestration target of 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ within the delineated forest areas in Mali
- Lessons from previous years on species survival and performance

As a result, less emphasis was placed on lower-performing species such as *Sclerocarya birrea*, with greater focus on resilient species, particularly various Acacia varieties.

A key change this year was sourcing seeds directly from local nurseries instead of national providers. Locally collected seeds are better adapted to the hot, dry micro-climate of Kayes, improving production and survival rates. Collection followed a phased schedule, managed by Amadou (Country Programme Manager in Tree Aid Mali), to ensure seeds were gathered at optimal times per species.

Women-led nurseries received targeted support in the form of substrate, pots, training, and seed collection assistance. Although their overall production was smaller than that of the private nurseries, their contribution remained important for the project's success.

Monitoring was carried out through weekly photographic updates. Thanks to the strengthened capacity of both private and project-established nurseries, overall production exceeded initial targets despite these delays.

Separate agreements were agreed for the agroforestry producers of 2025 who provided 3,000 fruit-producing seedlings. The species selected include mango and lemon, amongst others.



Picture 1: Production in May in the nursery of the femmes Bada (Left), preparation for transportation of seedlings, June (right).

As in Mali, the focus in Senegal during the first six months of the phase II project was seedling production. The project partner, La Lumière, worked closely with women-led nurseries to produce seedlings for the 2025 campaign. Over 200,000 seedlings were produced across three nurseries by June 2025 (see Table 2).

Species selection followed lessons from 2024 planting: less emphasis was placed on higher-risk species such as *Detarium microcarpum*, while more *Acacia* trees were introduced to the production targets for the nurseries.

La Lumière used a mixed approach: most seedlings were sourced from nationally accredited providers, while a smaller portion was collected directly by women-led nurseries. The improved skills and experience of the nurseries were reflected in higher germination rates and stronger seedlings.

Table 2: Nursery Production Target in Senegal 2025

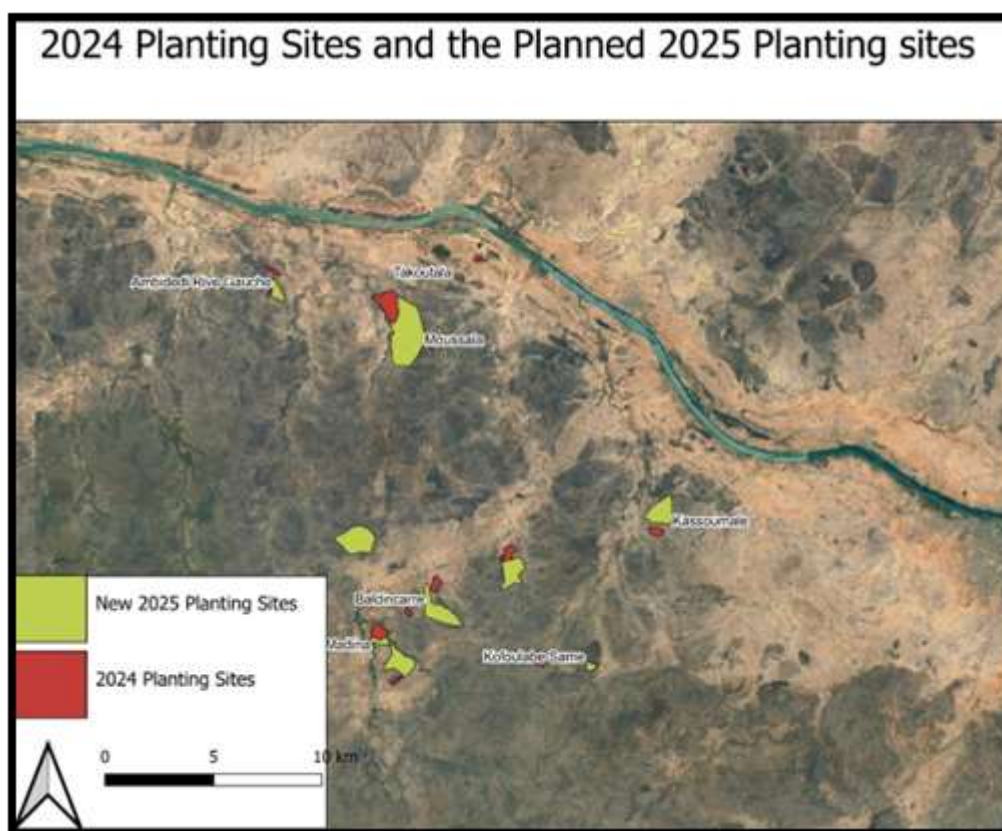
Species	Nursery		
	GOUREL MAMADOU BARA	SINTHIOU FISSA	Mamadou Diaw
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	5,000	5,000	
<i>Acacia mellifera</i>	15,000	15,000	4257
<i>Acacia senegal</i>	7,500	7,500	3,125
<i>Acacia seyal</i>	10,000	10,000	
<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	5,000	5,000	2,400
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	10,000	10,000	2,400
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	5,000	5,000	2,400
<i>Detarium microcarpum</i>	5,000	5,000	1,700
<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	5,000	5,000	
<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	5,000	5,000	2,400
<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	10,000	10,000	1,000
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	2,500	2,500	

Zizyphus mauritiana	5,000	5,000	2,100
Sterculia setigera	10,000	10,000	
TOTAL	100,000	100,000	21,782

2025 Site Preparation and Delineation

In May 2025, Tree Aid’s Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator in Mali, Aboubacar, led a mission to Kayes to delineate the community-allocated lands for this year’s planting (see Picture 2). The process was grounded in community workshops, where participants identified and prioritised suitable sites for restoration.

In Mali, at least 500 hectares of land needed to be allocated by the communities to ensure correct density for optimal survival and growth. Achieving this required careful negotiation to ensure that sites were distributed fairly among villages while remaining realistic in terms of community management capacity. The delineation also considered the need to reduce risks such as fire, grazing, and planting in ineligible areas, thereby safeguarding the long-term success of the project. The areas identified for planting can be found in Annex 2.



In Senegal, with support from Aboubacar, Tree Aid Mali’s Monitoring and Evaluation officer, La Lumière delineated the land for planting and identified sites where soil and water conservation techniques will be applied. By June 2025, all areas for planting and restoration had been mapped, with over 750 ha identified for planting.



Picture 3: Collection of seed, starting in January /February (Top) filling of pots by the cooperative members in February (middle) and the potting of seeds March (bottom).

Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) Activities

Communities across both countries were trained in SWC techniques, and this year the approach combines mechanized scarification (an approach that breaks up hard layers, loosens the soil structure, and improves conditions for planting or regrowth) with community-led implementation. At least 20 hectares were completed per site prior to the rainy season. These activities are designed to improve the survival rates of planted seedlings by enhancing water retention and infiltration, while also enriching the soil with essential nutrients.



Picture 4: Example of demi-lunes constructed in planting sites by the members of the community (left) and construction of pits produced by a tractor (right).

2025 Community Planting

Community planting activities commenced following the onset of the rains in July 2025 and were completed by the end of August 2025. The vast majority of seedlings were planted in early August to coincide with peak rainfall, following a short dry spell in the rainy season.

Large-scale mobilisation events were organised in each of the project communities to support the planting campaign and provide cash benefits to participants. The local Water and Forestry Commission provided valuable logistical and mobilisation support throughout the process. In Senegal, the Commission also contributed 12,000 seedlings to the project, representing a strong example of local institutional engagement and ownership. Tree Aid and La Lumière additionally piloted the use of demi-lunes (half-moon water harvesting structures) to improve early-stage growth and seedling establishment across project sites.

Overall, there was a noticeable increase in motivation and community participation during the 2025 planting campaign, reflecting the growing momentum and visibility of the Olympic Forest project. By the end of the rainy season, a total of 203,647 seedlings had been planted in Senegal and 228,253 in Mali. In total, 431,900 seedlings were planted as part of the 2025 community enrichment planting campaign. On top of this, over 20,000 seedlings were planted as part of strategy to replace seedlings lost in previous years. This took place in the same locations of 2024 and 2023 planting sites.

	Mali Trees Planted	Senegal Trees Planted
2022	0	49,467
2023	59,623	138,360
2024	212,654	217,155
2025	228,253	203,647 *
2025 Replanting	0	24,606
Total Planted	500,530	633,235
This table includes all trees planted in Senegal and Mali as part of enrichment planting. Trees known to		

have been lost are excluded from the carbon calculations. An additional 24,606 seedlings were planted in Senegal to compensate for the lower-than-expected survival rates recorded in 2024; these are not included in the 2025 issuance.

Protecting Planted Seedlings from fire and drought

Fire Prevention Campaign: Given the high fire risk in the project area, several preventative measures were planned for this year. These include installing fire-warning signage around project sites, organizing workshops with nomadic gum producers, and running radio-based awareness campaigns. These activities were rescheduled for September and October to align with the establishment of firebreaks and maximize their impact.

La Lumière continued to lead watering operations during the dry season — a critical activity to ensure the survival of seedlings planted in 2024. Forest Assistants used tricycles to access planting sites throughout the week, enabling them to reach remote and difficult-to-access areas.

Construction of Firebreaks: Beginning in October, both country teams mobilized a rapid firebreak construction campaign to protect newly established planting sites as well as those from the previous year. The campaign coincided with the harvest season, which made community mobilization particularly challenging. However, through forward planning and, in some cases, the use of tractors to accelerate progress, all firebreak construction was completed before the Christmas break. This represented a significant operational achievement. Further to the construction of firebreaks, the communities spent time clearing grass around the individual trees which has been shown to also reduce the mortality rates if fires start within the enrichment areas or manage to cross the firebreak.

Watering and Seedling Protection Measures: Watering activities are coordinated at village level through the forest brigades and supported by tricycles to transport water over longer distances. This is complemented by the application of a protective biomass layer around the base of the seedlings to retain soil moisture and protect root systems. These approaches — grounded in strong community engagement and effective brigade organization — have contributed to maintaining high seedling survival rates.

Improving Forest Governance: Tree Aid and La Lumière are supporting the development and formalisation of Forest Management Plans (FMPs) in both Senegal and Mali at the forest level. These nationally recognised plans, developed within the OHADA legal framework, provide a clear and locally agreed structure for sustainable forest management. Each Forest Management Plan is complemented by locally negotiated land-use agreements, known as Local Land Charters. These charters set out agreed rules governing access, use, protection, and restoration of forest resources. Importantly, they establish a practical enforcement mechanism rooted in community authority and customary systems, ensuring that forest protection measures are both legitimate and actionable. The agreements are developed through participatory processes and validated by local stakeholders, giving communities direct agency and responsibility over the management of their forest resources. This approach strengthens local governance structures, reduces conflict over land and resource use, and improves long-term sustainability. The Forest Management Plans were drafted in 2024 and then finalised in Mali in early 2025 and in Senegal in late 2025. Following formal validation, training sessions were conducted across both countries with community representatives, forest brigades, and cooperatives to ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and compliance with the agreed rules.

A2 Successes and challenges

Challenges

Erratic Rains: The region of intervention has faced another year of erratic rains which both result in flooding and dry windows within the planting season. This was again the case this year whereby a dry spell in late July meant that the planned planting activities were postponed to early/mid august. Thanks to strong engagement from the communities and the late finish of the rains almost all planned seedlings could be planted.

Firebreak Construction : The coinciding of the firebreak construction season with the harvesting season means that it's difficult to engage community members for this activity in an organized manner, as it's necessary for community members to prioritise the harvest of crops. It has been necessary to take a combined approach, using both tractors and community members to quickly build firebreaks. This approach has proven efficient whilst maintaining community engagement.

Security: In early July 2025, the AlQaida-affiliated group JNIM launched coordinated attacks across western and central Mali, including military positions in Kayes—a region that had previously seen minimal extremist activity. During the attack on Diboli, near the Senegalese border, gunmen seized key positions, highlighting a troubling expansion of violence into the border area. The project has responded proactively. Immediately after the attacks, staff in Mali were prohibited from travelling until security had improved. Enhanced information-sharing ensures strong communication channels with local and national security authorities in both Mali and Senegal. Logistics safeguards have been implemented, including careful route planning, adjustments made to missions that consider high-risk areas and, where necessary, alternative transport arrangements or additional protective measures. Tree Aid remains in close contact with International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) for security advice. Thanks to these security measures, project activities can continue as planned. Tree Aid remains prepared to respond rapidly to any emerging security challenge. A new Security Manager has also been recruited by Tree Aid, based in Ouagadougou, but supporting the organisation across all countries.

PES Distribution: The prevailing security situation has affected the planned distribution of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to both agroforestry participants and community cooperatives. The current context creates additional sensitivities around cash transfers, as financial distribution activities can attract suspicion or unwanted attention.

Tree Aid and La Lumière are therefore proceeding with caution to protect participating communities from potential exposure to security risks, while also safeguarding the organizations from any allegations or misunderstandings. To ensure full transparency and compliance, it has been necessary to obtain formal authorization from the relevant administrative authorities in Mali prior to proceeding with distributions. This approval process is currently underway in Mali and has already been completed in Senegal. PES payments are now being prepared in Senegal and Mali via mobile money.

Permanent Monitoring Plots and Survival Rates

In Mali a total of 13 PMPs were established across 2024 planting sites in June 2025—the first time this methodology has been applied in the project. Training for their implementation was delivered in November 2024 by the Tree Aid UK team. Although PMPs are not formally required under the Plan Vivo methodology, Tree Aid has committed to their use to ensure scientific rigour, transparency, and alignment with best practices recognised in peer-reviewed literature.

By adopting this approach, the project ensures robust monitoring, enhances the credibility of carbon accounting, and aligns with global datasets and regional ecological studies. Importantly, PMPs can provide tree survival rate data for the project. After the 13 PMPs were established in June, it was decided to establish a further 12 PMPs in Mali to strengthen the dataset for each village site, bringing the total PMPs to 25. These were established in August 2025 and brought the total number of PMPs to 25.

Through the established PMPs, Tree Aid is applying an adapted the Socio-Ecological Observatory for Studying African Woodlands (SEOSAW) permanent monitoring protocol, establishing 0.25 ha plots to track woodland vegetation dynamics. Within each plot, all trees above a defined diameter are identified, measured, and monitored for growth and survival.

Key methodological steps include:

- Stratifying planting areas into 60m x 60m grid cells, excluding grids with >10% overlap outside project boundaries.
- Random selection of plots (PMPs) using Python-based permutation functions.

Secondary verification of representativeness using the Winrock plot sample calculator to account for variation.

As in Mali, the team in Senegal has established PMPs to assess the survival rates of seedlings planted in 2024 and to monitor their long-term growth. Tree Aid supported La Lumière through training delivered in November 2024 on PMP establishment and data collection. Using the random allocation methodology, 30 PMPs have been set up both within and around the planting zones to provide comparative data.

The data collected is as followed: across both countries the survival rates were at 45% - with 33% in Senegal and 50% in Mali. The main reasons for the mortality were reported as follows:

Reason for Mortality	Mentions	%
Fire	35	25%
Grazing	48	34%
Trampling	47	33%
Erosion	6	4%
Flooding	2	1%
Other	3	2%

Successes

Increased Community Engagement and Formation of Cooperatives

In 2023, new forest cooperatives were successfully established in both Mali and Senegal to manage project forest sites. Community members — including women and youth — received training on cooperative principles such as solidarity, democratic governance, financial transparency, and environmental stewardship.

This initiative has strengthened local governance structures and ensured broad-based participation in forest management. By promoting inclusive leadership and collective responsibility, the cooperatives are now playing a central role in safeguarding restoration areas. Importantly, these cooperatives also provide the formal legal structure required to receive, manage, and reinvest funds generated through PVCs, thereby reinforcing long-term financial sustainability.

Protocols Established with Water and Forestry Commissions

Strong collaboration with government partners remains essential to the long-term success and maintenance of restored forest areas. Tree Aid and La Lumière have formalized protocols with the relevant Water and Forestry Commissions in both Mali and Senegal.

These agreements clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of each party and establish a framework for ongoing collaboration. By embedding the project within national and regional institutional structures, these protocols help ensure that planted trees are protected, monitored, and supported beyond the initial restoration phase.

Soil and Water Conservation Measures:

Scaling up soil and water conservation interventions has been a major achievement this year. The strategic use of ploughs in low-density and highly degraded areas has significantly increased the scale and efficiency of land rehabilitation efforts. This mechanized support has enabled large tracts of degraded land to be restored more rapidly and effectively.

These efforts are complemented by strong community mobilization. Local communities have supported newly planted seedlings through the construction of demi-lunes and stone bunds (rock walls), which improve water retention, reduce erosion, and enhance soil fertility.

In areas where these interventions were implemented in 2024, survival and growth rates have been notably high. Building on this success, the scale of soil and water conservation measures has been further expanded in 2025, with at least 20 hectares completed per site prior to the rainy season, contributing to improved restoration outcomes across project sites.

A3 Project developments

Defining the Benefit Sharing Mechanism

The final details of the Benefit-Sharing Mechanism (BSM) are currently being defined. Whilst a formal legal agreement has not yet been reached, the following arrangements have been agreed in principle:

Community development planning

Community investments supported through the BSM are designed to align with locally defined development priorities. Where appropriate, communities develop Community Development Plans at the village level, in coordination with village authorities and local development committees.

These plans help identify priority activities and guide cooperative proposals for BSM funding. To ensure consistency with existing development strategies, the planning process draws on established government frameworks, including the Plan de Développement Communal (PDC) and the Programme de Développement Économique, Social et Culturel (PDESC).

Governance structure

To oversee the allocation and use of BSM funds, the project has established a multi-stakeholder BSM Approval Committee. The Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving cooperative funding proposals, advising on project feasibility, budgeting, and technical support needs, ensuring proposals are inclusive and aligned with community development objectives, and monitoring the implementation and impact of funded activities. The Committee manages BSM funding on a twice-yearly (semestrial) cycle.

The Committee brings together representatives from participating communities and relevant institutions, including:

- elected representatives from participating cooperatives
- village delegates, including mandatory representation from women's and youth groups
- a representative from the mairie with governance responsibility over enriched forests
- Tree Aid/La Lumière staff, providing technical and administrative facilitation
- a representative from the Agence Régionale de Développement (ARD), ensuring alignment with state development plans and avoiding duplication with other projects
- a representative from the Senegal Water and Forests Directorate, ensuring alignment with forest protection plans

This structure ensures that decision-making remains rooted in community priorities while benefiting from technical guidance and alignment with regional development plans.

It is important to note that the BSM Approval Committee oversees community-level benefit sharing only. Direct payments to individual agroforestry participants are managed separately through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) agreements, which are linked to verified tree survival rates.

Funding Cycle

The BSM operates through a six-month funding cycle. Participating cooperatives develop proposals describing how their allocated BSM funds will be used to support community priorities, as outlined in the Community Development Plans. The amount of funding available to each cooperative is determined based on factors such as the area of land committed to project activities and verified tree survival rates. The BSM Approval Committee meets every six months to review submitted proposals, provide feedback where necessary, and approve projects that meet agreed criteria. Approved proposals are consolidated into a BSM Allocation Summary, which is shared annually with the IOC for transparency.

Fund management and disbursement

Following approval of cooperative proposals, Tree Aid transfers funds directly to cooperative accounts through secure transfer systems. In situations where electronic transfers are not possible due to operational constraints, funds may be transferred physically in accordance with national regulations.

Under the OHADA cooperative framework, participating cooperatives hold legally recognized bank accounts. Access to funds is supported by an Account Manager from the Water and Forestry Department, who helps ensure compliance with financial management procedures. Three signatures are required to access the OHADA bank accounts.

Implementation and accountability

Once funds are disbursed, cooperatives implement approved activities. At subsequent committee meetings, cooperatives provide updates on how funds have been used and the progress of supported initiatives. This process strengthens transparency, supports shared learning, and informs future funding decisions.

Through this governance framework, the project aims to ensure that carbon revenues contribute meaningfully to community priorities while reinforcing local ownership of restoration activities and long-term landscape stewardship.

A4 - Remediation Activities and Future Plans

The lower-than-expected survival rates outlined in the Challenges section of this report have been addressed through a remediation plan developed in accordance with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and agreed with participating communities.

To maintain the intended stocking index of the forest areas, it will be necessary to undertake additional planting of 200,000 seedlings to compensate for observed seedling mortality. As none of the participating communities reached the 70% survival threshold required for benefit-sharing payments during this monitoring period, a portion of the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) funds has been redirected to support remediation activities planned for 2026.

These decisions were made through careful consultation with communities to ensure a clear and shared understanding of why these funds were being used to strengthen the restoration effort and help ensure the long-term success of the project.

In total, 77% of the BSM fund remains available, while 23% of the full BSM (\$311,087) pot to date has been allocated to remediation activities required to restore the targeted stocking index. Based on observed performance, a more realistic survival rate of 52% has been adopted for planning purposes. Accordingly, the 2026 planting plan includes the establishment of 100,000 seedlings per country. The budget for the replanting plan allocated from the BSM totals \$ 71,809.69 (i.e. 23%).

For the ex-ante calculations for 2025, the updated survival rate of 52% will be used to better reflect field conditions and improve the accuracy of projections. The survival assumptions used for agroforestry calculations remain unchanged, as monitoring data indicates that these systems continue to perform within expected parameters. For the 2025 PES agreements, a 50% survival rate was agreed for a payment trigger, considered both fair by the communities and backed by the survival rate data to date.

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Table 2 – PDD Update

PDD (including technical specifications) document version:		
PDD section	Date change	Short description of update
PDD	08/24	Latest version of the Project Development Document submitted to Plan Vivo for Validation
PDD	03/25	The PDD is to be updated to reflect the fact the Senegalese government will use the credits as part of their NDCs and they will not be duplicated.

Table 3- Progress against corrective actions

Document	Corrective action	Activity against this
validation report	CAR05 Minor: The Project coordinator shall provide training to participants regarding Plan Vivo schemes and benefit-sharing mechanisms.	Training has taken place with the individual village cooperatives in the month of October 2024 to discuss benefit sharing mechanisms. This has taken place in both Senegal and Mali and was used as an opportunity to discuss and sign the PES agreements. The PES agreements were finalised and signed at the end of the benefit sharing workshops.

PART B: Project activities

B1 - Project activities generating Plan Vivo Certificates

The below table outlines the summary of progress against the two technical specifications and progress made with regards to the number of hectares (ha), and households and community groups involved over the reporting period. Please note that the majority of smallholder farmers with whom we have worked this year have already worked with Tree Aid as part of Issuance 1. A total of 7 new households have been taking part in the project, all in Senegal.

Table 4 Project activity summary (added in 2025)

Mali

Name of technical specification	New Area (Ha)	No New smallholder households	No New Community Groups
Improved land management through Agroforestry	123.00	0	0
Ecosystem restoration through enrichment planting	330.19	0	0
Total	453.19	0	0

Senegal (added in 2025)

Name of technical specification	New Area (Ha)	No new smallholder households	No new Community Groups
Improved land management through Agroforestry	19.00	7	0
Ecosystem restoration through enrichment planting	283.59	0	0
Total	302.59	7	0

Enrichment Planting

The project's primary objective is enrichment planting to restore large areas of degraded savannah and wooded savannah with the use of native tree species with high restoration and NTFP potential. Planting sites and tree species to be used are agreed through a participatory process in collaboration with local communities. The purpose is to assist the recovery of these areas through the reparation of ecosystem processes, productivity, and services. Tree Aid's approach combines enrichment planting of native woody species with community-led soil and water conservation (SWC) practices. The location of planting sites can be found in Annex 2.

The approach that Tree Aid established with World Agroforestry (ICRAF) under the Drylands Development Programme (DryDev) has been identified as a cost-effective practice for combating desertification, and for restoring agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. This approach broadly involves building farmers' skills in SWC, including half-moons to collect water at the base of trees, or 'Zai' pits to improve water retention in the root zone, and soil fertility improvements, including compost making, liquid manure and crop rotation.

Table 5: The trees planted and hectares that have been covered through the enrichment planting activities since the project start date

	Mali	Senegal
	Trees Planted	Trees Planted
2022	0	49,467
2023	59,623	138,360
2024	212,654	217,155
2025	228,253.00	203,647.00
2025 *not included in PES agreements of 2025		24,606
Total Planted	500,530	633,235
*24,606 trees were planted in community sites in Senegal in the 2024 planting sites to compensate for the lower-than-expected survival rates. These are removed from the 2025 issuance.		

Agroforestry Planting

The main objective of this activity is to support farmers in the adoption of agroforestry systems to restore and recover degraded farmlands, using strategies that reconcile conservation with social benefits. Farmland restoration is achieved through planting native species with strong NTFP potential, selected by communities on fallow and agricultural land. Participants are encouraged to combine trees with crops. The yield from agricultural land with trees is regularly higher than traditional cultivated land, and soil conditions are often better. Agroforestry will provide an alternative to the current farming practices. SWC practices will be promoted alongside agroforestry, in order to improve water harvesting and water retention around the seedling roots and farmland. This practice significantly improves the survival rate and establishment of trees but also improves farmers' understanding of the potential improvements in water retention and yields these SWC practices can have.

The activities put forward as project interventions are only eligible for smallholder farmers or communities with land where tree planting is possible or where community have some form of long-term customary user rights.

Table 6: The trees planted and hectares that have been covered through the agroforestry activities since the project start date

	Mali	Senegal
	Trees planted	Trees planted
2022	13,569	10,339
2023	6685	6,450
2024	9,042	3,927
2025	2,951	2,252
Total Planted	32,247	22,968
Note: This does not include trees planted as part of replanting efforts in 2025. A further 64 seedlings provided to agroforestry participants in Mali and 50 in Senegal.		

B2 Project activities in addition to those generating Plan Vivo Certificates

As mentioned in section in A1, activities have also included strengthening the functioning of cooperatives and committees, establishing surveillance brigades to watch over the sites, and to raise awareness across the communities (and those neighbouring) about the new management plans and any associated byelaws. This will provide a strong foundation for the local communities to manage the planting sites and help restore the entire planting sites.

There has also been an investment in nurseries, both infrastructure and training. This has not only provided a source of seedlings for the project but has also provided the local community with a source of seedlings for their own needs as well as the skills and facilities to continue to invest in tree planting.

The roll out of SWC techniques across the reforestation sites will not only help increase the survival rate of trees planted as part of the project, but it will help with biomass accumulation and ecosystem restoration across the project site. This is achieved by helping to capture water and nutrients within the enrichment sites, improving soil fertility.

PART C: Plan Vivo Certificate issuance submission

C1 Contractual statement

The PES agreements with the communities have been signed for all enrichment planting sites and the agroforestry sites for 2025 (see annex 1).

Table 7: Issuance request for Plan Vivo Certificates allocated to new participants and land Mali

Tech. Spec. used	No of participants/ groups allocated	Total area allocated (ha)	Carbon Potential (tCO ₂ /ha)	Total ER's (tCO ₂)	Leakage	Uncertainty discount	% buffer	No. of PVCs allocated to buffer this period	Saleable ER's (tCO ₂) from this period
Enrichment	10	330	207	68,390	0	1,368	0	13,404	53,618
Agroforestry	186	19	9	1226	134	306	0	157	628
TOTAL	196	349	217	69,615	134	1,674	0	13,561	54,246

Senegal

Tech. Spec. used	No of participants/ groups allocated	Total area allocated (ha)	Carbon Potential (tCO ₂ /ha)	Total ER's (tCO ₂)	Leakage	Uncertainty discount	% buffer	No. of PVCs allocated to buffer this period	Saleable ER's (tCO ₂) from this period
Enrichment	17	284	207	68,390	0	1180	0	11,567	46,267
Agroforestry	14	19	38	818	384	205	0	46	184
TOTAL	31	303	245	69,208	384	1385	0	11,613	46,451

C3 Allocation of issuance request

Table 8: : Allocation of issuance request Mali

Buyer name/ Unsold Stock	No. PVCs transacted	No. PVCs contributing to buffer	Registry ID (if available) or Project ID if destined for Unsold Stock	Tech spec(s) associated with issuance
Enrichment	53,618	13,404	N/A	N/A
Agroforestry	628	157	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	54,246	13,561		

Table 9: : Allocation of issuance request Senegal

Buyer name/ Unsold Stock	No. PVCs transacted	No. PVCs contributing to buffer	Registry ID (if available) or Project ID if destined for Unsold Stock	Tech spec(s) associated with issuance

Enrichment	46,267	11,567	N/A	N/A
Agroforestry	184	46	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	46,451	11,613		

C4 Data to support issuance request

The below tables show the name of each group involved in the enrichment planting and the number of hectares and trees associated with each group (see Table 10 and Table 11). **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the same information for the agroforestry participants. The groups and the participants were added to a register, the land which was subject to enrichment planting and to agroforestry was demarcated with an open-source data platform ODK forms. Information on each individual trees was collected using the ODK form within the agroforestry plots. The majority of groups and participants have already partaken in the project and can be seen in the Issuance 1 list. The new participants are identified in column ‘PES Agreement Number’.

Table 10: Enrichment Planting – Mali

PES Agreement Number	Group name	HA	Trees Planted
19.2	Madina	13.4	19,140
20.2	Bada	49.3	18,793
21.2	Baldincarre	40.7	23,500
22.2	Ambidedi Rive Gauche	11.1	12,500
23.2	Moussala	69.2	45,610
24.2	Takoutala	3.5	3,020
25.2	Kofoulabe Same	15.4	18,800
26.2	Sinsekoura	24.3	23,028
27.2	Marena	45.3	28,200
28.2	Arigabou	58.1	35,662
Total		330.2	228,253.0

Table 11: Enrichment Planting – Senegal

PES Agreement Number	Group name	HA	Trees Planted
1.2	Sinthou Fissa	28.6	14,200.00
2.2	Arigabou	21.4	11,000.00
3.2	Gourel Bouli	1.0	10,000
4.2	Youpe Hamady	20.9	13,000
6.2	Youpe Pathe	15.8	14,000
7.2	Sakhcounda	15.6	15,261
8.2	Sinthou Samba Ndiar	23.2	14,020
9.2	Goundiourou	8.8	16,000
10.2	Soumbourdaka	10.4	5,000
11.2	Bany Pelly	19.3	14,000
12.2	Diabougou Mossi	13.1	3,536
13.2	Bababe	25.5	11,100
14.2	Seno diaral	27.1	13,000
15.2	Sambacolo	22.6	14,000
16.2	Fidjibiji	14.4	10,000
17.2	Seoudji	8.8	11,450
18.2	Yerimale	7.1	14,080
		283.6	203,647.0

Part D: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

D1: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

All Plan Vivo Certificates produced by the project are ringfenced for the International Olympic Committee and are retired immediately, as shown in Table 14 (which has been provided as a separate attachment). For the purpose of this report, the entire project contract is used to calculate the sale value (\$) of the PV credits. Price per PVC will be based on the total number of PVCs produced and the total contract value between the project implementer and the buyer of the credits (the IOC). Price to Participants: is the combined value of in-kind BSM and PES payments made to participants per PVC.

Table 12: Breakdown of Expenditure on BSM to date (01/26)

Total Budget for BSM	Planned BSM expenditure	Actuals to date*	Remaining direct and non-payments
In-kind inputs (capacity building, production plants, payment for protection)	\$515,984.76	\$330,656.60	\$886,415.16
PES payments	\$701,087.00		
Total Community payments to date (03/26)	\$1,217,071.76	\$330,656.60	\$886,415.16

Part E: Monitoring results

The Rural Household Indicator Survey is planned for 2026 Q4 and will provide an update on socio-economic indicators for the project. The survey will be rolled out in both countries and will obtain detailed socio—economic data from the project participants. Ecological data continue to be collected via SEOSAW aligned PMPs, which have been established across the project planting sites.

Part G: Payments for Ecosystem Services

To date, Tree Aid has not yet disbursed any Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to participants; however, the organisation is now actively preparing to issue its first payments in both Mali and Senegal. In Mali, the prevailing security situation has necessitated a thorough assessment of risks to both participants and the organisation prior to initiating direct payments. Of particular concern is the need to ensure that communities and individuals are not targeted by armed groups as a result of receiving payments. In response, Tree Aid developed a set of internal and external safeguarding procedures, which required approval from the national in Mali before implementation could proceed. In Senegal, an additional administrative barrier arose from the requirement to formally register Tree Aid as an operating organisation with the national government, a process that delayed the organisation's ability to disburse funds via mobile money transfers. Collectively, these processes have extended over a period of more than nine months. An agreed approach has now been established, and payments to both individual participants and community groups are being prepared for disbursement in 2026.

G1: Summary of PES by year

Table 13 (attached separately) shows the annual PES payment schedule planned for the Olympic Forest Project, covering both the PES agreements from Issuance 1 (2024) and those produced in this report, Issuance 2 (2025). The delays mentioned above have resulted in a greater number of payments falling in Year 1. The table below shows the planned distribution schedule for the remainder of the monitoring period. Note that

Issuance 1 (2024) has been reduced to cover replanting costs in 2026, and future PES payments may be reduced, as per the PES agreements, to cover replanting costs.

Part H: Ongoing participation

H1: Recruitment

Over the 12-month period there has been a focus on working with existing participants of the projects, working to expand both agroforestry and enrichment sites with the existing participants and the existing cooperatives. In total, 7 new agroforestry participants have been added over the last 12 months. For the enrichment sites, we are working with the existing cooperatives.

H2: Project Potential

Further expansion of the project to include further participants and community groups is currently not planned.

H3: Community participation

Full list of community participation events are found in Annex 3.

Annexes

Annex 1: PES Agreements

Attached separately.

ANNEX 2 Project Locations

Attached separately.

ANNEX 3: Stakeholder Consultations

Attached separately.