

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009



COMMONWEALTH HUMAN  
ECOLOGY COUNCIL  
**CHEC**

## Annual Report 2009

Commonwealth Human Ecology  
Council (CHEC)  
International Headquarters  
Church House  
Newton Road  
London  
W2 5LS  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7792 5934  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7792 5948  
e-mail: [chec@btopenworld.com](mailto:chec@btopenworld.com)  
Website: [www.checininternational.org](http://www.checininternational.org)

Registered Charity No. 272018

◦ NGO in Special Consultative  
Status with the UN Economic  
and Social Council (ECOSOC)  
◦ Member, IUCN Commission for  
Education and Communication  
◦ Accredited to the Commonwealth  
Secretariat

Edited by:  
Eva Ekehorn  
Ian Douglas

Front cover picture:  
Children participating in the SAUCE  
project, London Metropolitan University  
© Dr. Nicholas Watts

## CONTENTS

1. Report of the Chairman	2
2. Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee	3
3. Special tribute to CHEC's Founder	3
4. CHEC Projects	4
5. International Conference on Human Ecology	8
6. ComHabitat	9
7. Publications	10
8. News from CHEC Chapters	10
9. CHEC Members	11
10. CHEC Headquarters	12
11. Governance	12
12. CHEC Chapter Contacts	13
13. Profit & Loss	14



## 1. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN.

*Caryll Stephen*



### **Overview**

2009 has been a busy one for CHEC and it has continued to strengthen its role in many areas of development. All of CHEC's work is, of course, dependent on its global membership and supporters and to its hard-working office staff, volunteers, Executive Committee and Governing Board members. CHEC continues to owe an enormous debt to all and to the professional and socially-minded volunteers in both Britain and the Commonwealth for their dedication and advice.

### **Fisheries**

Industrial over-fishing and the resultant crisis of depletion globally is now being recognized and CHEC's main focus during the year has been its role in the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme (CFP) undertaken in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) with funding from the UK and Australian governments.

CHEC's work has been led by long standing Board member, Dr. Nicholas Watts. More information can be found further on in this report.

### **International Conference on Human Ecology**

In partnership with the Society for Human Ecology, the German Society for Human Ecology and the School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, CHEC held a highly successful conference at Manchester University in June/July 2009.

With over 200 participants from over 30 countries, the Conference set out to examine the status of and current challenges facing human ecology around the world.

More details of this outstanding event can be found below.

### **Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM)**

2009 also brought with it the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Trinidad & Tobago. In its wings was the regular Commonwealth People's Forum organised by the Commonwealth Foundation. CHEC International was represented at these events by Prof. Eleanor Morris, Chair of the Executive Committee, Dr. Nicholas Watts,

Fisheries Programme coordinator, Mark Robinson, Governing Board member, Dr. Donnell Davis, CHEC Australia, and Richard O'Donnell, CHEC's Communications and Research Officer.

The Commonwealth People's Forum debated many topics and the CHEC representatives participated in a number of them including Commonwealth Fisheries, Biodiversity and Forestry, and Human Settlements and Sustainable Urbanisation.

At CHOGM, Nicholas Watts, Mark Robinson and Richard O'Donnell represented CHEC at the Civil Society Meeting with Foreign Ministers, at which Nicholas Watts made a presentation.

### **Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management**

CHEC supported successful workshops in Uganda and Tanzania during the year with the aim of equipping the participants with knowledge and skills required to design and conduct practical training courses in mainstreaming gender into integrated water resources management. CHEC has plans to follow up these initial workshops with further activities in 2010. CHEC thanks the Commonwealth Foundation for funding this activity.

### **Governance**

During the year a number of changes occurred to the Governing Board and CHEC wishes to extend its particular thanks to Prof. Ian Douglas who retired as the Board's Chairman in November 2009. It is, however, delighted that Ian has remained on the Board to assist me as his successor.

CHEC is also delighted that Hon. Levi Oguike, Chair of CHEC Nigeria, agreed in June to become CHEC's Honorary President and was duly elected at CHEC's AGM in November.

## The Future

Turning to 2010, CHEC is looking to participate in a number of new projects and, in addition to ongoing work, with CHEC being represented in Brazil at the World Urban Forum 5 in March 2010 by its longstanding member, Flavio Malta.

CHEC will also be participating and running a workshop at the 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Edinburgh, June 2010.

With this and other work ahead of us, we look forward to an exciting 2010.

## 2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Eleanor Morris*

In addition to the above activities, CHEC pursued its activities with the United Nations in relation to the official sessions of the UN-Habitat Governing Council which alternate with the World Urban Forums. Both meetings provide a forum for professional partners and Habitat activists to promote to government decision-makers strategies for the progressive implementation of the Human Settlements programme of the United Nations (see ComHabitat below).

Two important publications were produced. The first book on the Fisheries Project *From Hook to Plate: the State of Marine Fisheries. A Commonwealth Perspective*, edited by Richard Bourne (CPSU) and Mark Collins (Director of the Commonwealth Foundation) contains an opening chapter by Nicholas Watts:

“Establishing the Context for Enhanced Commonwealth Support of Small Fisheries” which is the forerunner of many reports on the outcomes of the Fisheries Project.

The second publication, *Human Ecology No 21/22* reviewed the work of previous Pre-CHOGM Conferences at Abuja, Nigeria, 2003, Malta, 2005 and Uganda, 2007, and gave a taste of the papers to come from the Manchester Human Ecology Conference. The 2009 interns who helped to produce the journal showed the same dedication and professionalism as their many predecessors.

During the year the Executive Committee continued to work to improve CHEC’s Governance, Membership, Risk Management and Financial Procedures. All members of the Committee are thanked for their dedication and hard work.

## 3. SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CHEC’S FOUNDER



*Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Dr Zena Daysh and Prof. Roy Crawford*

Zena Daysh was presented with the honorary doctorate of the University of Waikato, New Zealand in March 2009 at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, by the university's Chancellor and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon Jim Bolger, in the presence of the

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roy Crawford. Prof Crawford says Waikato University has established itself as a university at the forefront of sustainability, and it is fitting that it acknowledges the hard work of Dr Daysh (now in her mid-90s) over many years. "She is the real story of sustainability."

Waikato University's Director of Development, Christine Brabender, says those gathered for the event were impressed with Dr Daysh's work, her spirit and her ongoing enthusiasm for sustainability.

"Waikato alumni, Kea UK<sup>1</sup> members and supporters of Dr Daysh were awed by her lifetime commitment that continues even today to create a better world. They were also impressed with the university's work on sustainability issues such as our

<sup>1</sup> Kea is New Zealand's global network:  
<http://www.keanewzealand.com/>

contracts to help free lakes from algae blooms, and the links our economists have with Stanford University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences on poverty mapping

and environmental policy development. In all these ways, Waikato is trying to extend the work Dr Daysh began decades ago.”

## 4. CHEC PROJECTS

### 4.1 FISHERIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

#### **Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and Livelihoods in Fisherfolk Communities in the Developing World.**

In the summer of 2008, CHEC commenced work on the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme (CFP). This is an international programme aimed at ensuring sustainability of inshore fisheries and improving the livelihoods of coastal communities in developing countries. It is a two-year programme managed by a consortium of Commonwealth organisations: The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) formed a partnership which is funded by DFID and AusAID.

CHEC's role in the project is to work with key stakeholders, particularly the fisherfolk and their communities, to understand the pattern of changes in coastal fisheries, and to develop with them an approach to secure enhanced sustainability of the fishery and improved livelihoods for the fisherfolk.

During 2009 the central research and advocacy that began with the first case study visit in Belize in 2008 continued. The Project Coordinator's visit to Fiji was completed in mid-January 2009, eliciting an encouraging picture of bottom-up governance of local marine managed areas that has already taken root across the Pacific. Unfortunately, though, the Fiji interim government reneged on its promise to hold democratic elections in March 2009, so an alternative focus for Pacific fieldwork had to be sought.

Scoping visits to Sierra Leone (April 2009) and South Africa (September 2009) followed, and in both countries CHEC met with large groups of fisherfolk and their representatives: three meetings in Sierra Leone with representatives of fisher communities in Goderich, Tombo and Sherbro Island/Bonthe, with representatives of over one hundred communities at the latter meeting,

from women fishmongers and fish smokers, river fishers and marine/coastal fishers. In South Africa, CHEC participated in a meeting with representatives of over forty fisher communities. In both countries, interviews were also held with key policy actors. The 'key issues' reports of these visits are available on the CFP website [www.commonwealthfisheries.org](http://www.commonwealthfisheries.org).



South Africa was added to the list of countries at the suggestion of Professor John Beddington, Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government. Overall, the work on case studies supports the increasingly widely held view that there is no silver bullet, one-size-fits-all solution to the problems of small-scale fisher communities. However, it also supports the need for a process of engagement that fosters bottom-up policy that engages the local community and ensures it 'owns' the management process and the resources. The importance of differences in marine and coastal ecosystems, in local economic and social contexts, cultural traditions and customary use of marine resources underlines the need for an integrated understanding of social cohesion issues as well as the technical aspects of ecological

sustainability of fisheries. This emphasises the need for a human ecological approach.

Dissemination activities over the year included the production of the book *From Hook to Plate: The State of Marine fisheries. A Commonwealth Perspective*, edited by Richard Bourne and Mark Collins, with an introductory chapter by Nicholas Watts and Richard Bourne “Establishing the Context for Enhanced Commonwealth Support of Small Fisheries”. Nicholas Watts was one of the keynote speakers at the book launch at Marlborough House on 29 September 2009. The CHEC delegation to CHOGM also participated in the Commonwealth People’s Forum and the People’s Space as well as at a meeting at the University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus, at each of which Nicholas Watts gave presentations on the work of the CFP, as well as sharing with Zuzanka Kutena from the Civil Society Advisory Committee, the presentation by Civil Society Organisations to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at CHOGM. CHEC also organised a field visit for participants at the People’s Forum Fisheries Workshop to fisher communities and cooperatives in Trinidad.

### **Research**

The approach is compatible with that of Elinor Ostrom (Nobel Prize for Economics 2009), though of course modest by comparison. She argues on the basis of a lifetime of researching common pool resource problems, including fisheries, that each such problem is unique and that there are no panaceas, no silver bullets. Therefore, we have attempted to derive a narrative for each fisherfolk community we studied, based on focus groups with fisherfolk and with key stakeholders. The focus groups are designed to explore, from the fisherfolk perspective (the ‘fish-eye view’ from the bottom-up and wide-angle), developments in the small-scale fishery, whether subsistence or artisanal.

### **Illegal Fishing**

One key theme is the fishers’ perception of the health of the fishery and its supporting ecosystem, including their willingness to contemplate rights-based co-management of a sustainable fishery, usually requiring a reduction in fishing effort, control of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, both by industrial vessels encroaching on

fishing grounds traditionally the preserve of local fishing communities, but also of poaching by neighbouring small-scale fishers, and from within the fishing communities themselves. Fishers frequently confess to illegal practices in the focus group discussions and in the wider community meetings. This is usually attributed to the lack of alternative sources of livelihood, hunger and poverty.

The tales are frequently poignant. National governments may sell industrial fishing quotas unaware of the threat to social cohesion in local fisherfolk communities from distant water nations’ fleets fishing legally (let alone illegally) to the detriment of small-scale fishers. In the CHEC fisheries excursion to Claxton Bay, Trinidad at CHOGM, we visited a Trinidadian fishing community that sells 75,000 tonnes of mullet every year to Venezuela. The Trinidad and Tobago government is building a steel smelter in the adjacent mangroves, which is predicted to destroy the fishery. According to the Minister, the fishers pay no taxes. So they have no voice.

### **Advocacy**

The most clearly articulated aim of the advocacy part of the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme was to raise the profile of fisheries among Commonwealth Heads at CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago last November, where CHEC made three local presentations. CHEC also spent time lobbying government delegations from Antigua, Belize, St Lucia and Sierra Leone in particular.

The CHOGM communiqué, to our delight, contained in paragraph 80 under Food Security, a reference to the need for ‘urgent action’ by the Commonwealth in the field of fisheries, both the need to combat illegal fishing and to support fisheries in small and vulnerable states. We can hope that the efforts of the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme, and CHEC’s part in it, played a role.

### **Conclusion**

These few examples indicate the benefits of a human ecological approach that includes multi-level analysis of fisheries governance, recognizes the importance of understanding the complex interplay of cultural and social traditions, economic realities and the

physical environment itself. Elinor Ostrom's approach, which sets up an analytical framework and, in effect, encourages all researchers to help fill in the gaps in a patchwork fashion, is perfectly suited to the range of diverse challenges facing Commonwealth fisheries policy.

The research side of the project has produced valuable insights into the dilemmas faced by fishers and their governments, the latter encouraged by

#### **4.2 GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Lake Victoria Basin, Africa**

A most welcome activity grant from the Commonwealth Foundation made it possible for CHEC to collaborate with the Community-Based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa (CIANEA) - Uganda in setting up 'Training of Trainers Workshops' on 'Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Management' during 2009. CIANEA focuses on the Lake Victoria regions of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi and aims to help trainers in raising awareness of environmental problems and to assess the impact of small activities in their communities. Aably led by Patricia Kabatabazi, CIANEA organised two workshops, one held at the St. John's Guest House, Bugolobi, Kampala, Uganda on 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and the second at the Midland Hotel Mwanza, Tanzania on 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The workshops aimed to equip participants with knowledge and skills required to design and conduct practical courses in mainstreaming gender into integrated water resource management.

The Uganda workshop trained twenty participants representing locally registered non-governmental organisations working on water and natural resources management issues in different parts of Uganda. The participants were mainly staff responsible for project design and management in their respective organisations. Each participant described their responsibilities during the introductory and getting-to-know-each-other session.

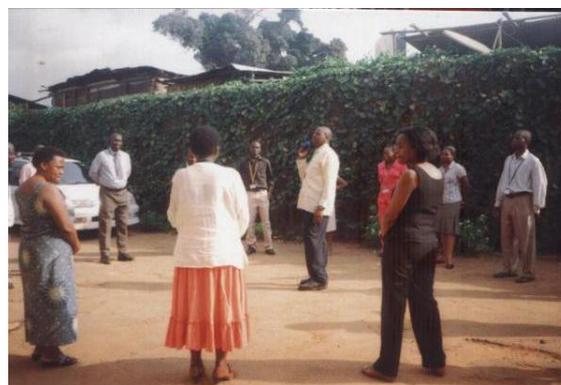
The Tanzania workshops attracted sixteen people from diverse civil society organisations and government agencies directly involved in water resource

donors to join the global supply chain and exploit their fisheries resources sustainably, but preferably at the industrial or semi-industrial scale, but all too often unaware of the social and economic contribution of small-scale fishers.

On the advocacy side, the initial awareness raising has begun, but it is a long road from a CHOGM statement to implementation of a sustainable fisheries policy throughout the Commonwealth.

management. The participants were from the Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions bordering Lake Victoria.

The workshop coordinator, Proscovia Mujumba, represented the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. Specifically the training was meant to equip the committed participants with the knowledge and skills required to mainstream gender into integrated water resource management so that they can promote further training in their national and local levels.



*Workshop Training for Trainers*

#### **Conclusions**

The evaluation by Dr. Asenath Omwega from Kenya and UN-HABITAT noted that "On the whole the course was relevant and very much needed by such frontline organisations whose work has direct impact on the lives of people. This is especially so for a basic resource such as water which is central in the lives of women and yet they are often excluded from its management and access as expressed through the practical experiences of the participants."

The conclusion of the Tanzanian coordinator's report notes that CIANEA is

committed to train others in gender mainstreaming in the common cause of reducing the impacts of climate destruction on health deterioration. Networking and maintaining contacts with NGOs and participants of the training can be monitored through CIANEA, by having follow-up sessions of further training. However, in the long term, CIANEA needs stable funding to undertake such valuable capacity building programmes. CIANEA works to reduce the human impact on the environment by advocating Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM),

including gender mainstreaming, so contributing to global sustainability through environmental protection. The training course offered was truly an eye-opener for most of the participants. Their enthusiasm indicated that the seed for promoting mainstreaming and gender equity in water resources management had been successfully planted and if nurtured, it will bear fruit!

CHEC is very pleased that there will be a continuation of this project thanks to a further activity grant from the Commonwealth Foundation for 2010/11.

### **4.3 SCHOOLS AT UNIVERSITY FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY (SAUCE)**

([www.schools-at-university.eu](http://www.schools-at-university.eu))

Another CHEC initiative in 2009 was a partnership with the SAUCE programme funded by Intelligent Energy Europe (<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>), helping to bring a Commonwealth perspective to work on sustainable schools. SAUCE is a free climate and energy event for 10-13 year old children, with the focus on years 5 and 6 of the primary school curriculum. The UK programme is coordinated by Dr Nicholas Watts (Department of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University and CHEC Education Adviser). SAUCE builds on the model of 'kids' universities', and brings pupils into the university environment to engage in lectures, events and workshops. These are designed to support the schools agenda for climate change, renewable energy and sustainable behaviours (cf. the eight doorways of the UK National Framework for Sustainable Schools). SAUCE is designed to show how different disciplines and perspectives can be brought together to foster awareness of climate issues and to support appropriate responses in renewable energy technologies and in energy saving.

The UK programme includes a mix of demonstration climate science and technology lectures and films, music, dance, mime, and model-building. It also engages children in workshops on related issues of food, health and sustainability

and the changes they can make, working with partners from science, energy and environmental education and performers. Partners in delivery of the programme include Dr Andrea Sella (EPSRC Senior Media Fellow) and his students from the University College London (UCL) Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Science; Cape Farewell Education ([www.capefarewell.com](http://www.capefarewell.com)); the Centre for Alternative Technology (Machynlleth) ([www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)); Arcola Energy (Arcola Theatre; helping children design and test model blades for wind turbines); Jinga Capoeira (capoeira dancing sessions); Shoreditch Spa (making food and exploring carbon footprints, seasonality and health); and Solar Aid, a charity working to deliver solar power to East Africa (workshops to build solar powered model houses).

The CHEC model was used to give a global perspective, exploring possible school-to-school partnerships with schools in SAUCE partner countries in Europe and also across Commonwealth developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific that have been contacted in the course of the CHEC Fisherfolk Livelihoods project.

The idea behind the UK SAUCE programme is to show how every discipline, and every child, has a vital contribution to make – and that this can be fun, too!

## 4.4 AUROVILLE

CHEC have a long history of cooperation with Auroville in India, delivering many projects over the years. We are very grateful to Auroville International (UK) who made it possible for Peter Chatalos, Governing Board Member, to make a

scoping tour of Auroville in December 2009. He identified several areas where future projects could be developed, some which could link in with the continuation of the Fisheries project. This will be pursued during 2010.

## 5. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ECOLOGY HUMAN ECOLOGY IN AN URBANISING WORLD

**Manchester University - June/July 2009**

CHEC has arranged many successful, innovative conferences on human ecology, as in Malta, Hong Kong and Edinburgh. The Society for Human Ecology (SHE), a US-based international organisation, promotes human ecology in many ways, including through conferences, usually annually. SHE and CHEC have collaborated in such events, as in the 1991 Gothenburg Human Ecological Conference. CHEC readily agreed to SHE's request to co-sponsor, together with the German Society for Human Ecology, Manchester University's School of Environment and Development and the UK MAB (Man and Biosphere) Urban Forum, a major international conference on human ecology in Manchester in 2009. The convenors were Prof Ian Douglas and Eva Ekehorn, of both SHE and CHEC.

Significant financial support from the Commonwealth Foundation and the Northwest Regional Development Agency enabled many people from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to attend and a low student registration fee encouraged many young people to participate. CHEC and its partners gratefully acknowledge these key financial contributions to the conference.

The Conference examined the status of, and current challenges facing, human ecology around the world. It brought together scholars and practitioners of human ecology to demonstrate the relevance of the discipline to contemporary environmental and social issues.

Ever expanding cities and growing per capita consumption by urban people have both local and global impacts. The transformation of the earth's surface, atmosphere and waters modifies ecosystems and changes societies.

Resolution of the many problems that these transformations create requires the holistic, integrative approach to the earth as the home of humankind that human ecology fosters and promotes.

The urban theme dominated the meeting in central Manchester and attracted over 200 delegates from over 30 countries. Their diverse backgrounds, not only from all fields of academia and education, but also from town planning, architecture, business and politics provided the melting-pot of ideas that makes human ecological conferences such dynamic and stimulating gatherings.

The keynote speakers represented this variety of backgrounds. Professor Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Chief of the Policy Analysis Branch of UN-HABITAT stood in for Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, who had been called away on high-level UN business at the last minute. He set the global urbanisation scene, emphasising urban poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



*Conference dinner at Yang Sing, Manchester*

Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, spoke of the role of city governments in initiating and implementing measures to combat climate change.

Joe Dwek, CBE, a leading UK industrialist, spoke of how business was a key player in the environment. David Hales, President, College of the Atlantic, USA, explained how global environmental priorities had to be tackled by human action at all scales and levels, with the participation of all sectors. Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Institute for Social Ecology in Vienna, Austria, used a rigorous analysis of urban metabolism to show that it is possible to increase human well-being yet have falling per capita materials consumption. The Hon. Levi Oguike, Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Urban Planning, IMO State, Nigeria, made us sit up and think about how the majority of the world's city dwellers face lives handicapped by lack of access to many of the human needs. Richard Borden, College of the Atlantic, U.S.A. and Executive Director of the Society for Human Ecology, showed how the future of human ecology requires solutions to those problems and developing young people with the capabilities to resolve them.

However the splendid, incisive, practical lecture by Peter Head, Leader of Planning and Integrated Urbanism at Arup, showed us what needs to be done, how soon it has

to be done, and that it can be done. In other sessions and workshops, delegates presented many other perspectives and examples, following or diverging from the keynote speakers' lead. Students from universities all over the world made their presence known, by presenting papers and contributing to the poster sessions. Their professionalism showed the arrival of a confident, enthusiastic new generation. Less encouraging was the news that some of their University human ecology departments are under threat of closure. This is a retrograde step when global issues require the integrated human ecological thinking, research and discourse, so well expressed at the conference.

CHEC Points No. 33, published in November 2009, carries a longer conference report. All the abstracts are available at: <http://www.societyforhumanecology.org/Programme%20with%20abstracts.pdf>.

A CHEC Journal containing a collection of the major papers will be published during 2010. The book, "Eco-City Planning: Policies, Practice and Design" edited by Tai-Chee Wong and Belinda Yuen of the National Institute of Education (Singapore), will also contain some of the papers.

## 6. COMHABITAT



*Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT with Eleanor Morris and Donnell Davies*

Donnell Davis, CHEC Australia, and Eleanor Morris from the CHEC Governing Board represented CHEC at the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) meeting and attended the General Council of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi in April 2009. At the CCGHS meeting Eleanor Morris suggested that there should be a UN General Assembly Special Session to review the progress or lack of progress of Habitat matters, as had taken place in 2006. This

suggestion was adopted and UN General Assembly Special Session is expected in 2012. ComHabitat's work has concentrated on a scoping study on the Commonwealth State of Cities, funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation. The authors are Will French and Lucy Natarajan of the Royal Town Planning Institute, with help from the Commonwealth Planners and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

An interim version of the Scoping Study the "Commonwealth State of Cities Report" was endorsed by the CCGHS at the Nairobi meeting. The report shows that although the CCGHS adopted, in May 1999, the goal: "Demonstrate progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015", the upsetting truth is that ten years later this is not being achieved and in many areas cities are going backwards. Within the Commonwealth there are now roughly 410 million citizens

living in slums, 90 million more people than in 2001. Previously in 2000, 76 cities had a population of over 1 million. UN Habitat expects 124 cities in the Commonwealth to have over a million people by 2025, with Mumbai having 24 million and Delhi 22 million. Even greater growth is occurring proportionately in the smaller cities. The Scoping Study argues for better planning and management to cope with the growth, rather than attempting to halt urban growth. However, pointing out the problem is only the first step, much more needs to be done. A start could be made by discussing the most

appropriate measures to be taken to work more rapidly towards reducing the numbers in slums. As the original goal is not being reached, new thinking and new measures are required.

CHEC needs to strengthen its participation in ComHabitat and the CCGHS and play a full part in the next stage of the Commonwealth Cities Report. Ways of upgrading CHEC's activity on Human Settlements could include seeking project funding and engaging more widely with colleagues with urban environmental and planning expertise.

## 7. PUBLICATIONS

During 2009, CHEC published a new double issue of the Journal, No. 21/22. The editorial team consisting of Zena Daysh, Ian Douglas, Eleanor Morris and Fred Groom had collected a series of articles from pre-CHOGM event, from the 2003 meeting in Abuja, Nigeria; 2005 in Malta and 2007 in Kampala, Uganda. We are very grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation who made this work possible.

Two issues of CHEC Points, CHEC's newsletter, were published. They were mainly distributed electronically to save paper and postage costs. No. 32 set the scene for the Manchester Conference, and also contained an overview of work done in Auroville, India, in partnership with Auroville International, and No 33 reported on the proceedings of the Manchester Conference.

## 8. NEWS FROM CHEC CHAPTERS

CHEC HQ has an extensive network of contacts and affiliated chapters around the Commonwealth. Some of these are friends of CHEC and human ecology, who act as links to disseminate information, both of what happens within the CHEC realm, and what is happening in the country itself. Some of these contact points have set up local Chapters, which, while independent of CHEC HQ, have worked closely with CHEC on projects, conferences and seminars for many years. The important, fundamental and grassroots, work being undertaken by our network colleagues in the Commonwealth is illustrated by the following examples:

One of our older Chapters, **CHECSI**L in Sierra Leone has given much support to the Fisheries project, both contributing the expertise of Raymond Johnson, Treasurer of CHECSI, and assisting Dr Nicholas Watts with his case studies along the coast of Sierra Leone.

CHECSI has long been strong in environmental education. CHECSI has also participated in street rallies and parades in Freetown to sensitise the public about cleaning up their environment to promote health and wellbeing. Its main project in 2009 has been a fuel wood project for youth empowerment supported by UNDP.

CHECSI is restructuring its organisation with a membership drive for new and younger members. They are also doing a review and updating of the constitution to provide for partnerships with more like-minded local NGOs e.g. The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) which has agreed to a partnership in advocacy and environmental education. FAWE already has branches in all 14 districts in the country with funding from international organisations.

**CHEC Pakistan's** philosophy focuses on development and the welfare of families, particularly those of widows and jobless parents. One such family is the family of Nasreen, a widow with five children. She has been able to send her children to school and higher education thanks to the support of CHEC Pakistan. CHEC Pakistan members also rush to play a compassionate role when and where there is a bombing or other disaster.



Nasreen and her 3 daughters with their cousin on the left of President CHEC-Pakistan



Nasreen with her 2 daughters and President CHEC-Pakistan. The youngest daughter is sitting on the smaller bed with her Cousins.

In **the Gambia**, the Gunjur Environmental Protection and Development Group (GEPADG) works to achieve long-term and sustainable solutions to poverty in The Gambia by reversing the current destruction of forests, mangroves and coastal ecosystems. It maintains a national mangrove forest ecological reserve, educating local communities and raising awareness of the threats that climate

## 9. CHEC MEMBERS

CHEC wishes to thank all our loyal members who provide CHEC with much needed support. We especially wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for becoming life members of CHEC:

Mr. John Bonham, Sir Graeme Davies, Dr. Zena Daysh CNZM, Mrs. Sonia Dyne, Mr. Peter Goodchild, Ms. Rosemary McConnell, Mr. Mark Robinson, Prof. Allan Rodger  
Mr. Richard A. Shervington, Mrs. Caryl D. Stephen

change poses for mangroves and coastal communities.



Workshop, Gambia

The activities of **Canada-CHEC** are based on the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Geography. Due to a change of headship of the Department and the departure of key faculty members knowledgeable about South-East Asia, it has not been possible to proceed with the planning of a mountain ecology expedition in India and/or Nepal. Thus it is hoped that, with the recruitment of new faculty members, more favourable conditions will prevail.

**CHEC-India** has started a "Greening Habitat Project" in a small town – Niwai, Tonk District, Rajasthan, by adopting a 6.5 ha. newly developing colony known as Hanuman Nagar, in which a roadside plantation project started in August 2008. The survival rate of plants is good.

CHEC-India organised a one-day seminar on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009, on the occasion of World Environment Day. The theme of the seminar was Climate Change – Save the Planet. Several hundred academics, government officers and NGOs participated.

## 10. CHEC HEADQUARTERS

Thanks to Federica Gallo, supported by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme, a Lifelong Learning Programme funded by the European Union, who worked as a volunteer at CHEC from September to December, we were able to reorganise CHEC's massive database of friends and contacts. This has led not only to old friends re-engaging with CHEC's work, but also an increase in new members, especially from young people keen to become involved with CHEC's work.

Thanks to the work and dedication of Fred Groom, from the University of Leeds, in editing CHEC Journal issue No. 21/22, the journal was published in 2009. Fred is now continuing his studies at the

International Programme for Human Ecology at Lund University, in Sweden.

Special thanks go to CHEC's loyal staff: Mary Dunkley, administrator; Yahya al Witri, accountant, and Richard O'Donnell, communication and research officer; all of whose work in the office has been invaluable. [Richard has now in June 2010 moved on to a new challenging opportunity and we wish him all the best for the future.]

CHEC also expresses its gratitude and heartfelt thanks to its New York-based UN representative, Narelle Townsend who continues to ensure that CHEC's views reach UN bodies through her dedicated work with the UN NGO-sector, especially those linked to UN-HABITAT.

## 11. GOVERNANCE

CHEC is a registered charity with a Governing Board accountable to the Charity Commission. It is also a Company Limited by Guarantee.

### **Members of the Governing Board, (Nov 2009)**

*Honorary President:*

Hon. Levi Oguike, CHEC-Nigeria

*Chairman:*

Caryll Stephen, Foundation for Water Research, UK

*Vice Chairman:*

Prof TKN Unnithan, Hon. President, CHEC-India

*Executive Committee Chair:*

Prof. Eleanor Morris, (formerly University of Edinburgh/Clemson University, USA)

*Executive-Vice Chair:*

Dr. Zena Daysh CNZM

*Honorary Treasurer:*

John Bonham

### **Other members:**

James Allie, Deputy High Commissioner, Sierra Leone

Dr Norma Bubier, Pro-Natura, UK

Peter Chatalos, CHEC International, UK

Dr Saadia Khan Chishti, CHEC-Pakistan

Indrajit Coomaraswamy, formerly at the Commonwealth Secretariat

Terence Dormer, formerly at the Commonwealth Secretariat

Ian Douglas, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

Sonia Dyne, Auroville International, UK

Eva Ekehorn, Society for Human Ecology

Prof Colin Fudge, RMIT, Australia

Peter Goodchild, GARLAND Trust

Dr. Morteza Honari, CHEC-Australia

Patricia Kabatabazi, CIANEA, Uganda

Caleb Kakuyo, CHEC-Uganda

Prof John Owen, Canada CHEC

Dr Aisie Lucan, CHECSil, Sierra Leone

Mark Robinson, Commonwealth

Consortium for Education (CCfE), UK

Dhanapala Samarasekara, CHEC-Sri Lanka

Norbert Sangura, CHEC Kenya

Norman Stannard, CHEC-New Zealand

Narelle Townsend, CHEC UN

Representative

Dr Nicholas Watts FRSA, Dep. of Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University, UK

## 12. CHEC CHAPTERS CONTACTS

### **Australia**

C/o Donnell Davis  
Tel: +61 – 73345 1800  
Fax: +61 – 7 3345 1700  
donnell@envirobusiness.org

### **Bangladesh**

Dr. Anwar Hossain  
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies  
620 Road 10/A  
New Dhanamondi  
GPO Box 3971  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Tel: +880 – 313 682

### **Canada**

Prof. John Owen  
314 Lake Crescent  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada, S7H 3A2  
Tel: +1 – 306 374 7913  
jso195@mail.usak.ca

### **The Gambia**

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

### **India**

Prof. H.S Sharma  
Geography Department  
Univ. of Rajasthan,  
Jaipur - 302004  
Rajasthan, India  
Tel: +91-141-2590046  
pachhora1@yahoo.com

### **Kenya**

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

### **Malta**

Foundation for International Studies  
Old University Building  
St Paul Street  
Valletta VLT, Malta  
Tel: +356 – 212 234 4121  
Fax: +356 – 212 305 51

### **New Zealand**

Mr. Norm Stannard / Mrs Margaret Evans  
Management and Quality Services Ltd  
PO Box 12369, Hamilton, New Zealand  
Tel: +67-7-8556579, Fax: +67-7-8552106  
m.q.slttd@xtra.co.nz

### **Nigeria**

Hon. Levi Oguike  
Plot 11 Lord Lugard Street  
Askoro, Abuja  
FCT A11, Nigeria  
chec\_nigeria@hotmail.com

### **Pakistan**

Dr. Saadia Chishti  
House 29A, Street 18, F6/2  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 – 51 864 077/824 944  
dr.\_saadia@yahoo.com

### **Papua New Guinea**

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson  
PO Box 7775  
Boroko, Port Moresby  
Papua New Guinea  
Tel: +675 – 325 9659  
coleraine@datec.net.pg

### **Sierra Leone**

Dr. Aisie Lucan  
Y.W.C.A Headquarters  
Bismarck Johnson Street  
PO Box 806  
Brookfields, Freetown  
Sierra Leone  
Tel: +232 – 240 383/076628345  
checsil@yahoo.com

### **Sri Lanka**

Mr. Dhanapala Samarasekara  
Angulugaha, Galle  
Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 – 10949 22432

### **Uganda**

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

## 13. PROFIT & LOSS

### COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	31.12.09		31.12.08	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
Donations, m/ship & subs	1,299		1,760	
EU Commission grant	-		11,578	
CF Fisheries grant	28,600		28,600	
CF Core grant	2,500		7,500	
CF Activity grant	4,250		4,250	
Human Ecology Foundation grant	<u>5,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
		41,649		53,688
<b>Other income</b>				
Sundry receipts	581		100	
Investment income received	768		881	
Interest on cash deposits	<u>1,331</u>		<u>3,796</u>	
		<u>2,680</u>		<u>4,777</u>
		44,329		58,465
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Project expenditure	5,175		23,083	
Rent, rates & insurance	6,237		5,838	
Salaries & social security	18,511		18,162	
Project consultancy	20,566		4,593	
Postage, telephone & fax	1,694		1,801	
Printing, publications & staty	3,063		799	
Travel, conferences & admin	6,991		4,635	
Administration costs	-		4,900	
Sundry repairs & removal costs	240		113	
Sundry expenses	292		169	
Accountancy	460		470	
Independent examiners' costs	<u>1,833</u>		<u>1,783</u>	
		<u>65,062</u>		<u>66,346</u>
		(20,733)		(7,881)
<b>Finance costs</b>				
Bank charges		<u>60</u>		<u>127</u>
		(20,793)		(8,008)
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Fixtures and fittings		<u>530</u>		<u>275</u>
<b>NET LOSS</b>		<u>(21,323)</u>		<u>(8,283)</u>

