

CHEC
ANNUAL REPORT
2016



COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)
is a Commonwealth civil society organisation and UK Registered Charity that promotes, disseminates and applies the principles of Human Ecology in the Commonwealth and beyond.

It has been a catalyst in promoting sustainability, particularly in terms of human settlements, fisheries, afforestation and strengthening community action, especially for the advancement of women and youth.

CHEC is highly active in advocating and promoting the role of civil society and participatory decision making in good governance and sustainable development.

Annual Report 2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

4, Hurlingham Studios
Ranelagh Gardens
London SW6 3PA
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 3689 0979

e-mail:
contact@checinternational.org

website:
www.checinternational.org

Registered Charity No. 272018

** NGO in Special Consultative
Status with the UN Economic and
Social Council (ECOSOC)

** Accredited to the
Commonwealth Secretariat
**Member of Commonwealth
Consortium for Education (CCfE)
**Member of BOND

Editors: Eva Ekehorn
Mark Robinson
Rebecca Story

Layout: Eva Ekehorn

Cover photo:
'Save the Sparrow'
CHEC India

Printers: ProntaPrint,
Bayswater, London

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Projects	4
a) Nadukuppam	
b) Bees and Pollinators	
3. Meetings	6
4. Publications	7
5. News from CHEC India	8
6. CHEC's Chapters	9
7. CHEC Governance	10
8. Financial Statement 2016	12
Membership form 2017	



1. Executive Summary

In 2016 CHEC took major steps to improve the effectiveness of its promotion of human ecology and sustainable development in the Commonwealth and beyond.

CHEC is proud of having been able to support a project in Tamil Nadu, India. The Nadukuppam Community Training Centre, being built with the guidance of Pitchandikulam Bio-resource Centre, will teach local communities about indigenous forest planting programmes, organic farming and vegetable gardening, as well as women's self-help group income generation and environment education programmes. CHEC's support for the project has been possible due to a grant provided by Heath Trust.

The current holder of the Zena Daysh fellowship at Waikato University, New Zealand, Sangion Tiu, finished her PhD in early 2017. Sangion was awarded the Fellowship to help fund her doctoral research on policy-making for existing ecological knowledge in Papua New Guinea – an area in which she had identified a policy-making gap. Her resulting thesis was entitled [*Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Sustainable Resource Management in Papua New Guinea: The Role of Education and Implications for Policy*](#), and showed how traditional indigenous

knowledge can benefit education and sustainable resource management.

Sangion is now applying what she learnt in her studies as the Acting Executive Director at the [*Research Conservation Foundation of Papua New Guinea*](#). Her work involves protecting flora and fauna within Papua New Guinea while simultaneously empowering indigenous communities by utilizing their knowledge.

CHEC want to strengthen its network of affiliated organisations around the Commonwealth. An important partnership is within EAROPH, which links several organisations in Asia and Australia working on urban resilience in climate change. Another is a partnership with Friends of the Earth who are supporting CHEC in building up a programme around bees and their role as pollinators. A report, entitled "Bees and Pollinators - a Commonwealth Concern" was launched at CHOGM in Malta 2015 and distributed to all Heads of Government. It is now been followed up and amended.

CHEC is updating and improving its governance and management. A Code of Conduct was approved as a guideline for Trustees on how to solve disputes. A Strategy and Work plan has been set up and is followed carefully.

With great sadness we announce the demise of our dear
Thottamon Kesavan Narayanan (TKN) Unnithan
(1927-2017)

who passed away peacefully after a prolonged illness in Jaipur on 2nd July 2017.
We will remember him as Professor and Founder Head Department of Sociology, Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan, Founder and President of Jaipur World City Society, Jaipur Calgary Eye Hospital, Indian Human Ecology Council, Khejri Sarvodaya General Health and Eye Care Centre. Professor TKN Unnithan has been a longtime supporter and a member of CHEC Governing Board since CHEC was founded. He was made Hon Patron in 2012.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends

2. Projects

a) Nadukuppam

The Nadukuppam Centre has now been formally opened. Sonia Dyne, a former CHEC Governing Board member, attended the ceremony and talked fondly about CHEC and Zena Daysh, CHEC's Founder.

The Training Centre is a really beautiful asset to have at Nadukuppam and it will host regular training sessions and meetings with a particularly focus on women's empowerment.

Its position right next to one of Nadukuppam's created waterbodies teaches the importance of holding the rain water high up in the catchment so that by infiltration the ground water can be replenished. The series of ponds in the area interspersed amongst gardens, fields and forest patches make a beautiful, productive water retention landscape.



Nadukuppam Training centre

b. Bee and Pollinators

Since CHEC launched our *Bee and Pollinators - A Commonwealth Concern* report in Malta November 2015, a remarkable milestone event has taken place on the global stage that now support and inform CHEC's current efforts. The first IPBES report, (Intergovernmental Panel of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services) on pollinators, pollination and food production published in February 2016 is the assessment report for policy makers.

http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/pdf/spm_deliverable_3a_pollination_2017022_2.pdf

A drafting author, Dr Simon Potts, provided key food security data for CHEC's report. His endorsement is on the cover. Now Simon continues to advise CHEC on why and how to take forward the IPBES policy into real projects to further inspire Commonwealth ministers on best practice for implementation. Here are the key facts: More than 75% of leading food crops and almost 90% of the world's flowering plants rely, at least in part, on pollinators. More than 300% increase in volume of agriculture production dependent on pollinators since 1961 with an annual market value linked to pollinators is US \$ 235-577 billion. Of the many threats to pollinators the IPBES suggests at the top of the list is land use change, intensive agricultural management, pesticides, genetically modified (GM) crops, pathogens and pests, climate change and invasive alien species. Yet there is strong evidence for a range of effective responses including:

-
- provision of food and nesting resources;
- managing or restoration of native habitat patches, establish protected areas and increased habitat heterogeneity;
- creation of patches of flower rich habitat;
- strengthen existing diversified farming systems;
- reward farmers for good practices;
- raise standards of risk assessment and regulation of pesticide use and reduce usage;
- Seek alternative forms of pest control (e.g. integrated pest management) ;

- train farmers and land managers in best practices;
- adopt technologies to reduce spray drift and dust emissions;

(CHEC is grateful to Simon Potts and IPBES for all of the above)

CHEC is committed to support IPBES guidelines to develop better international policies and practices particularly in regard to habitats and the trade and movement of managed bees



Gender training for PTS team

For the last year and half CHEC board member Jane Samuels, chair of the Bee and Pollinator steering group (which includes Ian Douglas and Caryl Stephen) has been advising James Propa in Uganda on his idea of a youth-led Bee keeping training and entrepreneur project. The aim is to benefit marginalized unemployed youth with a focus on young women to increase sustainable livelihoods and to become young entrepreneurs with income generation in the remote rural areas of Uganda. At the same time the project will empower youth to be the agents of change and raise awareness of resilient agriculture practices, increased crop production and to protect the habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems on which bees and pollinators depend. However the challenge has been to strengthen James and his team to deliver a sustainable project and to bridge the finance gap in funding
<http://www.checinternational.org/projects/uganda-youth-led-development-intergenerational-mentoring/> .

We have been delighted that CHEC's board member in Uganda, Patricia Kabatabazi, working with the Community based Impact Assessment Network for East Africa (CIANEA) has assisted in providing gender training to James Propa and his PTS team (see photos). All this effort has been timely rewarded as Jane Samuels

has been invited to attend the Commonwealth Secretariat Youth Ministers meeting in Uganda to discuss and share our efforts with Youth ministers on best practice with the Uganda youth-led Bees and Livelihoods project and how to bridge the finance gap.



Gender training for PTS Team

3. Meetings

The Commonwealth Secretariat arranged several meetings for the Commonwealth Organisations (COs) to discuss various topics related to the running of an organisation and stimulating collaboration and partnership within the Commonwealth. CHEC members participated actively in these meetings, as well as in meetings of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE), where CHEC is a member. Mark Robinson acts as the UK Chair of the CCfE meetings.

CHEC has also participated in several informal meetings of the COs, again with the aim of forging new connections and strengthening partnership.

Jane Samuels attended the Youth and Climate Change meeting.

Mark Robinson attended a meeting with the Health and Education group making a two minute presentation about CHECs work that was very well received.

Jane Samuels attended a meeting on Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of Corporate Business. A lengthy report prepared by Jane is available in the CHEC office.

Mark Robinson and Eva Ekehorn attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Organisations Committee on Zimbabwe with Eddie Cross, a Zimbabwean MP. The tone of the meeting was pessimistic regarding political and democratic development in Zimbabwe, a situation which was likely to continue as long as President Mugabe remained in office.

Eva Ekehorn attended a meeting on 'Advocacy in the Commonwealth'. The key points were: Know your data, know your audience, know your co-conspirators, sell your story, and give credit where credit's due.

Mark Robinson chaired this year's Gladwyn Lecture, with the key note speech been given by Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE. This can be

found on CEC website (<http://www.cecomm.org.uk/>). Great concern was expressed about higher education after Brexit. Eva Ekehorn and Rhonda Cox were also present at the lecture.

Mark Robinson went to Buckingham Palace to attend the launch of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Project. Managed by the Royal Commonwealth Society, this encouraged Commonwealth countries to set aside land for conservation and tree plantations. Sir David Attenborough, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson and

several High Commissioners had been among the guests. The Queen presented certificates to the relevant High Commissioners of participating countries.

Donnell Davis represented CHEC at the Habitat Prep Com meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia, 23 – 30 July 2016 and later in the year CHEC was represented by Narelle Townsend, former President of Global Housing, in Medellin, Columbia, for HABITAT III. She provided a flyer on the history of the earlier Habitat: Habitat I in Vancouver and Habitat II in Istanbul.

4. Publications:

CHEC Journal 27 Waste

In July, CHEC launched its 27th issue of the Journal *Human Ecology*. The theme for this one was waste; where it comes from, where it is heading and how to implement the well-known slogan 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. The issue included contributions from all over the Commonwealth, with articles from countries including Australia, Canada, Belize and India. The clean-up of beaches and the suffering of people cleaning up and sorting e-waste shows that there

is much to do about our waste. One positive approach is to look at the Circular Economy, where there is no such thing as waste and products are reused and reshaped for new purposes.

The Journal has been very well received and is available on CHEC's website: <http://www.checinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Journal-27-online-version.pdf>

Website and Social Media

CHEC has been fortunate enough to be able to receive support from consultants who have made improvements to the website over the last year. Recent updates include making the webpages more accessible and aesthetic for website visitors, while continued work moves forward in upgrading the website to a new, modern theme that helps make the website more attractive and educational.

Over the last year CHEC has maintained a social media presence on both Facebook and Twitter. This has involved posting and promoting updates about the CHEC website and other human ecology news related items to our followers. CHEC will continue to use social media tools to build its online profile and to connect with key people in the field.

Partnership

Friends of the Earth: CHEC continues to build on our partnership on the bee and pollinator project with Friends of the Earth.

EAROPH: In November 2016, CHEC's Australian Board member, Donnell Davis, (Queensland's President of the United Nations Association of Australia), came to London for a

visit; not only to CHEC but also to forge closer links with the *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association* and the UN Association.

The Ramphal Institute: A delegation from CHEC attended an afternoon session hosted by the Ramphal Institute Chair Patsy Robertson at Kings College. After introductions, Donnell Davis

presented a proposal for a way forward with CHEC working in conjunction with the Ramphal Institute on matters of common philosophy. The proposal outlined an Urban Ecology framework that implements the Earth Charter SDGs and Habitat 3 mandates for the next 2 decades. Habitat 3 Clauses 63 to 80 on 'Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development' are under scrutiny.

Discussions also included a revision of proposal of megacities to consider an evaluation

of secondary cities where impacts of priority projects might be more visible and governance more transparent. Other topics included environmental policy and legal continuum, ecosystems services valuations and ecosystems benefits measured in Asia Pacific, Australia and South East Queensland. Donnell promised to document a summary of research findings from other countries and circulate for publication with CHEC and the Ramphal Institute.

5. News from CHEC India

January 2016 brought a change in stewardship of CHEC India. After having successfully guided the organisation for many years H.S. Sharma (retired Professor of Geography) handed over the baton to senior Vice-President Dr Ashwani Kumar (retired Professor of Botany) to be the new President. Similarly, Dr P. R. Binda (retired Cartographer) handed over the post of Secretary to Dr Neelam Bageshwari (Associate Professor Geography at the Post Graduate Kanoria College for Girls). The new team started working enthusiastically, and is looking for support both actively and financially from all members and friends to be able to contribute meaningfully to the alleviation of the crises we are confronted with, both globally and locally. Human Ecology is particularly concerned with a vast array of interventions that have been so well articulated in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals 2015--2030 of the United Nations.

Our enthusiastic secretary of CHEC India, Dr Neelam Bageshwari organised a very informative presentation about recent research on bees in urban and peri-urban environments in India.

CHEC India has collected more than 1,600 responses to a bee survey through the school system in urban and peripheral Jaipur. These are being collated by a zoology professor at the University of Rajasthan, who has done his Ph.D. on bees and provides great support to the project here. CHEC India has also had some follow up meetings on "Save the Sparrow" and the use of special breeding boxes (again spread over Jaipur) and feeding boxes prepared by an enthusiastic conservationist.

On 13th December, Prof Dominic Kniveton of Sussex University gave a lecture organised by CHEC India and the Department of Geography, University of Rajasthan on Climate Change. His presentation was very well received by an audience of academics, government officials, and graduate and senior school students. CHEC India followed this up with a Panel Discussion on Climate Change at the Kanoria Women's College on 31st January 2017. Prof Ashwani Kumar, Prof H.S. Sharma, Prof T.I. Khan, Mr. Harsh Vardhan and a representative of the media were the speakers.



6. CHEC Chapters

Australia

Dr Donnell Davis
Envirobusiness
PO Box 2029
Runcorn
4113 Australia
donnell@envirobusiness.org

The Gambia

Mr. Badara N. Bajo
PO Box 21, Banjul
The Gambia
Fax: +220 4486026
Tel: +220 4486301/9955063
gepadg@yahoo.com

India

Gerda J. Unnithan
CHEC-India Newsletter Editor &
Secretary International
Relations
Jaipur – 302004
Rajasthan, India
gjunnithan@hotmail.com

Kenya

Mr Norbert M. Sangura
PO Box 1702-50200
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 735 409867
chec.kenya@yahoo.com

Malta

Foundation for International Studies
Old University Building
St Paul Street
Valetta VLT, Malta
Tel: +356 – 212 234 4121

Nigeria

Hon. Levi Oguike
C Plot 118, Z Close, 21Road,
Festac
G.P.O. Box 9216, Marina
Lagos.
chec_nigeria@hotmail.com

Uganda

Mr Caleb Kakuyo, Mr. Sam Mbabala
Plot 3-5 7EL Street,
Industrial Area
PO Box 659, Kampala, Uganda
ckakuyob@yahoo.com ,
smabala@yahoo.co.uk

New Zealand

Mr Norm Stannard
P.O. Box 12 389
Hamilton
New Zealand
M.Q.SLtd@xtra.co.uk

7. CHEC Governance

In Memoria: Norma Bubier

In August 2016, CHEC lost one of its prominent Governing Board members, Dr Norma Bubier. Norma had been a longstanding member of the CHEC Governing Board, which she joined in 1996. She was the director of Pro-Natura UK which is a part of a world-wide network and she was also a member of the Council for Protection of Rural England. She was a senior member of Wolfson College, University of Cambridge.

For CHEC she is best known for her leadership in the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme, Guyana, in which CHEC was involved from 2001 to 2006. National Lottery funded the highly successful CHEC project in partnership with Pro-Natura (UK) to help in the development of Amerindian communities in the Bina Hill Training Project (Iwokrama Rainforest Area) in Guyana. This project introduced many people to the benefits of IT and internet access; improved local businesses and provided new means of food production and marketing. It has been achieving food security, cultural revival, participatory development and resource management. The project helped 4,000 people living in 14 villages.

Norma will be missed by her many friends in CHEC. She had a strong dedication to the core issues and aims of CHEC, and a wide knowledge of how to improve the relationship between humans and the natural environment.

CHEC's Articles of Association, updated to be in line with today's rules and laws were unanimously approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members in March 2016. The Memorandum of Understanding remains unchanged.

The office is run by Yahya al Witri, who manages the accounts and keeps us up to date on mail and messages. His loyalty is greatly appreciated by all trustees and members.

In 2016, CHEC was fortunate to have two part-time staff members based at its Putney Bridge Office: Peter Lockwood (Communications Officer) who joined the team through CHEC's Transition Grant funding from the Commonwealth Foundation and has been continuing his predecessor's work on the website and running CHEC's social media, and Rhonda Cox who served as CHEC Membership Secretary and did many duties in the office but has now taken up work at the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission. Pete has returned to university to study for a PhD in anthropology at Darwin College, Cambridge. CHEC thanks them for their dedication and good work and wishes them the best for the future.

Andre Lombard, who in 2015 worked for CHEC as a Communications Officer, joined us again as a consultant to keep the website alive and in good shape. He also came to the Malta CHOGM as part of the CHEC delegation. However, his day to day workload has forced him to give up this role. In 2017 CHEC has since been fortunate to have two new Communication Officers in place: Rebecca Story and John McDonnell. The work on the website will continue.

Members of the CHEC Governing Board Nov 2016

Honorary President: Hon. Levi Oguike, CHEC Nigeria
Patrons: Dr Aisie Lucan, Sierra Leone
Mr Norman Stannard, New Zealand
Prof TKN Unnithan, CHEC India (deceased 2 July 2017)
Chairman: Caryll Stephen, Foundation for Water Research, UK
Honorary Treasurer: John Bonham, CHEC UK
Company Secretary: Eva Ekehorn, CHEC UK
Governance: Mark Robinson, Commonwealth Consortium for Education

Other Members of the Board:

Rhonda Cox, Trinidad & Tobago HC
Hon. Sanusi Daggash, CHEC Nigeria
Dr Donnell Davis, CHEC Australia
Emeritus Prof Ian Douglas, School of Environment, Education and Development,
Univ. of Manchester, UK
Dr Morteza Honari, CHEC Australia
Patricia Kabatabazi, CIANEA, Uganda
Ripin Kalra, University of Westminster, UK
Dr T I Khan, Indira Gandhi's Centre for Human Ecology, Univ. of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India
Dr Michael Mutter OBE, University of Westminster
Norbert Sangura, CHEC Kenya
Jane Samuels, Tools of Change, UK
Kabir Shaikh, former UNESCO, UK
Ganesh Supramaniam, CHEC UK
Narelle Townsend, CHEC UN Representative, New York

Staff:

(part time)

Yahya al-Witri
Rebecca Story
John McDonnell

Auditor

Brown McLeod,
51 Clarkgrove Road,
Sheffield S10 2NH

8. CHEC Financial Statement 2016

	31.12.16 £	31.12.15 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	1,350	10,950
Subscriptions	502	410
	<u>1,852</u>	<u>11,360</u>
Investment income		
Investment income received	20,684	21,503
Deposit account interest	535	291
	<u>21,219</u>	<u>21,794</u>
Total incoming resources	23,071	33,154
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Charitable activities		
Project expenditure	1,200	21,265
Project Consultancy	631	
	<u>1,831</u>	<u>21,265</u>
Governance costs		
Wages	9,754	18,220
Accountancy	2,040	2,400
	<u>11,794</u>	<u>20,620</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Trustees' expenses	1,526	4,368
Rent, rates & insurance	8,921	8,698
Light and heat	143	243
Postage, telephone & fax	511	521
Printing, publications & stationery	1,384	1,656
Sundry expenses	1,025	828
Travel, conferences & administration	602	2,278
IT consultancy	30	150
Fixtures and fittings	587	511
Bank interest & charges	(803)	164
	<u>13,926</u>	<u>19,417</u>
Total resources expended	27,551	61,302
Net expenditure	(4,480)	(28,149)

Membership Form 2017

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

Member Information (please print or type)

Name	
Billing Address	
Town	
Country	
Postal Code	
Telephone	
E-mail	

Membership Fees (please tick appropriate box)

Ordinary	£ 30	
Student	£ 10	
Corporate	£ 60	
Concessions (SHE Members, Over 65s)	£ 20	
Life Membership (over 60)	£200	
Life Membership (under 60)	£500	

Total Payment: _____

Payment Method

I will make the above payment(s) by:

_____ Cash _____ Cheque _____ Bank transfer: Sort Code: 20-69-15; A/C 73900398

**** Please contact the CHEC Office for payment by Credit Card**

Acknowledgement Information

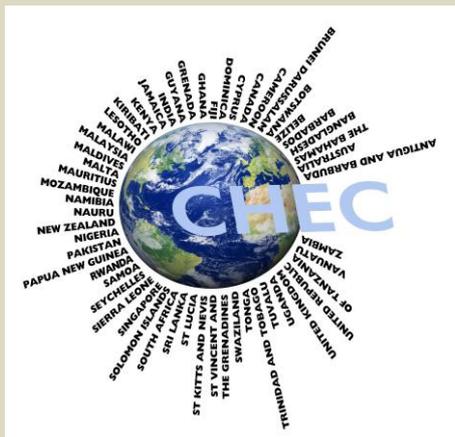
Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

Signature
Date

Please make cheques or other donations payable to:

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
4, Hurlingham Studios, Ranelagh Gardens
London SW6 3PA
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 3689 0979
contact@checinternational.org

Visit us @ www.checinternational.org



**Commonwealth Human
Ecology Council
CHEC**
**4, Hurlingham Studios
Ranelagh Gardens
London SW6 3PA**
contact@checinternational.org
www.checinternational.org
Twitter: @CwHumanEcology