

HM Forage Annual Return of Activity 2023-2024

In April 2023 three of the Trustees visited The Gambia. to finalise the registration of HM Forage Gambia, set-up our base for operations in The Gambia and interview potential staff. This turned out to be a pivotal visit for the organisation.

This was the first opportunity the Trustees had to inspect the stored drilling equipment, and it was confirmed that the crates collected from the port were HM Forage's and all had arrived. It gave Trustees the opportunity to narrow the options for a permanent base for our offices in The Gambia, as the landlord outlined, they were happy to adjust the temporary store to meet HM Forage's needs and offered a lease with very reasonable terms.

Trustees met with the Minister of Water and Fisheries to introduce HM Forage and outline the work we were looking to carry out in The Gambia. This enhanced the Trustees understanding of how to operate as a non-government organisation (NGO) in The Gambia and led to the constitution of HM Forage Gambia being modified before registration with the Minister of Justice and The Gambian tax authorities.

Identifying potential staff with the skills to lead the drilling operations was a crucial part of this trip and Trustees met an experienced engineer currently working in the drilling industry. The Trustees felt that this engineer had the knowledge, expertise, and ability to manage operations, and were confident that they had found the right person. Discussions with the individual were productive and they agreed to join HM Forage when we were able to employ staff. The Trustees took the opportunity to draw on the individuals' expertise, who inspected the drilling equipment and gave their opinion on the size of the team that would be required to operate it, how it should be transported and what vehicles would be required to move the equipment and staff.

During this trip, Trustees also investigated opening a bank account for the organisation in The Gambia and identified a Gambian individual to act as an administrator for HM Forage Gambia.

The April 2023 trip was built on over the next few months, with the building work being completed on the premises in May 2023 and a yearly lease signed. We contracted the engineer we had previously met as a Drill Operations Supervisor to start in August 2023 and in July 2023 purchased a truck in The Gambia to transport the drilling equipment. July also saw us travel to Holland to purchase two further vehicles to be exported to The Gambia for our operations.

After the Drill Operations Supervisor started In August 2023 we arranged with Village Drill, the suppliers of our equipment, to provide training on building the drill and its operation. This was planned for September 2023 with a trainer flying in from Kenya. This gave the supervisor a month to identify five other local Gambians to join the drilling team.



The team was joined on 10th September by two Trustees for the training, which was expected to be carried out the charity's leased premises. However, our Drill Operations Supervisor secured a contract for drilling a basic well with no pump in the village of Gida, and to drill a borehole at house of a local family in the village of Sare-Pateh. Trustees reported that this was an excellent five days, which confirmed we had made a great choice in contracting the Drill Operations Supervisor whose knowledge and management skills were impeccable. The team worked well together and drilled to provide the customers with crystal clear water. Described by a Trustee as "the sweetest water I have ever tasted".

Before returning to the UK our Trustees opened an account at the Zenith Bank for HM Forage Gambia adding our Drill Operations Supervisor and Administrator as joint signatories, with agreed signatory levels and instruction for statements to be sent electronically to Trustees in the UK.



September 2023 ended very positively for HM Forage. We were given the opportunity to tender, and was successful in winning, a contract to drill eight wells in the neighbouring country of Guinea Bissau for another NGO. This was a 3 to 4 month contract which had several legal hurdles to overcome before it could be undertaken. Our team in The Gambia worked hard to purchase all the parts required, and get all permissions, certificates and visas in place for the drilling team to leave for Guinea Bissau on 8th October 2023.

By 13th October work was well underway, and the Drill Operations Supervisor reported to the Trustees on a successful drilling of the first well in Guinea Bissau in the community of Njochteh. This drilling had taken 2 days and was very challenging due to having to penetrate rock. The team moved on to Abocca and despite drilling two boreholes they were unable to find water. This disappointment did not deter the team, and they moved on to a third village, Umaru Cosse. Again, it was very challenging as the team spent 2 weeks penetrating hard rock down to 57 metres, but their efforts were not in vain as they finally struck clean water.

Whilst the team were away in October 2023 the two vehicles purchased in Holland were delivered to The Gambia and founding Trustee Howard Measham flew to The Gambia to arrange customs clearance and delivery to our team in The Gambia.



In early November 2023 Howard was joined in The Gambia by our UK Secretary (Trustee Graham Hawkes), who worked with the Gambian Secretary to set up the processes for financial reporting to the Trustees, the Gambian Revenue Authority and the Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation. This is enabling our UK Secretary who is in receipt of our Zenith Bank statements to monitor how funds are being used in The Gambia.

Our drilling team continued to drill into December 2023 with mixed success. In the fourth community of Pet-Colobah they drilled two boreholes. The first was abandoned due to collapsing earth and the second found water but it was unfortunately saline due to the community's proximity to the sea. The drilling at the fifth community of Nhinte however successfully found clean drinking water at 50 meters.

The team returned to The Gambia for their Christmas break having successfully found water in three of the wells they had drilled, having gained a lot of experience and knowledge from there trip to Guinea Bissau.

In January 2024 the team returned to Guinea Bissau to complete the contract. This unfortunately ended in disappointment as faced by deep rock formations they were unable to find water in the other communities they visited. However, they had

impressed the NGO they had been working with and discussions were already taking place to work together in other communities in Guinea Bissau.

Following his return from The Gambia in early December 2023 our Founder and Chairman Howard Measham became seriously ill and the Trustees were deeply saddened and devastated by the news at the end of March 2023 that he had died.

The remaining Trustees are committed to fulfilling Howard's legacy and plan to build on the success of this year. We plan to work with the Drill Operations Supervisor to secure new contracts for HM Forage Gambia and look forward to being able to continue our work in The Gambia and surrounding countries, to provide employment to local people and bring clean water to African communities in Howard's memory.

G Hawkes

Graham Hawkes, Chairman and Trustee

Account approved at a meeting of the Trustees on 21st September 2024.



In the memory of Howard Measham 1930 – 2024



Registered Charity Number:

1192132

Registered and Correspondence Address:

30 Sydney Road

Newquay

Cornwall

TR7 1NQ

Trustees:

Graham Hawkes

Tim Greenwood

Will Luff

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

HM Forage

1192132

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	-	27,499	-	27,499	14,427
Interest	-	9	-	9	9
Income from charitable works	-	2,635	-	2,635	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	30,143	-	30,143	14,436
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	30,143	-	30,143	14,436
A3 Payments					
Charitable activities	-	28,346	-	28,346	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	13,857
I.T.	-	197	-	197	151
Travel	-	-	-	-	3,309
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	80
Legal	-	-	-	-	1,038
Bank Fees	-	60	-	60	72
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	28,603	-	28,603	18,507
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	28,603	-	28,603	18,507
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	1,540	-	1,540	4,071
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	6,721	-	6,721	10,792
Cash funds this year end	-	8,261	-	8,261	6,721

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank	-	7,580	6,040
	Metro Bank	-	2	681
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	7,582	6,721
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	Agreement Error
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds

	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Graham Hawkes	GRAHAM HAWKES	21/09/2024

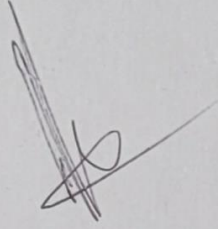
To Whom it may concern,

I have reviewed the accounts of HM Forage as submitted to the British Charity Commission and everything appears to be in order.

Barry Richardson

Tel: +44 7931 773013

Email: barry@myfathersbusiness.co.uk

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Barry Richardson', written over a horizontal line.

18/09/2024.