

GROWING TOGETHER



2025
ANNUAL REPORT



01

REPORT INTRODUCTION

Tom Skirrow – Chair of Board

As Chair of The Art of Forests, it is a true pleasure to present our first Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2025.

This first year of being a registered charity has been one of steady progress and growing confidence in the value of our community, and its activities. The challenges that face those working to restore and protect nature remain significant. Around the world, practitioners are navigating increasingly complex environmental, financial and social landscapes, often with limited opportunities to learn from one another or access the support they need. Against this backdrop, The Art of Forests has continued to provide a space where people can connect across disciplines, geographies and institutions in a spirit of friendship, reciprocity and shared purpose.

What makes The Art of Forests distinctive is not simply the breadth of our membership, but the quality of the relationships within it. We bring together practitioners, project developers, researchers, financiers, community leaders and others working at different points in the nature restoration ecosystem. By creating opportunities for honest conversation and practical exchange, we help bridge the divides that can otherwise hinder progress.

Throughout 2025, we continued to strengthen our role as a trusted convenor. Our dialogue initiatives created opportunities for participants to share experiences and perspectives that are often absent from formal discussions. Importantly, these conversations demonstrated that many of the barriers faced across the sector are shared, even where they are experienced differently. Participants repeatedly highlighted the value of developing a greater understanding of one another's realities and constraints, contributing to a more nuanced and collaborative approach to problem-solving.

Our knowledge-sharing work also evolved over the year. A great example of our work in practice is a workstream that was built from earlier discussions around land rights and tenure; this expanded into deeper, more practical discussions and case studies on community benefit sharing and partnerships. One of the most encouraging aspects of these exchanges has been the willingness of members to share lessons, tools and insights that might traditionally remain within individual organisations, such as management plans or community agreement templates. This generosity reflects the culture that has developed within The Art of Forests and reinforces our belief that collective progress depends on openness and trust.



As a small charity, we remain mindful of our responsibility to use our resources carefully and effectively. Much of what we have achieved has been made possible through the dedication of trustees, staff, volunteers and members who continue to contribute their time, expertise and energy because they believe in our mission. While our financial and operational capacity remains modest and uncertain, our influence is increasingly demonstrated through the connections we facilitate, the conversations we enable and the confidence our members place in our community.

None of this would be possible without those who choose to walk alongside us. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our members, partners, supporters and funders for their continued encouragement and commitment. I would also like to recognise the hard work and dedication of my fellow trustees and everyone involved in the day-to-day running of the organisation.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism. The environmental challenges we face are profound and urgent, but so too is the determination of those working to address them. The Art of Forests was founded on the belief that meaningful change happens through relationships: by bringing people together, fostering understanding and creating opportunities to learn from one another. The experiences of the past year have only strengthened that conviction.

I am proud of what The Art of Forests has achieved during 2025, and grateful to all those who have contributed to this journey. Together, we continue to build a community capable of supporting the people and organisations working to restore and protect nature for the benefit of people and the planet.

Tom Skirrow

Chair of Trustees, On behalf of The Art of Forests Board of Trustees

Signed

4 August 2026

Date

Our Charitable Objectives and How We Deliver Them

During the year ended December 2025,
The Art of Forests pursued the following
charitable objectives.

Our charitable objectives are to advance
environmental protection for the public
benefit worldwide by:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Objective 1 | Uniting organisations who are dedicated to the advancement of environmental protection, afforestation, reforestation, ecosystem restoration and nature conservation. |
| Objective 2 | Advancing education by fostering a space for the exchange of information and best practices and to make the useful results and guidance available and accessible for people globally. |
| Objective 3 | Fostering sustainable and resilient livelihoods through, but not limited to, the provision of education and knowledge, facilitation of access to technology and innovations, and financial support to encourage tree planting, agroforestry, conservation and other such activities concerning the elimination of the detrimental effects of climate change and environmental degradation. |

How These Objectives are Delivered in Practice

The Art of Forests supports members in the design, implementation, and scaling of their nature-based solutions. We have close to 200 individual members representing over 130 organisations. Two thirds of our members are operators and developers in the Reforestation, Afforestation, and Restoration space whilst others are in project 'support' roles such as technology, finance and academia.

We facilitate an online space for members to connect directly through dedicated WhatsApp channels focusing on different topics, such as biomass quantification, land rights, or project management approaches. We also run events based on the emergent needs of our members, inviting experts to present on specific topics. These are held over Zoom, as are community-only events which allow peer-to-peer sharing, support, and problem solving. Members can access recordings of all past events through a shared online drive.

The Art of Forests advocates for our members and facilitates sharing information on policy updates; we have also held dialogue events allowing members to speak directly with regulatory bodies such as carbon standards, policy makers and investors.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in accordance with section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 when making decisions, ensuring our activities remain focused on delivering measurable positive outcomes for the community we serve, with all resources dedicated to our charitable aims.



Introduction Caroline Päkel – Executive Director & Community Lead

Whether you are reading this as a member, supporter, patron, ambassador of the Art of Forests or simply as someone curious to know more about the Charity and its activities, please be welcome!

Registering the Art of Forests as a charity with the UK Charity commission in November 2024 marked the next iteration for a community of land stewards which had originally grown organically as a need for friendship and help in the design, development and implementation of their Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation project.

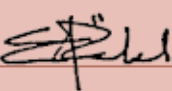
Indeed, when initially launched by Celia Francis and Sarah Scott at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, our beginnings were very humble. It is only thanks to a sponsorship from Terraformation that we were able to experiment and explore what the community needed for the first period of 2.5 years.

Gaining a charitable status was key to meet the needs of a wider range of funders and sponsors and amplify the work conducted thus far. And so it was, as we were granted funds from the Robert Bosch Foundation in January 2025. 2025 suddenly became not only our first operational year as a charity but our first experience of being funded to a level that allowed the implementation of solid organisational structures and processes, the consolidation of our knowledge sharing online platform and the prototyping of advocacy work with finance.

To both Terraformation and the Robert Bosch Foundation, we remain grateful. For their shared vision and understanding of the need for such community as the Art of Forests and for their belief and trust which have opened the door to many new conversations and possibilities.

The work to support those who protect, restore and heal the land and the communities who depend on it for their survival and wellbeing keeps on. We hope to attract continued interest from those who can facilitate this support moving forward. If you are one of them, please get in touch!

Warmest wishes, Caroline Päkel
Executive Director & Community Lead

Signed 

3 August 2026
Date



The work to support those
who protect, restore and
heal the land and the
communities who depend
on it for their survival and
wellbeing keeps on.

Trustee's Report: Highlights of our activities

This year was focused on building our membership base and offering responsive support to emerging member needs. Insights raised by members directly shape our planned activities – from launching new workstreams and expert sessions, to conducting surveys, publishing guidance, or convening stakeholders on topical issues.

Objective 1

Uniting organisations who are dedicated to the advancement of environmental protection, afforestation, reforestation, ecosystem restoration and nature conservation.

We officially launched the Art of Forests charity at London Climate Action week in June 2025, raising awareness for our work and our members, as well as networking with many other organisations.

We grew our membership to 194 by the end of 2025, ensuring all members had access to our active WhatsApp community chats; the online space expanded to include over 30 channels. We held responsive online events to allow members to connect and support one another over Zoom dialogues.

We worked on expanding our website to encourage to enable direct networking between members. We set up an interactive 'members map' on our website, allowing members (and visitors) to find each other by global region. We also worked on a private members hub, where members can upload profiles and contact details; this is due to launch in Spring 2026.

We also began a LinkedIn campaign which started in October 2025 and continued into 2026; this has allowed us to promote our members' work, the benefits of being a member, and to network with new members and potential funders.

Objective 2

Advancing education by fostering a space for the exchange of information and best practices and to make the useful results and guidance available and accessible for people globally.

We held 34 online Zoom dialogues in 2025, which totalled 747 individual registrations and focused on topics that emerged from member conversations as timely and relevant. The most popular workstreams for the year were on Land Rights and Tenure, for which we held three online dialogues, and Biomass Quantification, for which we held seven dialogues by the end of the year.

Our workstreams cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Agroforestry methodology
- Biodiversity
- Biomass Quantification
- Blue Carbon
- Carbon Standards Hub
- Financing and Scaling
- Funding Opportunities
- Land Rights and Tenure
- Local Community Engagement
- New Verra ARR Methodology
- PR/Media Influencing
- Safeguards and social impact
- Symbiosis Coalition RPF

We invite experts to speak and present on specific topics, such as Tony Rinaudo on farmers managed natural regeneration (FMNR) and Professor Shaun Quegan from the European Space Agency. Each guest is invited to share their expertise, but we also facilitate open discussion in every session, allowing all members' voices to be heard.

All events are recorded and uploaded to a shared members' Google Drive, including a transcript and meeting summary, enabling all members to access information from all sessions regardless of availability or timezone.

Objective 3

Fostering sustainable and resilient livelihoods through, but not limited to, the provision of education and knowledge, facilitation of access to technology and innovations, and financial support to encourage tree planting, agroforestry, conservation and other such activities concerning the elimination of the detrimental effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Our secretariat keeps in communication with our members, and reaches out to new members, who are actively working against the detrimental effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

We worked to facilitate direct communication between our members and investors, policymakers, and other stakeholders such as certification bodies. We ran a series of events with representatives from the Symbiosis investor coalition, as well as several dialogues with major carbon credit verification standards body Verra.

We also raised awareness directly for our members and their work. This included a survey of members' experiences in the carbon market, which was compiled into a report with both qualitative and quantitative data analysis in November 2025.





Structure and Governance

Structure

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and established under a Constitution, which dates back to 12th November 2024.

The CIO model was created by the Commission in response to requests from the charitable sector. It is a new incorporated form of charity which is not a limited company or subject to company regulation.

The Charities Act 2011 creates the basic legal framework for the CIO. This framework is completed under the following regulations:

The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012 ('General Regulations')

The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2012 ('Dissolution Regulations').

The CIO model to which the charity is established is the Foundation Model, whereby its only voting members are the charity's trustees. There is no wider membership, and as of 31st December 2025, there were five trustee members. Anyone over the age of sixteen can become a member of the charity. If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Governance

The Board of Trustees administer the charity; managing the affairs of the CIO, and exercising its powers. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the charity has specific regard to the skills, knowledge, and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

The majority of board meetings by trustees are held electronically, to minimise travel cost and environmental implications, and ensure the affairs of the charity, and decision making, can be managed regularly throughout the year.

Reference and Administration Details

Status

The Art of Forests is a UK Charity registered on 12th November 2024.

Governing Document

The charity was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), established under the Foundation Model Constitution; a legal document which sets out the objects and powers of the charity, and how these will be administered.

Charity Registered Number

1210898

Board of Trustees

Mr Thomas James Skirrow (Chair, resigned 1 May 2026)

Mr Andrew Heald (Appointed 1 November 2024, Chair since 1 May 2026)

Mr Frederic Fournier (Appointed 1 November 2024)

Miss Francesca Mahoney (Appointed 1 November 2024)

Mr Andrew MacCormack (Appointed 1 November 2024)

Mr Kofi Debrah (Appointed 3 March 2026)

Dr Tonhoza Uganja (Appointed 3 March 2026)

Mr Will Sheldon (Appointed 3 March 2026)

Mr James Whitehead (Appointed 3 March 2026)

Executive Director & Community Lead

Caroline Päkel

Registered Address

Salterton
Monks Lane
Freshwater
Isle Of Wight
PO40 9ST

Website www.theartofforests.org

Email address info@theartofforests.org

Financial Performance

The financial report, independently examined, can be found on the following pages of this report.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the charity has met with our project's fundraising targets in our first year.

A total gross amount raised

£102,070

Expenditure totalled

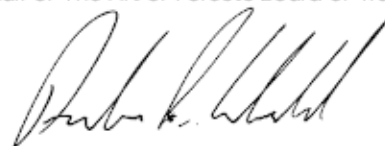
£62,161

Net cash funds at the end of this financial year totalled

£39,909

This report was approved by
the Board of Trustees on:
25 August 2026

Andrew Heald
Chairperson of the Board
On behalf of The Art of Forests Board of Trustees



Reserves Policy

The Art of Forests is actively seeking unrestricted funding to achieve the desired level of reserves to mitigate risk of unforeseen costs and temporary cash flow shortfalls. The Art of Forests reserves policy was reviewed and updated during May 2026. This policy is actively monitored and reviewed at the Board of Trustees’ meetings every twelve months.

The trustees have designated reserves where there are planned commitments that cannot be met by anticipated future income alone. These reserves are broken down into a number of funds that relate to:



Unrestricted Funds represented by:	Desired Reserves	Balance as at 31st December 2025	Description of Funds
General purpose reserve fund	£2,000	£2,017	Funds to provide to meet unforeseen expenses, for example an unexpected day-to-day running cost or requiring funding for an urgent project. Based on approx. six months of support costs.
Personnel Reserve	£15,000	£ -	Three months personnel consultancy costs and expenses.
Non-renewal of Grant Income	£5,000	£ -	Funds to provide cash flow if Grant Income is not renewed.
Cash Flow	£3,000	£ -	The need to fund short-term deficits in a cash budget, for example money
Total	£25,000	£2,017	



Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Art of Forests

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the period to 31st December 2025.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the act.

I confirm that I have the requisite skills and experience to conduct the Independent Examination for this charity to the standards required as set out in Appendix 5 of CC32. Although retired from practice as an accountant and as a member of a listed professional accountancy body, I continue to conduct a number of examinations on a voluntary basis every year. I also confirm that I am independent of the charity as set out in Direction 2 of CC32.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andrew Moore (Independent Examiner)

Blaenpentre,
Swyddffynnon
Ystrad Meurig
SY25 6AW

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Financial Statements

Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2025
Charity Registered Number 1210898

Receipts and Payments Account

The Art of Forests
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Account	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Receipts			
Donations and Grants	82,795	3,008	85,803
Membership Subscriptions	-	16,248	16,248
Bank Cash Back	-	19	19
Total Receipts	82,795	19,275	102,070
Payments			
Project Costs			
Advertising & Marketing	668	-	668
Consultants	36,270	9,081	45,351
Event Space Hire	4,380	-	4,380
Summit Costs	181	115	296
Survey Analysis & Reporting	-	1,620	1,620
Travel & Subsistence	2,454	3,827	6,282
Total Project Costs	43,953	14,644	58,597
Support Costs			
Accountancy Fees	-	40	40
Bank Fees	-	44	44
Compliance Costs	-	85	85
IT Software & Consumables	430	1,234	1,664
Meeting Expenses	350	162	512
Payment Service Fees	-	770	770
Subscriptions	-	169	169
Training & Development	-	110	110
Website Development & Hosting	170	-	170
Total Support Costs	950	2,614	3,564
Total Payments	44,903	17,258	62,161
Net Receipts & Payments / Movement in Funds	37,892	2,017	39,909
Total Funds carried forward as at 31st December 2025	37,892	2,017	39,909

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The Art of Forests
As at 31 December 2025

31 Dec 2025	
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	39,909
Total Current Assets	39,909
Funds	
Restricted Funds	37,892
Unrestricted Funds	2,017
Total Funds	39,909

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on:

25 August 2026

and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Heald
Chair of Trustees

The notes on page 19 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Art of Forests

For the year ended 31st December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, following best practise as laid down in the statement of recommended practise “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (SORP2019), with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Restricted funds are donated for either a particular project or purpose, the use of which is restricted to that project or purpose. These include donations, grants and contracts from individuals and institutions for provision of specific activities or services.

2. Going concern

The charity is operating on a going concern basis. The going concern assessment is undertaken by the board of trustees, which has a reasonable expectation that the Art of Forests has sufficient resources to continue in operation for at least a year from the date of signing this trustees report and accounts, and for the foreseeable future.

3. Charitable activities

Grants: Robert Bosch Stiftung

Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £
–	82,795	82,795
–	82,795	82,795

4. Transactions with trustees

There were no transactions during the year related to trustees’ remuneration and benefits. One trustee was paid £50.50 for out-of-pocket travel expenses.

5. Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions during the year with those persons and entities that are closely connected with the charity or its trustees (related parties).

6. CIO guarantees and secured debts

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debt secured on assets of the CIO.

