

CHEC

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

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

50 YEARS CELEBRATION

**On 21st November 1969, CHEC Memorandum and Articles of
Association were registered.**

**CHEC held the 2nd Zena Daysh Lecture at the Royal Overseas
League (ROSL) on 19th November 2019 on:**

**“Our Changing Climate:
Do we need a shift in the way we learn?”**

**This was given by Asha Kanwar, President & Chief Executive
Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning, based in Vancouver,
Canada, followed by a reception to mark CHEC’s anniversary.**

**This was a time for celebration, which also marked the 70th
Anniversary of the signing of The London Declaration, which
was the beginning of the development of the modern
Commonwealth as we know it today.**

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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

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CHEC's 50 Anniversary logo

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1. Message from the Chairman, Mark Robinson



Mark Robinson

2019 was a busy year for CHEC. Our focus was narrowed with climate change being at the fore. The London CHOGM in June 2018 adopted the Blue Charter and this established a strong focus for CHEC's on-going work. In May 2019, CHEC joined with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) and the relevant unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat to help shape our thinking. As a result, it was decided to produce a journal "Human Ecology 30: Mangroves" in time for the 2020 CHOGM in Kigali, Rwanda, which has now been completed. It will be available for the postponed CHOGM in 2021, if COVID-19 allows. CHEC also applied for a special grant from the Commonwealth Secretariat to celebrate the

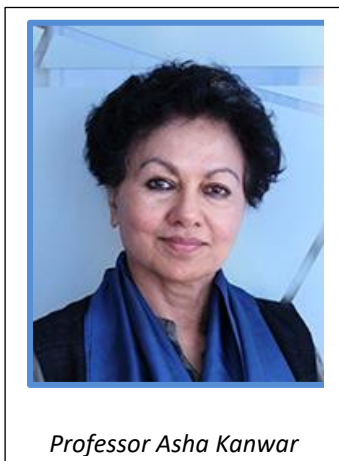
70th Anniversary of the London Declaration. Only recently did we hear that our bid had been successful so the preparatory work undertaken has served CHEC well.

The bees and pollinators project in Uganda has continued. This involves young women, is running well and details are highlighted in the body of this report.

From 21-23 May CHEC attended the CEC Conference in Grenada on "Students: Our Common Wealth. A focus for student success". In time for this meeting, CHEC published Human Ecology Journal 29 "Rediscovering Nature – Education for Social Understanding of sustainability". On 19 November 2019, at the Royal Over-Seas League, CHEC held the 2nd Zena Daysh Lecture "Our Changing Climate: Do we need a shift in the way we learn?" This was delivered by Professor Asha Kanwar, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) in Vancouver. Afterwards CHEC held a reception to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary and both events were well attended.

This has been a busy 12 months for CHEC and I would like to thank everyone in the CHEC family for the work and time they have put in to ensure another successful year.

2. Zena Daysh Lecture



Professor Asha Kanwar

The 2019 Zena Daysh Lecture, the second to be held, invited Asha Kanwar to talk about: **Our Changing Climate: Do we need a shift in the way we learn?** Asha Kanwar is the President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL). Throughout a career spanning 35 years, she has made outstanding contributions in the areas of teaching, research and development, winning several prestigious awards, including the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) Prize of Excellence, and the Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions in open and distance education from the Asian Association of Open Universities. She has received eight honorary doctorates from Universities in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. A full transcript can be read at: <http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/3467> together with the full power point presentation.

Here are some highlights from the Lecture:

In her presentation, Prof Kanwar first looked at the impact of climate change on education in the Commonwealth. She then explored whether achieving SDG 4 will help to mitigate the climate crisis and shared examples of some examples of 'green' models and approaches being adopted. Asha Kanwar then highlighted some of the contributions that CoL is making to environmental conservation. Finally, she suggested that we do need a paradigm shift in the way we approach education if we are to address the climate crisis



How does the climate crisis effect the education sector? According to UNICEF, more than 3000 classrooms and over 330,000 students were affected when Cyclone Idai, hit eastern Mozambique in March this year. In September Hurricane Dorian destroyed 90% of the infrastructure in The Bahamas. The week after Hurricane Dorian hit was to be the first week of school and many families had paid school fees and purchased uniforms, which were lost and many schools were deemed to be unsafe for students.

While a great deal of progress has been made in the school sector, we still see 262 million youth and children out of school. How many new schools would be required to accommodate these learners, under the existing paradigm? What would be the carbon footprint of these schools? While global data is not available, we can get a sense of the magnitude of the potential impact by looking at the requirements here in the UK: More than 2,000 new schools must be built within the next four years alone to accommodate the rising number of primary and secondary pupils in England alone. And the environmental footprint of UK schools currently stands at 9.4m tonnes of greenhouse gases every year.

Asha Kanwar stressed the needs for education to reach out across all countries and all children. Today’s education system has a drawback in the increase of travel for students moving up in grades. The CO2 emission goes up drastically, as students have to travel longer and more frequently.

How can we mitigate the negative effects and leverage the power of education to make a difference in terms of environmental sustainability?

One possible solution is suggested in this quote “On any given day, more than a billion children are enrolled in primary or secondary schools. Imagine if these children could understand the main causes and consequences of climate change and what they, their families and communities can do to be better prepared for climate change and embrace a low carbon lifestyle. Today’s children are tomorrow’s business leaders, decision makers and consumers. Therefore, education plays a key role in responding to climate change.”

While there are several interesting models and approaches to integrating environmental concerns into education, sustainability can easily become a curricular ‘add on’. What kind of shifts do we need to see a change in values, and the behavioural changes needed to address the climate crisis?

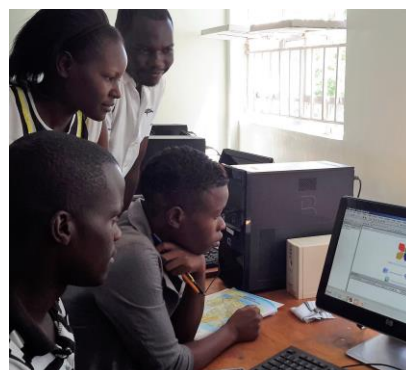
Prof Kanwar suggested three shifts that can promote the interconnectedness of the people and the planet: one, the adoption of a transformative approach to learning or learning to make a difference; two, tapping into the vast potential of tacit and indigenous knowledge; three, situating learning closer to our communities

Online learning could help alleviate this, but technology must be placed in an appropriate social, cultural and political context. The skills required are many, and a better resilience is needed for a changing world.

CHEC is very grateful for the support from the Sponsors of the Lecture: Ramphal Institute, Commonwealth Journalists Association, Council for Education in the Commonwealth, Royal Over-Seas League, Commonwealth Consortium for Education, and Foundation for Water Research.

Green Skills

- Renewable energy
- Air pollution control
- Sewage and waste management
- Environmental control system
- Financial skills to quantify environmental impact
- Policy and leadership skills for green economy



3. Projects



1



2

Bee and Pollinator Project

CHEC Bee and Pollinator Steering Group launched a **Call for Projects** across Uganda in the Spring of 2019. The project call set out criteria for a youth-led project for young women applicants with agriculture degrees and beekeeping working with a charity or community-based organisation. The key goal of the **Call for Projects** was to train marginalised young people, including single mothers, with the skills of beekeeping to become young entrepreneurs while addressing food security, biodiversity, the SDGs and establishing a village saving and loans association. Each applicant was required to set out their project objectives including a budget for a grant of £3,000. The grant to be provided by CHEC and the Human Ecology Foundation.

CHEC's Bee and Pollinator Steering group are grateful for the help of their Uganda advisor, Bosco Okello, CEO of Apitrade Africa, who kindly circulated the **Call for Projects** across the network of the Uganda Apiculture industry. A project review team was established to evaluate all the applications and determine a short list and interview the finalist by Skype. The Review Team were delighted by the dozens of applications received from across Uganda, all young women presenting their detailed proposals and enthusiasm to lead a project.

During the summer and autumn months of 2019 the Project Review team determined a shortlist. The five finalists were then interviewed through Skype calls. A winner was finally announced in November 2019: Angela Namukwaya working with the YOFENET, the Young Farmers and Entrepreneur Network in Eastern Uganda.

Angela Namukwaya was chosen for her extensive experience in beekeeping training, knowledge of VSLAs, and a dynamic proposal focused on four parishes in the Baitabogwe Sub-County, Mayuge district of eastern Uganda. Her goal was to train sixteen marginalised single mothers who had dropped out of school. The director of her charity, YOFENET, is Mathias Walwana, a beekeeper and farmer dedicated to working with young farmers to become young entrepreneurs.

The CHEC/YOFENET pilot project began in November with the YOFENET team sending out letters to local community leaders, then working with the community leaders on a baseline survey to identify sixteen beneficiaries from four parishes. The next task was to purchase the equipment which included 48 Kenya Top Bar Hives, eight Bee suits, smokers, hives tools and buckets. Each of the 16 beneficiaries to receive three hives.

The YOFENET team then held a project launch event funded by the CHEC/HEF grant, a highlight of the project. YOFENET invited many community leaders and the families of the beneficiaries. The speakers including the project leader Angela, project advisor Bosco Okello, YOFENET chair, Mathias and other apiculture experts including the District Entomology officer, the District Production Officer, Sub-county Agricultural officer, media and press. The event was a tremendous introduction to the CHEC/HEF grant, introduced the beneficiaries, promoted honey products and provided lunch for all those attending. The event culminated with the signing of the MoUs with beneficiaries officially registering for the training.

Dave Bonner from Bees Abroad visited the CHEC/YOFENET pilot project in February and helped to check the equipment and make sure it was up to standard. Then YOFENET held a ceremony to hand over the equipment to the beneficiaries with Bosco Okello in attendance. The training began and continued through February and March providing an extensive overview of beekeeping theory and practical skills including handmade basket beehives, and smokers. The 48 hives were then sited as sixteen apiaries across four parishes. The training included learning to bait the hives, hive management, inspirational talks and introduction of a village saving and loan group so the young mothers can learn to save from their honey sales. The CHEC and HEF Grant included providing lunches for the single mothers during the training sessions.

The project manager Angela Namukwaya has kept CHEC informed with monthly progress reports of all the activities while Mathias Walwana provides detailed monthly financial reports. The beneficiaries are now looking forward to their first honey harvest in the next months with the YOFENET team. Due to the Covid-19 Lockdown the fields trips and further entrepreneur and honey product training have had to be postponed for the time being although a second harvest is planned for December.

CHEC would like to thank the director of the pilot project, Jane Samuels, for her extensive work and leadership with help of Ian Douglas, Caryl Stephens, John McDonnell and the Uganda Advisor, Bosco Okello CEO of Apitrade Africa for his continued support and advice throughout.

Photos:

1. *The first photo taken 2 Feb 2020 – Group shot of many of the beneficiaries holding the beekeeping equipment*
2. *Angela speaking at the Pilot project launch with local dignitaries*
3. *Hive – Beneficiary with hives*
4. *Pilot project Launch – the audience of*



3



4

Mangroves

In August 2019, the Commonwealth Secretariat invited Commonwealth organisations to submit proposals for celebrating its 70th Anniversary. CHEC, with the leadership of Ian Douglas, submitted a proposal on Mangroves: to inform the importance of mangroves in coastal environment; to help restore and create healthier mangroves and to celebrate the protection mangroves give. In June 2020 CHEC was pleased to hear that £5,000 has been granted for this purpose, and this will be spent on projects in Fiji, Gambia, India, Malaysia, Maldives and Samoa.

<https://www.checinternational.org/chec-celebrates-world-mangrove-day-2020-on-three-oceans/>



Mangroves and local fishing boats at Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia. Photo Ian Douglas

4. Publications / Website

Journal 29: 'Rediscovering Nature -Education for a Social Understanding of Sustainability'

The journal was published just in time for the Grenada CEC Conference. Contributions came from all over the Commonwealth. Many young students contributed with their view on good teaching for a sustainable development. <https://www.checinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Journal-29-Rediscovering-nature.pdf>

Website

CHEC has been fortunate to have Communications Officer, John McDonnell, and volunteer, Ebba Raij, who have worked together to vastly improve the CHEC website. In the last year the website has undergone some minor changes that have continued to bring it up to a more modern standard. This has included a slight rebrand of the home page to be more fluid and concise with further pages being accessible from the home page. This enables the website to showcase the latest and most important news, essays and projects while archived and older material can still exist for those looking for it. The website also now includes a menu at the bottom of each web page which makes navigation easier for all visitors. One of the biggest changes to the website is the ability it now has to accept online donations - a feature that was previously missing from CHEC's online presence. Website visitors can now donate to CHEC through visiting the website with any donated funds contributing to the work CHEC does. Other changes, such as a rebranding of the Who We Are page, are still ongoing so look out for these in the future.

On the content front, the CHEC website has published a number of highly interesting and important articles, news items, essays and project updates. These are now being published more regularly which is excellent for those who visit the site. The latest content is also captured in a quarterly CHEC Newsletter which has also been rebranded. As we move forward, CHEC will always be interested in good quality content that be shared and published on the website and thus, encourages contributions and ideas from all.

Website and Social Media Facts and Figures:

- The CHEC website has had more pageviews since 1st January 2019 (c.16,000 views) than it did between 2012 and 2018 (c.3000 views)
- The most visited page on the CHEC website is the article “Fast Fashion and How to Reduce Clothing Waste” (c.5000 views)
- CHEC’s Twitter account now has 492 followers.
- CHEC’s Facebook account now has 236 followers.

For more information see www.checinternational.org

5. Meetings

Commonwealth Meetings

The Commonwealth Accredited Organisations have formed an informal group called Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO). Meetings are regularly held under the Chairmanship of CHEC member Nicholas Watts, to find common ground and ways to work on partnership around topics such as culture and urban issues. Eva Ekehorn, Mark Robinson and Jane Samuels have attended these meetings. Similar discussions also take place at Marlborough House with Commonwealth Accredited Organisations involved in dialogue with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland and other senior Secretariat officials.

CHEC was also represented at the Stanley Gray Lecture on Coral Reef Protection and Rehabilitation hosted by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) at Trinity House which also has great relevance to the Commonwealth Blue Charter adopted shortly afterwards. A meeting was set up to discuss possible partnerships with IMarEST and Jeff Ardron, leader of the Commonwealth Blue Charter, which was adopted shortly after the CHOGM 2018. This meeting was held in May and Eva Ekehorn, Ripin Kalra and Mark Robinson attended.

CHEC was represented at the CEC’s Conference on Education, 21 – 23 May 2019 in Grenada by Eva Ekehorn and Mark Robinson. Eva presented a paper on human ecology education for children (now on CHEC’s website: <https://www.checinternational.org/human-ecology-growing-a-backbone-in-students-education/>). It was a highly interesting conference. Key words had been ‘education on climate change’, ‘Prepare students for change’, ‘Life Long learning’, ‘Education for skills equal to university education’. CHEC’s Journal on ‘Rediscovering Nature -Education for a Social Understanding of Sustainability’ was widely distributed at the conference.

BOND Meeting 14/15 March 2019 was attended by Jane Samuels, together with some 1,000 from various organisation linked to BOND. Jane highlighted the importance of safe guarding people who do work for our charity.



CHEC India celebrated The World Environment Day June 2019

6. CHEC's network

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cianeauganda@yahoo.co.uk
Website: cianeauganda.org

7. CHEC's Governance

Members of the CHEC Governing Board Nov 2019

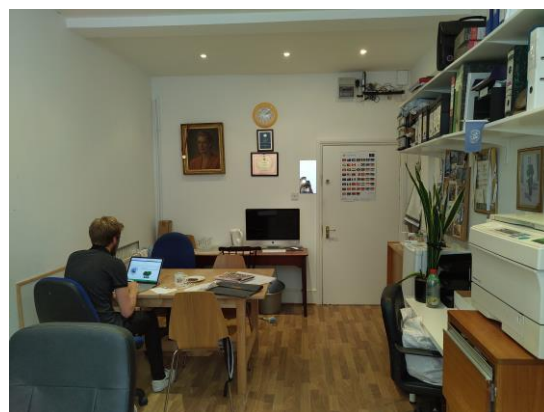
Honorary President: Hon. Levi Oguike, CHEC Nigeria
Patrons: Mr Norman Stannard, New Zealand
Ms Narelle Townsend, Australia
Chairman: Mark Robinson, CHEC UK
Honorary Treasurer: John Bonham, CHEC UK
Company Secretary: Eva Ekehorn, CHEC UK

Other Members of the Board:

Rhonda Cox, Trinidad & Tobago HC
Dr Saadyah Chishti, CHEC Pakistan
Hon. Sanusi Daggash, CHEC Nigeria
Dr Donnell Davis, CHEC Australia
Emeritus Prof Ian Douglas, School of Environment, Education and Development,
University of Manchester, UK
Dr Morteza Honari, Dr Honari Education Institute, Tehran
Daniel Hunt, Santander UK
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
Michael Mutter OBE (DFID prior to retirement)
Trevor Peel, National Liberal Club
James Ross, Commonwealth Resound, UK
Norbert Sangura, CHEC Kenya
Caryll Stephen, Foundation for Water Research, UK
Jane Samuels, Tools of Change, UK
Kabir Shaikh CBE, former UNESCO, UK
Ganesh Supramaniam, CHEC UK

Staff and Consultants:

Yahya al-Witri, Accounts and Office Manager, retired in 2020
John McDonnell, Communication officer
Ebba Aastrand Raij, volunteer, left in July 2019 to take up studies in Journalism



CHEC's office at 4, Hurlingham Studios

8. Financial Statement 2019

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD
 DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
 for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	31.12.19	31.12.18
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Subscriptions & Donations	1,401	1,543
Investment income		
Investment income received	19,427	26,280
Deposit account interest	85	48
	<u>19,512</u>	<u>26,328</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>20,913</u>	<u>27,871</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Project expenditure	1,800	-
Project consultancy	203	-
	<u>2,003</u>	<u>-</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Trustees' expenses	1,480	1,323
Rent, rates & insurance	9,638	9,632
Light and heat	345	242
Postage, telephone & fax	613	590
Printing, publications & staty	1,079	1,413
Sundry expenses	1,268	1,067
Travel, conferences & admin	3,349	3,728
Administration costs	830	-
IT consultancy	8,174	7,471
Fixtures and fittings	249	291
	<u>27,025</u>	<u>25,757</u>
Finance		
Bank charges	75	-
Bank interest	39	-
	<u>114</u>	<u>-</u>
Governance costs		
Wages	7,566	9,776
Accountancy and legal fees	2,190	2,160
	<u>9,756</u>	<u>11,936</u>
Total resources expended	<u>38,898</u>	<u>37,693</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(17,985)</u>	<u>(9,822)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SUPPORT CHEC

There are several ways you can help and support CHEC and the work we do:

Become a member!

Membership information and a membership form can be found at <https://www.checinternational.org/joining-chec/>

£10 for students, £30 for ordinary members and £20 for those over 65.

Donate!

Any sum is most welcome! Please send a cheque to CHEC or pay by bank transfer: Sort Code: 20-69-15; A/C 73900398



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@CwHumanEcology



Join us on Facebook

/InternationalCHEC/



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