



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Charity name: Treez CIO**

**Charity registration number: 1185908**

### **Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<b>The advancement of environmental protection and improvement for the public benefit in Malawi by providing funding for locally managed reforestation projects.</b>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<b>The charity's activities are confined to raising funds and making grants to assist projects carried out by others in Malawi. During the period of this report the projects being supported in this way are those of Zomba TREEZ Ltd, a not for profit company formed in Malawi in an effort to protect and restore the once well forested area of the Zomba Plateau. Work for which grants have been given relate to the planting, maintenance and protection of trees in this location.</b>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<b>The trustees have had regard to the guidance from the Charity Commissioners on public benefit</b>

### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<b>The grants that the CIO can make are necessarily dependent on the amount of donations received. The aim is for all donation income ultimately to be given as grants, apart from a minimal amount for expenses and a small working balance. (but bearing in mind that it will generally be safer to retain funds in the UK, until they are actually needed). An organisation seeking a grant must submit a costed proposal for a project in Malawi (and at least for the period covered by this report it must also be in the Zomba Plateau region). The organisation must hold a bank account in</b>

		<p>its name.</p> <p>Eligibility for a grant is then assessed against the following criteria: The proposal must be for community based tree planting and protection initiatives that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilise communities to tackle deforestation</li> <li>• Improve nutrition, food security, incomes and local livelihoods</li> <li>• Support communities' rights to manage natural resources in a sustainable way</li> <li>• Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Preserve and promote indigenous knowledge of natural resource management</li> </ul> <p>The aim is to support organisations that are based within or close to their community, and which represent the interests of the local community, including women and vulnerable groups; and to help such community-based organisations build their capacity.</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<b>The charity has no paid employees. All its activities are carried out by volunteers</b>
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b><u>Some Background</u></b></p> <p>The Charity was formed as a result of the Trustees' awareness of efforts being made in Malawi to reverse the degradation being suffered to the once well forested highland area of the Zomba Plateau. These efforts were at first undertaken by individuals, in particular the proprietors of Zomba Forest Lodge. Then in 2016 a not for profit company was formed to facilitate the work. This was named Zomba TREEZ Ltd (using an acronym that stands for "The Reforestation of the Environment and Ecosystem of Zomba"). The Charity was formed to help raise funds outside of Malawi to help with the work being done by Zomba TREEZ and potentially other similar projects in Malawi.</p> <p><b><u>Why reforestation is needed in Malawi</u></b></p> <p>Malawi has one of the highest rates of fuelwood use in the world, with 97% of the population dependent on firewood or charcoal for home use. Fast population growth and increased pressure on fuelwood and charcoal have led to the depletion of Malawi's forest resources. In the last few decades, Malawi has lost over half of her forests.</p> <p>The loss of forests brings with it multiple issues. Some of the most pressing ones include the loss of potential forest-based income (fuelwood, timber, honey, wild foods); changes in microclimate, leading possibly to less precipitation in areas with high deforestation; threats to local water resources and overall land degradation due to disturbances like fires and soil erosion. Loss of tree cover also leads to much greater risk to life from flooding. This was tragically illustrated by the devastation caused by Cyclone Freddy in 2023.</p> <p>Poverty is both cause and effect in this scenario; Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world in terms of per capita income, and the loss of forest resources is likely to disproportionately affect communities in and around forested areas that might already inhabit marginal lands</p> <p><b><u>Making a start in Zomba</u></b></p> <p>It is against the above backdrop that the current efforts are being made to protect and enhance the forest resources of the Zomba Forest Reserve.</p> <p>Zomba Forest Reserve encompasses Zomba Plateau, a massif rising to 2000m in southern Malawi. The plateau is the <i>only</i> source of water for the city of Zomba, the former colonial capital and now Malawi's fourth largest city with a population of around 100,000. The plateau</p>

		<p>further gives rise to multiple streams and small rivers that are used for drinking water and irrigation by local communities all around the plateau. Zomba, and the country's second largest city Blantyre (which is only an hour away), have placed rising pressure on Zomba Plateau's forest resources; research has noted that urban areas depend heavily on charcoal (not locally collected firewood), meaning that the rising population of Zomba and Blantyre will continue using more and more charcoal, sourced one way or another from local timber resources. Zomba Plateau has lost vast amounts of its natural forest in the recent past. The existing forests have also been ravaged by human-induced wildfires. This has led to a vicious cycle of forest depletion, leading to loss of livelihoods, which in turns pressures communities to extract even more resources from the forest</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>In the year the Charity received donations of £7,617, and a grant of £12,000 from the Belvedere Trust. From Malawi, Zomba TREEZ made two funding requests in the period: the first for £5000, the second for £8000. Both related to the on-going project under which community groups have been set up and allocated areas in need of reforestation. There are now 14 such groups. Reforestation is being sought through both new planting and rewilding. Zomba TREEZ pay an annual sum to the groups based on the number of trees, whether newly planted, previously present or naturally regenerated, which are still surviving in their respective areas. This approach is designed to encourage continuing maintenance of the regrowing forest as well as new planting. The two requests were granted making a total of £13,000 given in the year to aid this key project.</p>
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		<p>In September Zomba TREEZ held their annual Run4Reforestation on the Plateau. As in previous years the Charity saw an increase in donations around that time, some of this coming from sponsorship of “virtual runs” elsewhere. As well as being a fundraiser, the event itself is important locally in Malawi to raise awareness of conservation, and show what is being done.</p> <p>Towards the end of the dry season Malawi had hot and windy weather. This increased the danger of fire; and several fires did break out on the plateau. As in previous years Zomba TREEZ had organised local groups earlier in the year to clear fire breaks, which helped with containment. Nevertheless, bringing the fires under control was far from easy. Without any professional fire service or special equipment, it was down to Zomba TREEZ and their sponsored community groups to fight the fires in difficult terrain, often at night and with no more than a pickup truck to carry water to anywhere near where it is needed. Their efforts however were largely successful in limiting damage and protecting areas where conservation efforts had been concentrated.</p> <p>.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<b>The Charities Income for the year was £19,653</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>Funds are retained for the purpose of making future grants as needed</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>£19,845 at the year end</b>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<b>Donations Grants An annual fund- raising event- the Run4Reforestation</b>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>A written Constitution adopted in August 2019</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>As a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>The Constitution named the first trustees. It further provides that the CIO shall have a board of trustees comprising at least 3 persons; and that the Board may recruit new trustees. In selecting these the Board must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<b>As described elsewhere in this report the Charity is achieving its charitable objectives by providing funding to Zomba TREEZ Ltd in Malawi. That organisation was the Charity's inspiration and so far has been the Charity's only direct beneficiary.</b>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<b>Two of the trustees are related to Thomas Inch who is a director of Zomba TREEZ Ltd (and also the proprietor of Zomba Forest Lodge). James Inch is Thomas's father and Laura Coyle is his cousin. The other trustees, Selena Gleadow-Ware and Colin Doney, are not related, but were acquainted with Thomas Inch during the respective times they lived in Malawi. The trustees are aware of the need to treat Zomba TREEZ Ltd as they would any other beneficiary and expect them to submit written, costed applications in accordance with the Charity's grant making policy before making any funding available to them.</b>
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Treez CIO
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1185908
Charity's principal address	<b>2 Underwood Cottages, The Coombe, Streetly-on Thames, RG8 9RA</b>

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Laura Coyle			
2	Dr Selena Gleadow-Ware			
3	Mr James Inch			
4	Mr Colin Doney			
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## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity



Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

### Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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### Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	James Davidson Inch	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
Date	January 2026	

**Treez CIO** (Charity number 1185908) (incorporation date 21/10/2019)

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS** for period from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Opening Balance	£13,974.01
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**Income**

Donations	£7,617.34	
Grants received	£12,000.00	
Bank interest	<u>£36.37</u>	
	£19,653.61	<u>£19,653.61</u>
		£33,627.62

**Expenditure**

Fundraising expenses-	
Just Giving subscription	£126.00
Enthuse subscription	£545.88
Bank charges	£110.00

**Grants**

Zomba Treez	<u>£13,000.00</u>	
	£13,781.88	<u>£13,781.88</u>

Surplus	£19,845.74
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**Balance Sheet**

-	<u>at 31 /12/24</u>	<u>at 31/12/25</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	£13,974.01	£19,845.74
Retained surplus	£13,974.01	£19,845.74