

Trees for Hope

Rewilding the Fertile Crescent

SC047707

OSCR Annual Report

January - December 2024

By :

September 2025

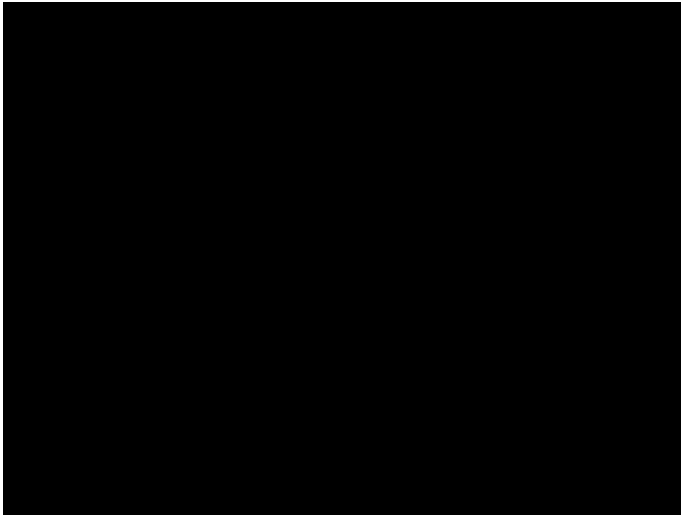
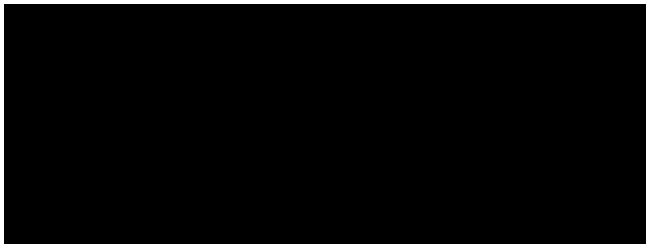


treesforhope.net

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Trees for Hope Trustees are



Trees for Hope Objectives and Purposes

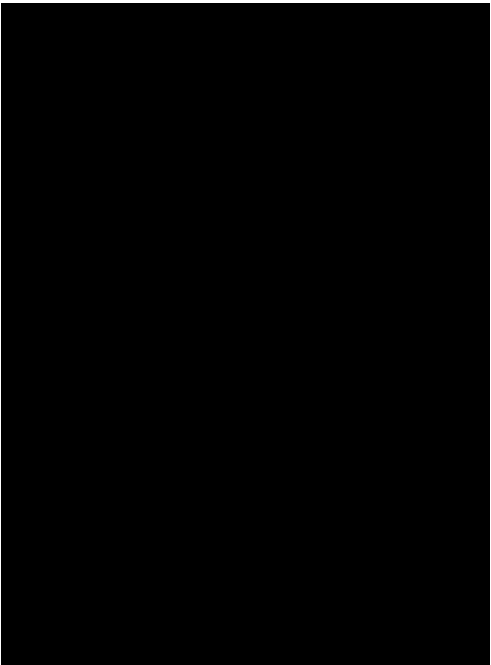
Planting a grove at Forsay, Roshven, Moidart

Trees for Hope’s broad objective is to be of aid in rewilding the area known as the Fertile Crescent. In 2023 we have taken a new direction to deliver our purpose by becoming engaged in practical rewilding work in Moidart, in the West Coast of Scotland, to aid in the revival of the Atlantic Rainforest there. By engaging participants from the Fertile Crescent and collaborating with the local community in Glenuig and Roshven, we have taken a few steps towards our original purpose while broadening our delivery to include the revival of the Atlantic Rainforest in Moidart. We have therefore designed a programme known as Community and Rainforest Engagement Week to be delivered in partnership with the local communities in Glenuig and Roshven.

Our Activities and Achievements in 2024

2024 had been a productive year for us at Trees for Hope with the following activities and achievements :

- Community and Land visits and surveys by our volunteers
- A Fundraising and Rainforest Connection event in April



- Two Community and Rainforest Engagement Weeks (CREW) one in April-May, and one in June.
- Removal of the invasive plant, *Rhododendron ponticum*
- Planting native trees
- Erecting two stock-fence guards in the woodland to monitor tree-growth
- Making tree-guards from rhododendron cuttings
- Making tree-guards in the woodland from posts and wire to protect young saplings
- Monitoring and removing re-growth of rhododendron from the sites we have worked on before.
- Team visit in Berlin to prepare our field work in the Fertile Crescent

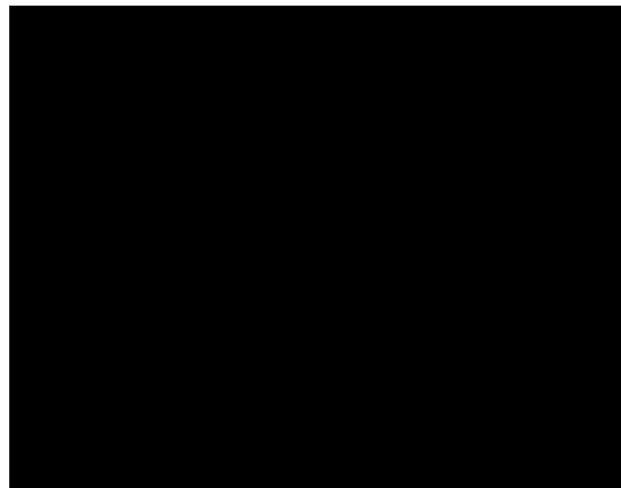
Monitoring the land for Invasive Plants

We realize that the invasive plant, *Rhododendron ponticum*, if not eradicated, will effectively choke what remains of the Atlantic Rainforest in Moidart. We have started monitoring and surveying the land for both the presence and absence of this plant.

We also realize that monitoring the land needs to be an ongoing activity since rhododendrons propagate by both seed dispersal and rhizome growth.

Ideally the local community will keep an eye on the land for this plant and will join us in our efforts to remove and eradicate rhododendron forever from Moidart.

What we have discovered on our surveys from Glenuig to Roshven is that all the land, whether forested or barren, is affected by this plant. To eradicate this invasive plant, therefore, a comprehensive plan needs to be in place for effective teams to tackle the removal in a methodical



In Smirisary, examining a whale bone by an old croft ruin. February 2024. A volunteer and community member.



Rhododendron survey in Glenuig. February 2024



Surveying rhododendron invasion in Glenuig, Feb., 2024



Rhododendron invasion survey in Glenuig. Feb. 2024

way.

We were fortunate to have gathered a team to tackle this demanding task. The removal of *Rhododendron ponticum*, for anyone who has tried it, needs technique, skills, and the right tools.

Community and Rainforest Engagement Week (CREW)

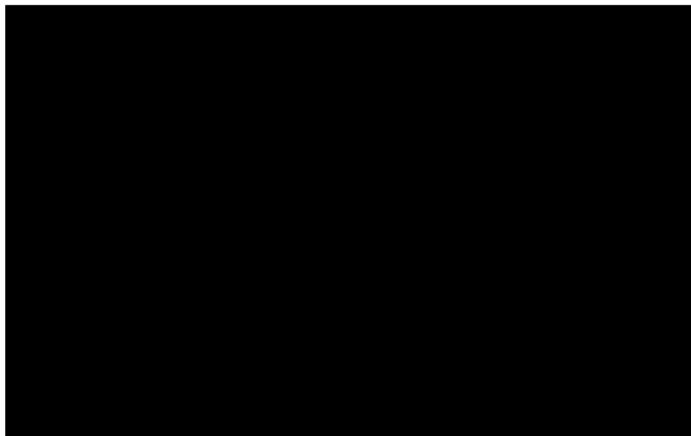
CREW weeks are designed to hold restoration programmes for the Atlantic Rainforest with volunteers from outside the communities to work with the community folks who care to join the work days.

This year we held two CREW weeks. We had the opportunity to stay at Samalaman House, a historic building that was built as a Catholic seminary. Its many rooms enabled us to gather a group of 12 volunteers. This large group demonstrated that removing large and small rhododendron bushes from about 10 acres can be done in a day when we have the right tools and cohesion in the group.

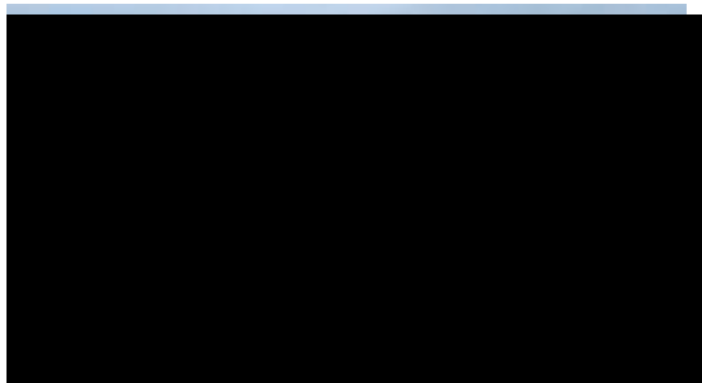
Two people in our April/May week had carpentry skills. They built sturdy tree-guards from rhododendron wood, demonstrating that such a structure could be built. Compared to the conventional fences built by wooden posts and wire, this structure takes longer to construct. However building a rhododendron tree-guard needs skill and patience. Perhaps that is why we don't see more of it in the West Coast where we should have an abundance of rhododendron material available.

We returned to the same field, known as Ballachan House, subsequently to inspect the regrowth of the plants we had removed. Sure enough there's been a noticeable re-

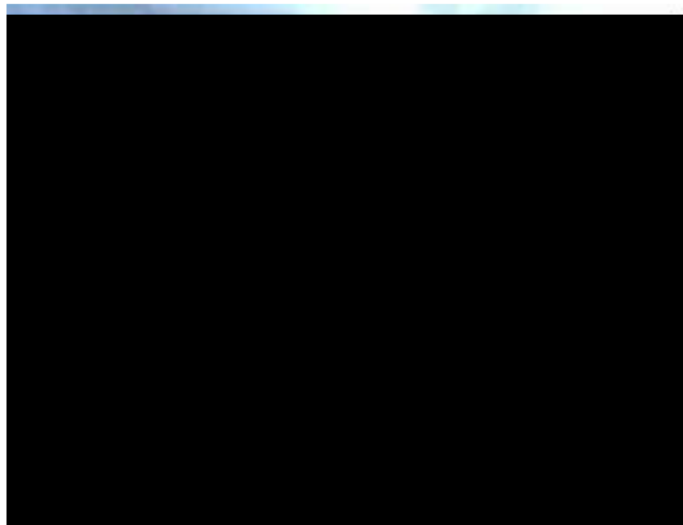
Charity Annual Report



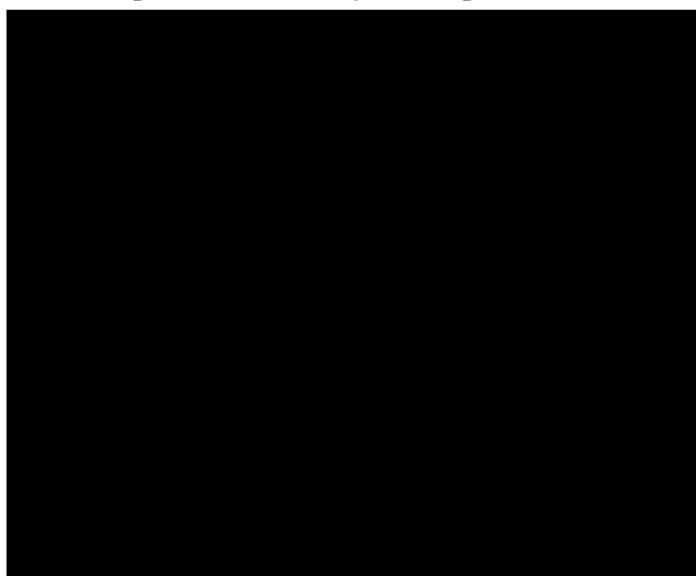
Removing the plant from above Ballachan House, Glenuig.



Team work during our CREW week IV, Glenuig



Tackling rhododendrons is a job needing skills and tools.



From waste to resource : making tree-guards with rhododendron

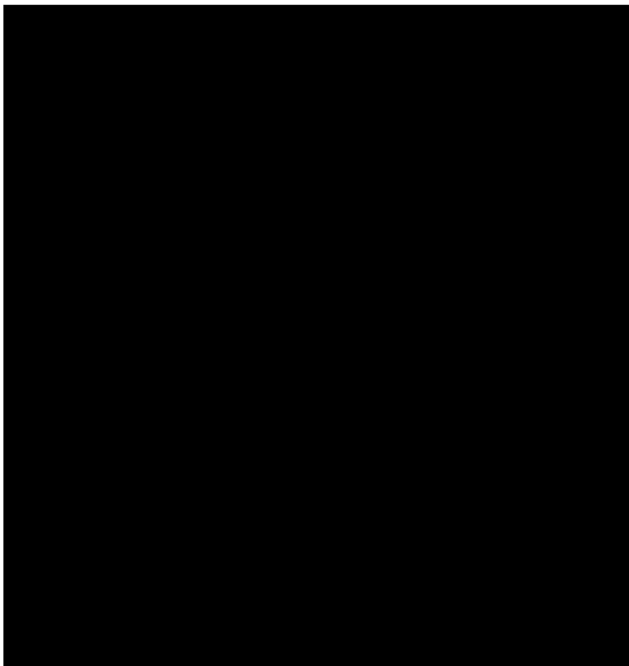
growth of the plant. However since we had removed the very large plants by the root, tackling the re-growth is not as labour intensive. This job is waiting to be done in the future CREW weeks.

We planted native trees acquired from Eigg Tree Nursery to establish new groves and to add to the biodiversity of trees in the area.

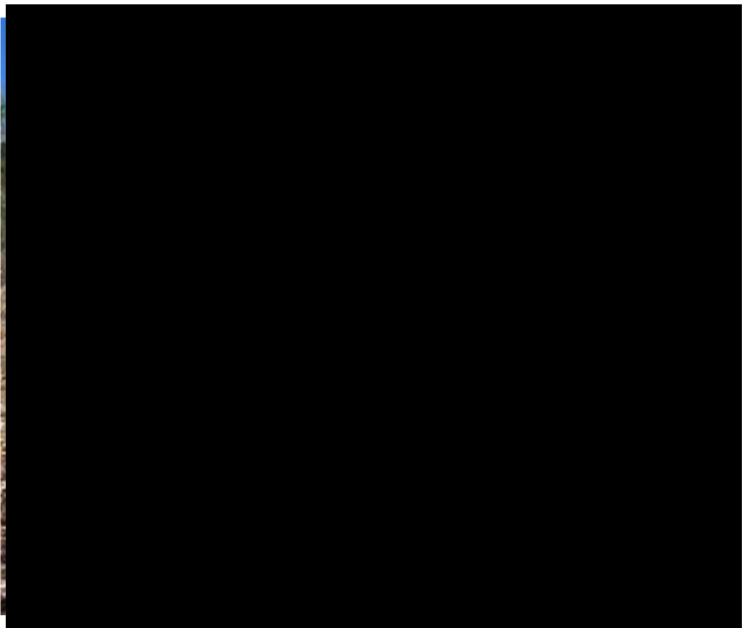
We planted more than a hundred



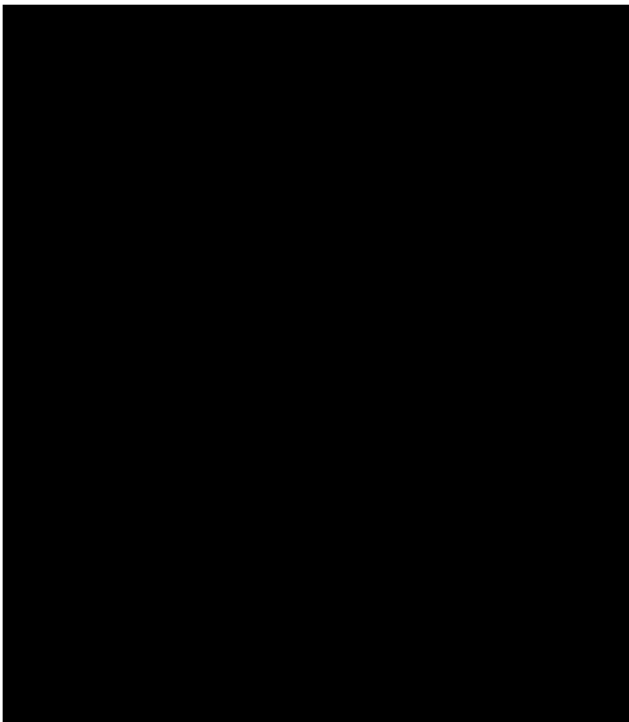
A rhododendron tree guard, aesthetically pleasing and functional



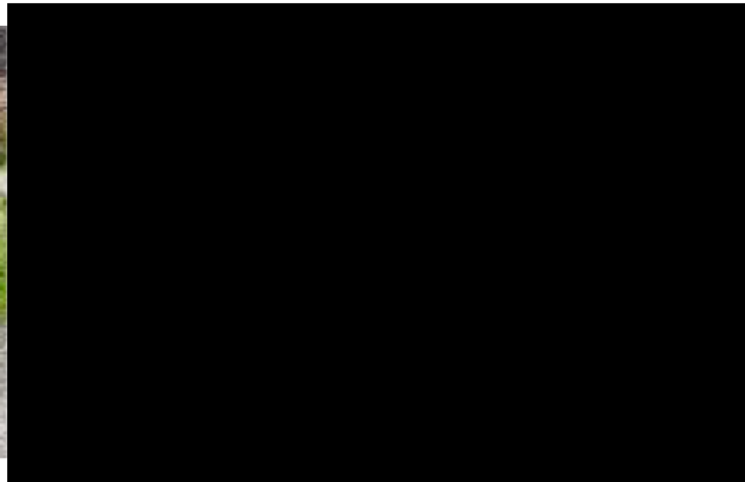
Tree-planting to increase the diversity and tree-cover



Tree-planting and guard making with volunteers



Tree-planting and guard-making



Harvesting rhododendron wood from a previous work week in Glenuig

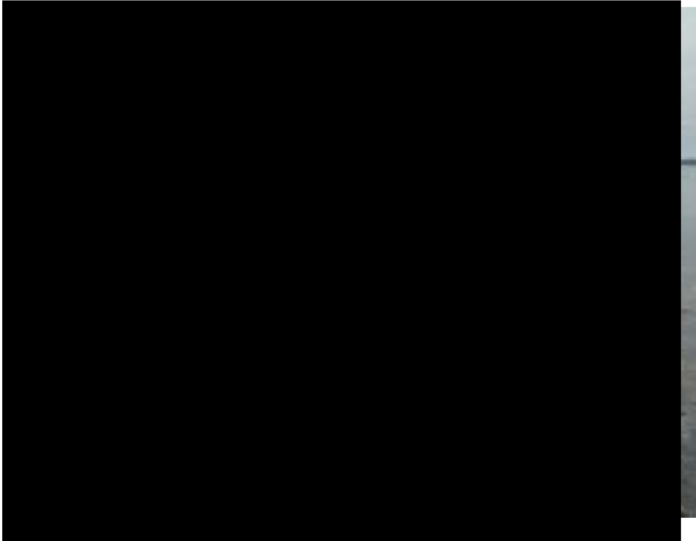
oak, hazel, pine, wych elm, and aspen trees during our two CREW weeks this year.

Another task we wanted to tackle was building two small stock fences to test out the idea of protecting a small area in the woodlands from being overgrazed by deer. This happened in our June CREW week. Some of the material was transported by boat due to lack of land road where the building site is.

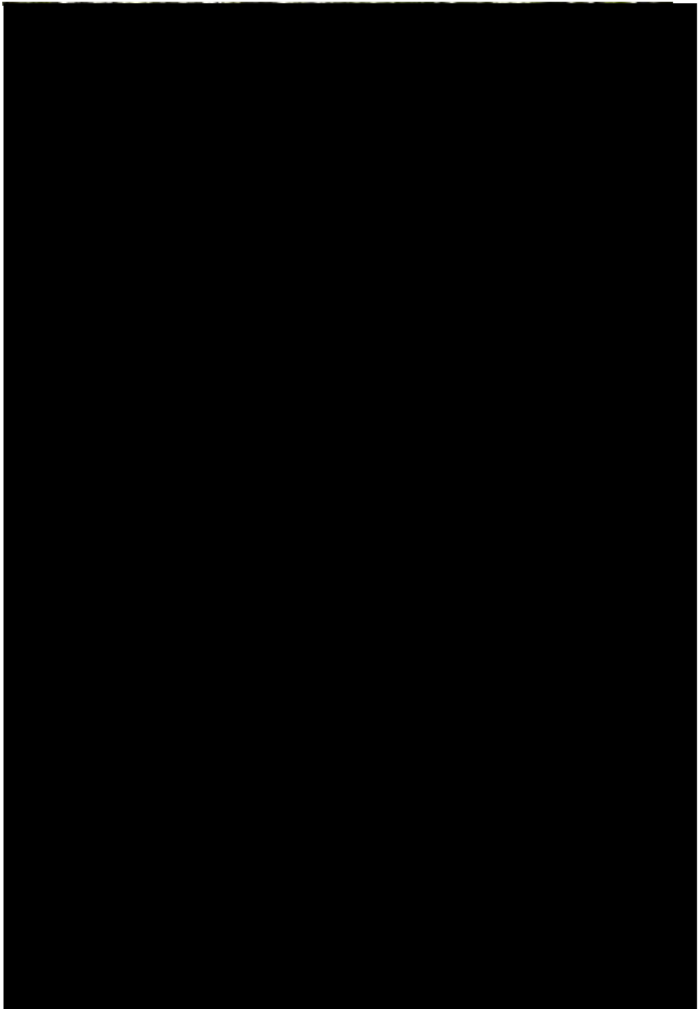
Fortunately we had [redacted] from



Building a stock fence with an expert builder was easily done



Transporting fencing material by sea



Gathering material for our first stock fence in Aird Eanachaidh



Glenuig with us. He is an expert builder. With him on the team and many helping hands the job of building our first two stock fences was easily accomplished within a day.

Building stock fences and holding CREW weeks of course has a price tag. Fortunately we were helped financially by [REDACTED], one of our CREW week's facilitators who donated enough money for our programme to go ahead.

In parallel to our activities and work in Moidart, we have been working with partners in Berlin, Germany, to hold rewilding workshops there with participants from the Fertile Crescent. A number of workshops were prepared for September to be held at the Botanical Garden. A family matter, however, necessitated the founder of the charity [REDACTED] to be in Japan from July. At this point any further plans were put on hold. She did go to Berlin in October to meet with her team members. Even though the planned workshops were cancelled, the seed of the intentions to rewild the Fertile Crescent, and to revive the Atlantic Rainforest is what motivates the charity to continue its work and activities.

Finances

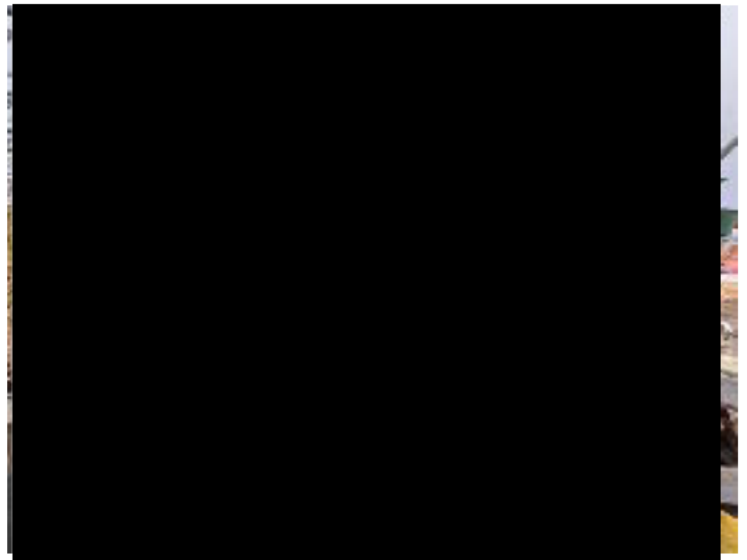
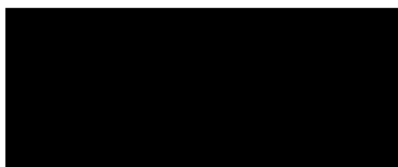
We have had a modest financial turnover this year. Our main activities were concentrated on holding CREW weeks in Moidart. The weeks were financed by fees from the participants. The donations we received enabled us to carry out our planned projects to plant trees, build tree guards, and small stock fences. The expenses for the Fertile Crescent team meeting were privately financed by the founder.

Into the Future

The future for Trees for Hope holds potentials to grow into. Our Atlantic Rainforest branch has had opportunities to put down roots in the ground with practical work and community engagements.

The Fertile Crescent branch of our charity needs to grow out of its dormant state, with activities and movement. When the two branches of the charity interact more in reciprocal ways, that is when Trees for Hope will come more into its wholeness and will deliver its mission step by step.

Read and signed by [REDACTED]



Picking up trees at Isle of Eigg Tree Nursery

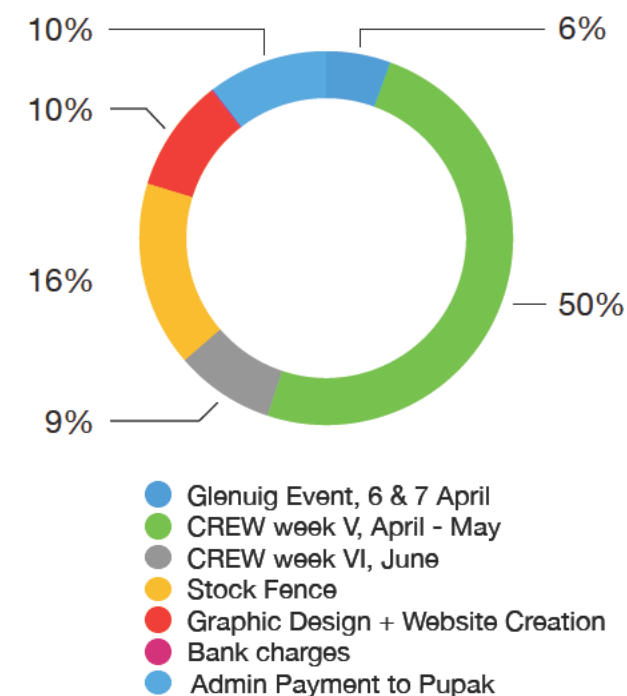
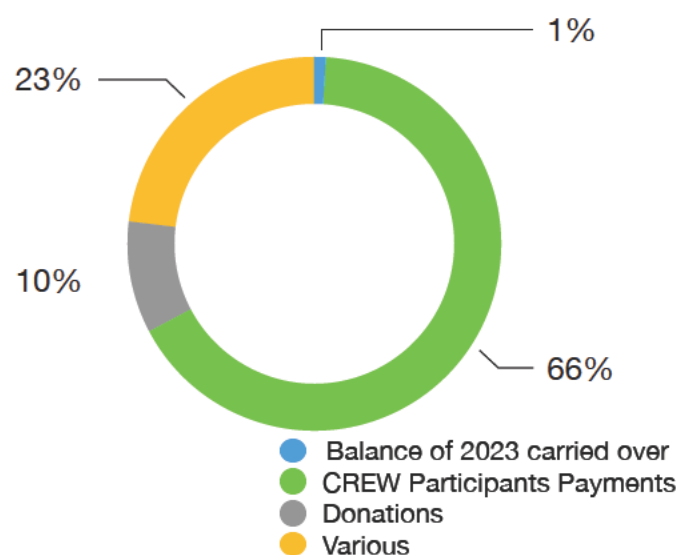
Trees for Hope, Rewilding the Fertile Crescent SC047707

Accounts : January - December 2024

Income	
Balance of 2023 carried over	£52
CREW Participants Payments	£3,525
Donations	£515
Various	£1,229
Total income	£5,321

Expenses	
Glenuig Event, 6 & 7 April	£266
CREW week V, April - May	£2,375
CREW week VI, June	£412
Stock Fence	£770
Graphic Design + Website Creation	£467
Bank charges	£7
Admin Payment to Pupak	£500
Total expenses	£4,797

Money Left Over	
Income minus expenses	£525



September, 2025

Account prepared by :



Internal review by

