



COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL (CHEC)

2023 Annual Report

CHEC

Registered Charity No. 272018

Company No. 00966772

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The aim of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), an educational charity, is to further the importance of a holistic and sustainable view of the world and a continuing emphasis on development through the implementation of human ecology.

CHEC's programmes strive to awaken the Commonwealth to the need for deeper human and ecological philosophies in order to achieve a wider coalition between all levels of society and the natural world on which they depend.

CHEC is supported by the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF). This is a subsidiary charity, which manages CHEC's trust fund, and has its own board that supervises both its capital and income. As such, it helps to fund CHEC's projects, as well as supporting management of CHEC's website and social media activity.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

Registered Charity No. 272018

Company No. 00966772

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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



Accredited to COP through UNFCCC

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Mark Robinson

Layout: Emily Robinson

Cover Photo: Community Garden being watered in the
Gambia (Photo by: Badara Bajo) featured in our Project
Spotlight on Page 7

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A Message from the Chair

Mark Robinson

In 2023 the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), now in its 53rd year, has continued to give high priority to issues related to **Climate Change** and through its project work is expanding its reach into many regions of the Commonwealth. This has enabled CHEC to emphasize the pan-commonwealth nature of its work, in the knowledge that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Samoa, a small country in the Pacific region.

CHEC has been planning to undertake project work in that region, which it is hoped to bring to fruition in 2024 in time for the opening of CHOGM which will be held from 21 to 26 October 2024. In doing this, CHEC is minded that some 32 Commonwealth member states continue to be threatened by rising sea levels, threats to coral reefs and ocean pollution and so urgent and sustained action is required to tackle the problems that have flowed from the unfortunate effects that climate change can have. Progress is being made to establish a climate justice fund and pledges towards that now need to be translated into actual realization to enable effective action to take place.

CHEC's current work has been helped by the partnerships we have been able to develop both with multilateral organizations and civil society operations around the Commonwealth. This has been helped through CHEC's membership of the Informal Forum of Commonwealth Organizations (IFCO).

As well as that CHEC is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a relationship which we are working to strengthen, as well as to revitalize the association we have had in the past with UNESCO. Our relationship with the Commonwealth Consortium for Education in the Commonwealth (CCfE) is important to us, as well as with the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC), given we were founded as an education charity, a status which CHEC still maintains, and which has been reflected in some of our projects. In that respect, I was delighted to take part in the CEC conference on artificial intelligence (AI) held at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus from 18-21 May 2023. This covered both teachers, students and parents as we discussed how AI might impact on education throughout the Commonwealth. It also afforded good networking opportunities which I found useful. We also work through our membership of the International Development Organization (BOND) and the Society for Human Ecology (SHE), whose conference was held in Tucson, Arizona from 5-8 November 2023, at which CHEC was represented by Dr. Janine Pierce, one of CHEC's Governing Board Members.

As human ecology is very relevant to all aspects of Climate Change, membership of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has become important and enabled CHEC to attend and participate in the COP conferences. In 2023 CHEC sent a delegation to COP-28 held in Dubai. CHEC's delegation was led by myself but I was the only member over the age of 30. On



CHEC Chair Mark Robinson with a fellow delegate at COP28 in Dubai

the team were representatives from Ghana, India, and Samoa all of whom attended and spoke at many climate change forums. I was particularly pleased we were able to support the WHO Forum and delighted when the important link between health and climate change ended up being reflected in the communique. At the end of COP-28, UNFCCC afforded us a platform which we undertook in partnership with Climate Outreach and The Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Youth Action Group (CSET Youth) on ***Communities Catalysing Social and Environmental Change*** to which we provided 2 panelists. Although held at the end of the day, enough attended to make it worthwhile and it was also live streamed around the globe. The Commonwealth Secretariat held a number of platforms, and we were able to participate in those as well, as well as to record a short video on CHEC's involvement in COP-28. My colleagues and I also undertook much networking, including attending an excellent reception hosted by Rotary International.

During 2023, CHEC has worked closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat, to whom we are accredited, and the Commonwealth Foundation, which works closely with Civil Society. Co-operation such as this is very important to us as is the Commonwealth Charter, which both guides our work and which we like to promote to our Commonwealth partners and other important contacts.

CHEC has continued to develop its website which has been used to spell out details of our work and accomplishments, including details of the projects we have accomplished and those that are in progress. Details of these are set out in the section on projects below. CHEC's website has been run for some time now by CHEC Secretary Emily Robinson along with CHEC's post graduate intern, John McDonnell, who has now moved into full time employment but has agreed to join CHEC's Governing Board. His replacement is Kate Martin, another post-graduate, who has both continued this work and injected a few new ideas. Their work has been particularly effective in building our contacts through the use of the social media and we are grateful to them for all of this work, which has been mainly funded by some of the income derived from HEF.

We look forward to a challenging year in 2024, This will culminate in another CHOGM in October, followed by COP-29 in November 2024 which we expect will produce many challenges given its location in Baku, Azerbaijan. In all this I am grateful for the work undertaken by the members of CHEC's Governing Board, the support given by the Board of HEF, the Commonwealth Forum of the National Liberal Club especially for the facilities provided to enable our Governing Board Meetings to be held both face to face and online which greatly expands CHEC's pan-Commonwealth outreach.

Mark Robinson
Chair, CHEC

A Welcome to CHEC's new Digital Coordinator Kate Martin

CHEC is excited to announce that Kate Martin has joined the CHEC team as our new Digital Coordinator. Kate is currently working on her PhD at the University of Central Lancashire, where she previously earned a BA and an MA in Asia Pacific Studies. Her thesis: *Finding an Appropriate Legal Terminology for the Rights of Climate Displaced Peoples in the Asia Pacific as a Method of Climate Resilience in Disaster and Crisis Anthropology* is an important theme relevant to Human Ecology in the Pacific. The Governing Board welcomes Kate and looks forward to her work the CHEC.



A Message from Kate:

“In my new role as the Digital Coordinator for the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, I plan to focus on enhancing our social media presence and fostering connections across the Commonwealth. One of my primary goals is to increase engagement on our platforms, ensuring that our message reaches and resonates with a wider audience. Looking ahead, I am particularly enthusiastic about my plans to visit Fiji in the coming year. During the visit, I will be producing a series of interviews for our ‘Climate Conversations in the Pacific’ project, highlighting the vital stories and perspectives of communities impacted by climate change. Through these initiatives, we aim to amplify voices and build a stronger, more connected network across the Commonwealth. Additionally, I have successfully re-launched our newsletter, which, along with

regular social media updates, will focus on crucial topics such as climate change and sustainable development, ensuring that our community stays informed and engaged.”

Kate Martin
CHEC Digital Coordinator
United Kingdom

Projects

With the support of its subsidiary charity, the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF), CHEC undertook several impactful and meaningful projects aimed at promoting sustainable development and enhancing human well-being across member states in 2023. Several projects including our **Spotlight Project *Gambia Environmental and Community Development*** were small-scale and community-led, ensuring that local participants had a say in projects benefiting their communities. CHEC was able to partner with the University of Edinburgh Students' Association for a project focused on *Period Education and Combating Period Poverty and Waste in India*. Later in the year saw a continuation of an earlier project in Kenya with the *Ilparakuo Food Security Project at Maasai Village Polytechnic and Children's Learning Centre*. In November, CHEC was proud to have helped sponsor the removal of asbestos and replace several roofs of buildings at the Khayelitsha Baphumelele Children's Home in South Africa. We believe our projects show CHEC's unwavering commitment to fostering a holistic and integrated approach to human ecology, ensuring that both people and the planet are thoughtfully considered in all development efforts. Details of all can be found on CHEC's website [here](#). In 2024, CHEC hopes to fund one or more projects in the Pacific Region.

Project Spotlight

Gambia Environmental and Community Development Project

From November 2022 until June 2023, CHEC partnered with GEPADG (CHEC Gambia) to provide a vegetable garden and orchard for women cultivators with a reliable water supply as part of an on-going environmental and community development project in the Gunjur Kombo South District, West Coast Region, The Gambia. A borehole was also installed, and the well water supply will help the community with a tree nursery for the annual tree planting exercises and agroforestry. In the next few years there will be more fruit trees in the orchard such as mangoes, pears, avocado, and oranges and eventually, mangroves will be planted as part of the community-led initiative in the area.



Project Participants survey the future Mangrove Planting Area

Project Spotlight

Gambia Environmental and Community Development Project

GEPADG (CHEC Gambia) has carried out an annual large-scale beach cleaning and tree planting exercise, including the planting of mangrove seedlings at the Gunjur beach. This was in conjunction with the Gunjur senior secondary school in partnership with the local environmental organisations, the local community including all the necessary stakeholders from other parts of the country particularly in the west coast region.



Community Garden being watered



Installing fencing at the Community Garden

The goal was to provide a secure and safe source of food and income for local women. A 10,000 square metre vegetable and orchard garden was fenced, cleaned and cleared. A well digger was contracted to dig and build a borehole for the women vegetable gardeners. Various types of tree seedlings have been acquired with a few to providing seedlings for the annual tree planting exercises. There is continuous monitoring and evaluation with other project activities and ecotourism services.

A new traditional local well at the GEPADG/CHEC office at the Bolongfenyo community wildlife reserve is completed with enough water. This well supplies drinking water and irrigation water for trees and birds and our ecotourism Services.

Project Spotlight

Gambia Environmental and Community Development Project



Installation of Solar Panels for the new Community Garden Borehole

The project has addressed significant social, cultural, environmental and economic issues and thus greatly helped the local community. This project has enabled the maintenance of local cultural practices. The women traditionally work at the vegetable gardens and the rice fields with traditional songs and dancing. They organize cultural activities such as drumming and fundraising Kora shows. This project has enabled the maintenance of such cultures at the GEPADG women vegetable garden.

Socially, the women make some daily contributions, locally called (Susuwo) that they pay to each other every month through balloting. This creates a lot of social interaction for them. They organise cultural activities during the time of harvesting. This is an ongoing activity.

The project has enhanced and is bringing about attitudinal changes towards the environment; sustainable use practices; the reintroduction of lost species; more trees leading to a clean and healthy environment.

Economically, the project is helping women to achieve a sustainable income from their produce, enabling them to buy food, clothes and to pay their children's school fees leading to possible food self-sufficiency. This creates better health with fewer health expenses. Their traditional "Susuwo" daily contribution scheme also helps sustain their incomes.

Project Spotlight

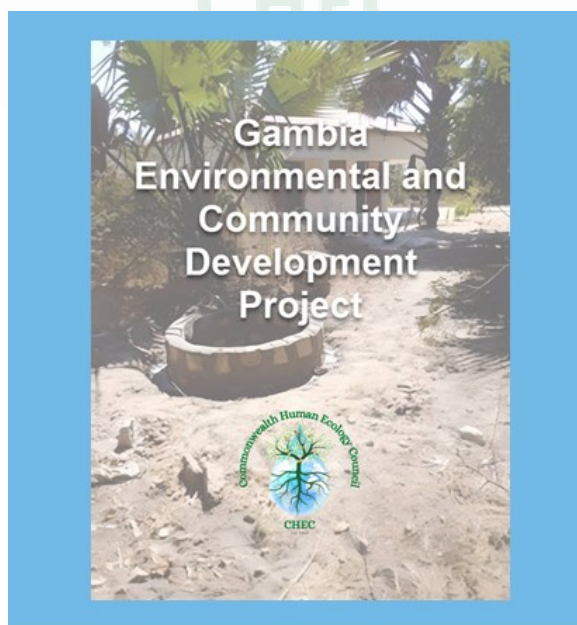
Gambia Environmental and Community Development Project

The solar-powered borehole and the well water supply are encouraging the development of a tree nursery for the annual tree planting exercises and agroforestry projects. In the next few years more fruit trees, such as mangoes, pears, avocado, and oranges will be planted within the orchard. GEPADG/CHEC Gambia aims to replicate this project elsewhere when funds become available.



The new Community Garden Borehole, helping to supply the Garden Water Tap

The project video can be viewed on CHEC's YouTube Page here:



Publications and Website

With the launch of the new CHEC Webpage earlier in the year, CHEC wanted to highlight the achievements from the past 53 years – most of which can be found in the [**CHEC Achievements 1969 - 2019 50th Anniversary Publication**](#) – in a visual presentation. Put together by CHEC Honorary Secretary Emily Robinson, the timeline visually highlights CHEC's most important achievements from CHEC's founding in 1969 to 2023. The project will continue to grow as no doubt CHEC continues to partner with communities around the Commonwealth for meaningful projects and is represented at important upcoming events such as CHOGM, COP, and UN EcoSoc conferences.

A Timeline of CHEC 1969 – 2023



CHEC's website keeps friends of human ecology updated about discussions around the Commonwealth on climate change adaptation and mitigation, the state of soil, rivers, lakes, and oceans with a monthly and bi-monthly newsletter. This looks at how our consumption affects the environment and what we can do about it. All of CHEC's reports are available not only on our webpage but are also emailed to our subscribers.

CHEC can be found on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube!



CHEC is dependent on the contributions of members, both in the form of voluntary work and through contributions from funds. We have a range of membership options available – including annual and life-long, student membership, and concessions for over 65s and SHE Members. CHEC will also display any job or volunteer opportunities on [our page](#).

Events

Participation at the ‘Round Table’ Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, the National Liberal Club – Commonwealth Forum and a Visit to the House of Lords

A Report from CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

I had the honour of representing CHEC at the Commonwealth Conference held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park on the 18th – 19th of January 2023. The conference was organized by the Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, and I was invited to speak on the theme ‘Climate Change, Small States, Inequality and Development’. I was part of CHEC’s delegation at the conference, comprised of Chair Mark Robinson, Secretary Emily Robinson, Board Member Jane Samuels, and myself. My reflection report will focus not only on this conference, but also the ‘official’ part of my trip, which continued with my visit to the House of Lords on the 23rd of January, followed by an address to the Commonwealth Forum of the National Liberal Club.

The day after my arrival, Emily and I left for Windsor Great Park early in the morning. Upon arrival I was introduced to our conference organizers and met Jane and Mark in-person that afternoon. My session, ‘Global Challenges and the International Response: What role for the Commonwealth?’ was moderated by Rita Payne (President Emeritus of the Commonwealth Journalists Association), and I had the privilege of sharing the stage with Dr. Nicholas Hardman-Mountford (Head of Oceans and Natural Resources at the Commonwealth Secretariat) and Dr. Olumide Abimbola (Executive Director of the Africa Policy Research Institute).

‘Global Challenges and the International Response: What role for the Commonwealth?’

The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs



CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla (right) with fellow panelists at the Round Table

Events

Participation at the ‘Round Table’ Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, the National Liberal Club – Commonwealth Forum and a Visit to the House of Lords

A Report from CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

Representing CHEC at the panel, the Round Table’s team appropriately summarised my intervention as follows on [their website](#):

Abhiir Bhalla (Youth Adviser to Governing Board at the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council) spoke of his frustration with the dichotomy of Commonwealth climate action: while the Commonwealth is uniquely placed to tackle the climate crisis, he perceives little concrete action in the face of such an urgent crisis. Rather than focusing on shared values and manufacturing consensus, which is sometimes unachievable, Bhalla argued that the Commonwealth’s unique attributes should be deployed to tackle climate change and similarly formidable challenges. As a youth adviser within the Commonwealth structure, Bhalla emphasised the importance of including young representatives in strategic discussions now. “Given that the impact of key policy decisions taken currently will be felt in 20 years’ time, youth need more than simply a seat at the table, they need a ‘say at the table’ now.”



Abhiir Bhalla speaking at Cumberland Lodge

I subsequently also gave a [short 1-1 interview](#) to Ms. Payne highlighting that the Commonwealth’s strength lay in the diversity of its lived experiences, cultures and opinions – and underlining that this could be the key to unlocking the climate crisis. I also highlighted my diverging views as an environmentalist and as an Indian citizen when it came to India’s abstinence from pledging to the “phasing out” of coal at COP26, arguing that climate finance commitments from the developed world would need to be met before developing countries could be held to task.

I also had a productive conversation with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland and her senior staff, Mr. Suresh Yadav and Mr. Snober Abbasi.

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Abhiir Bhalla with Commonwealth Secretary General The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC at Cumberland Lodge

After the Conference, I returned to London, where I spent the next 3-4 days exploring the gorgeous (but cold!) city. I went about the city like a regular tourist, using the Tube and buses extensively to explore Tower Bridge, The Shard, Greenwich Observatory, London, the British Museum and other sights.

Towards the end of my trip, on the penultimate evening, Governing Board Member Trevor Peel had kindly organised for Emily, Governing Board Member Hayden Greenfield, Colin Welsh and myself to visit the House of Lords, kindly led by Lord Graham Tope. This was a one-of-a-kind experience, and not having been inside even the Indian Parliament, it was a privilege and honour to visit one of the legendary temples of democracy worldwide. We even briefly sat in on a session of Parliament! It was a pleasure to get to know Hayden, Colin and Lord Tope a bit better over tea.

Events

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Trevor Peel, Lord Graham Tope, Abhiir Bhalla, Emily Robinson, and Colin Welsh at the House of Lords



Trevor Peel, Abhiir Bhalla, Lord Graham Tope, Emily Robinson, Colin Welsh and Hayden Greenfield

Subsequently, we headed down to the National Liberal Club, where I addressed a cozy, yet interactive gathering of the members of their Commonwealth Forum. I spoke on the importance of Youth in Climate Action, and judging by the engaging Question & Answer session we had afterwards, I'm glad to say I hope the session was a resounding success!



CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla speaking at the NLC Commonwealth Forum Event on Youth in Climate Action



Events

Participation at the ‘Round Table’ Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, the National Liberal Club – Commonwealth Forum and a Visit to the House of Lords

A Report from CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

We had a few glasses of wine, followed by a great dinner together – it was a pleasure meeting several individuals from varied backgrounds and getting to know more about their work. The following morning, Emily, Trevor, Colin and I had a great tea/beer session before my departure – it was lovely connecting with them.

Photographs have been shared on CHEC’s social media, and some of my favourites can be found here on [my LinkedIn post](#).

I’m indeed indebted to CHEC and the Round Table for supporting my visit to London for this engaging and productive conference. A special thanks to Emily for hosting me in her house for two days, as well as to Trevor and Mark for being such hospitable hosts and making me feel so welcome. I hope to continue to meaningfully add value to all that CHEC does in the time to come.

Abhiir Bhalla

Youth Advisor to the Governing Board – CHEC

New Delhi, India

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah



The 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting took place from September 11-15, 2023, at Marlborough House, London, United Kingdom. The meeting contributes to broader social and sustainable development goals from a youth development perspective. Chaired by the Government of Pakistan, it brought together Youth Ministers, senior government officials, youth representatives, youth workers and other stakeholders from across the Commonwealth.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the originally scheduled meeting for 2021 was postponed. Initially 10CYMM was scheduled to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 23 to 25 January 2023 to officially launch the 'Year of Youth', but it was later postponed to 11-15 September 2023 and relocated to London, UK due to severe flooding in Pakistan in September 2022, which caused widespread devastation. I responded to the urgent call by the board for representation at the CYMM, and thanks to the facilitation of the Chair and Secretary of the CHEC Governing Board, I was resourced to attend the meeting. As a board member representing the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), this report provides a concise overview of the key discussions and decisions relevant to CHEC's work during the meeting

KEY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS - MINISTERIAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

Youth Engagement and Advocacy:

- The meeting acknowledged the significant role of youth networks, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in promoting youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development.
- The 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) was celebrated, recognizing the contributions of past and present executives. The assembly was commended for ensuring that the voices of young people are included in Commonwealth decision-making processes.
- The Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI) Update Report 2023 was welcomed, noting persisting inequalities in youth development. There's a resolution to take actions to empower young people in marginal positions. The growing use of the YDI is acknowledged as a useful tool for assessing youth.
- There's an agreement to extend the 'Year of Youth' initiatives until CHOGM 2024 to ensure maximum and sustained impact.
- The 5th Commonwealth Conference of Youth Workers will be hosted by the Government of Malaysia in 2025

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

Digital Transformation and Youth Empowerment:

- *The transformative potential of technologies on youth employment was recognized, emphasizing the need to bridge the digital divide and skills gap.*
- *The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing the youth dividend was acknowledged. The launch of the “AI for Youth” initiative was endorsed, aiming to empower young people to innovate, develop entrepreneurial skills and generate employment within the Commonwealth countries. This initiative seeks to leverage the support of industry leaders, especially in small and vulnerable member states, focusing on research, infrastructure, capacity building, and ethical AI policy.*
- *Collaborations with industry leaders like Simplilearn and Intel were commended for offering digital skills training and capacity building to upskill young people across the Commonwealth. The formation of the Commonwealth AI Consortium was welcomed, aiming to accelerate the reach of similar programs across the Commonwealth*



Isaac attending the 10th CYMM at Marlborough House

Social Entrepreneurship:

The dynamic interplay of economic development and social responsibility was discussed, emphasizing the potential of social entrepreneurship as a transformative force within the Commonwealth. The meeting pledged to foster an environment that nurtures and scales socially driven ventures.

Youth Work and Professional Development:

- The importance of qualified youth workers was highlighted, with acknowledgment given to the Professional Association of Lecturers in Youth and Community Work (PALYCW) for their contributions.
- The UK Government was thanked for hosting the 4th Commonwealth Youth Work Conference. Malaysia's offer to host the 5th Commonwealth Conference of Youth Workers in 2025 was welcomed.
- The reports from the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA) and the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) were noted, commending their work in promoting youth work professionalization and youth leadership.

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

Mental Health and Well-being

The escalating mental health challenges, especially among children, young people, and women, were discussed. The meeting pledged to support efforts to develop robust mental health policies, launch well-being campaigns, and empower the mental wellness of young people.

Climate Activism and Sustainability

- Young people's commitment to environmental preservation and sustainability was acknowledged. The mainstreaming of youth considerations into the work of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) was welcomed.
- The formation of the Ocean Youth Working Group is welcomed. This aligns with a focus on the environmental health of oceans and the role of young people in taking action on climate change and ocean conservation.
- The statement encourages investment in youth-led initiatives related to renewable energy, conservation, marine life, carbon-neutral projects, and waste management.

Marlborough House Commitment for Youth Development

The Marlborough House Commitment is an agreement by Ministers of youth to ensure the well-being, empowerment, and progress of young citizens in the Year of Youth. Key commitments include:

- Establishing National Youth Policies and Legislations.
- Ensuring youth participation in policy development.
- Promoting social inclusion and equity.
- Enhancing youth participation and engagement.
- Safeguarding children and young people.
- Providing employment and economic opportunities for youth

ROUNDTABLES MEETINGS

A critical part of the Youth Minister Meeting was the discussion across themes enabled by six pivotal roundtable events, each focusing on a distinct theme but converging on the overarching goal of youth empowerment and engagement. These roundtables were platforms for debate, exchange, and consensus-building. They facilitated a rich tapestry of perspectives, from government officials to youth leaders, weaving together a narrative of challenges, opportunities, and aspirations. Each roundtable was structured to be interactive, ensuring that every voice, every concern, and every proposal was heard and considered. The culmination of these discussions was the drafting of a final outcome statement, a testament to the collective will and commitment of the Commonwealth nations to their youth.

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah



The Youth Engagement Roundtable at the 10th CYMM

1. Youth Engagement Roundtable

The event was structured as an informal and interactive session, drawing participation from Senior Government Officials, youth leaders, and various stakeholders. The primary objective of this roundtable was to address the challenges young professionals face when trying to engage with Commonwealth accredited bodies. The Ministers and officials actively discussed and proposed policy recommendations. By sharing experiences, they aimed to develop a comprehensive set of policy recommendations. Key points of discussion included the modernization of approaches to be more inclusive and the success stories where youth had made significant impacts.

2. Promoting Cross-Cultural Understanding within the Commonwealth

Chaired by Hon Jean Nepo Abdallah Utumatwishima, the Minister of Youth from Rwanda, this session delved deep into the dynamics youth networks face in fostering cross-cultural understanding. Participants discussed the specific barriers hindering youth-led engagements and sought ways to address them. They also highlighted nations or initiatives within the Commonwealth that have been exemplary in leveraging youth networks for fostering global citizenship and cross-cultural understanding.

3. Climate Change Mitigation and Youth Engagement

The primary focus was on enhancing education and awareness regarding climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction. The session aimed to identify strategies that would work in tandem with young people to promote effective and inclusive climate action. Sustainable development, active conservation, and nature-based solutions were also on the agenda. The discussion emphasized the role of youth in addressing the pressing environmental challenges faced by Commonwealth member countries. They also explored how climate change considerations could be integrated into national youth policies and strategies. The overarching goal was to foster collaboration among Commonwealth countries, especially between ministries responsible for youth and climate change.

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

4. Engaging Young Professionals in the Commonwealth

Led by the Hon Mario Bowleg, the Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture from The Bahamas, the event addressed the challenges

young professionals face when trying to engage with Commonwealth accredited bodies. The Ministers and officials actively discussed and proposed policy recommendations. By sharing experiences, they aimed to develop a comprehensive set of policy recommendations. Key points of discussion included the modernization of approaches for inclusivity and success stories of youth involvement.



Isaac with a fellow youth delegate from the Bahamas

5. Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Development

The event aimed to enhance education and awareness regarding sustainable development practices and the role of youth in driving these initiatives. The session focused on strategies to work with young people to promote effective and inclusive sustainable development practices. Active conservation, nature-based solutions, and the development of green and blue economies were also on the agenda. The discussion emphasized the role of youth in addressing the pressing developmental challenges faced by Commonwealth member countries. They also explored the integration of sustainable development considerations into national youth policies and strategies.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

Kenya: Advocates for inclusivity in governance and the Bottom-Up Economic Transfer Agenda, with a focus on youth financial inclusion.

The Bahamas: Aims to update the National Youth Policy by October 2023 and establish a National Youth Council by early 2024.

Jamaica: Expresses intent to host the next Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.

Malta: Continues to support youth participation in decision-making and the AI for Youth initiative.

Australia: Launches an Office for Youth for a new National Youth Engagement Strategy.

Papua New Guinea: Provides support to the Commonwealth Youth Council with office space and young volunteers

Events

10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

A Report from CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

MY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Complex Problem Solving: Emphasised the importance of integrating design thinking into the curriculum to foster complex problem-solving skills.

Personal Responsibility & Accountability: Advocated for instilling a sense of leadership within classrooms and empowering students through out-of-class work education, thereby fostering personal responsibility and accountability.

Commonwealth Scholarships: Stressed the significance of supporting the Commonwealth scholarships to promote equity in education.

Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge: Recognized the invaluable role of local communities in preserving indigenous knowledge and culture. Consequently, I recommended a comprehensive review of education policies to decolonize and incorporate cultural differences within educational curriculums.



Isaac attends the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting at Marlborough House in London - September 2023

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) provided a crucial platform to discuss and address the challenges and opportunities facing the youth of the Commonwealth. Representing the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), our participation ensured that concerns pertinent to human ecology were effectively communicated and integrated into the broader discussions.

My attendance at the CYMM enriched my understanding of the systems and operations of the Commonwealth architecture. This experience was built upon my prior involvement with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings People Forum in Rwanda. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to lead conversations on behalf of CHEC. I made the most of the reception sessions, attending all of them to network and foster valuable relationships that I believe will further CHEC's objectives.

Events

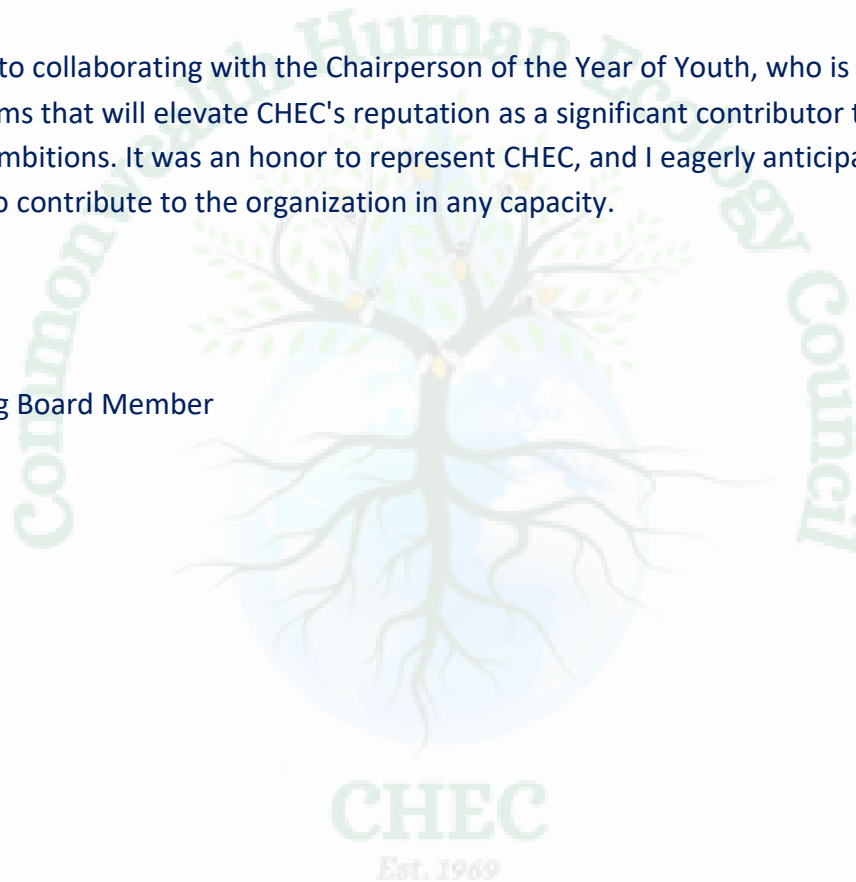
10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

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CHEC stands out for its dynamic approach, especially in its respect and allowance for the participation of youth leadership at the Governor's Council. This progressive stance distinguishes CHEC among its peer organizations. I am inspired by the spirit of the Year of Youth and the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Program. These milestones align with CHEC's forward-thinking initiatives.

I am dedicated to collaborating with the Chairperson of the Year of Youth, who is from Ghana, to develop programs that will elevate CHEC's reputation as a significant contributor to the Secretariat's Year of Youth ambitions. It was an honor to represent CHEC, and I eagerly anticipate future opportunities to contribute to the organization in any capacity. Thank you.

Isaac Aboah
CHEC Governing Board Member
Ghana



Events

XXVth International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology (SHE)

Dr Janine Pierce a Board member of Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) attended the XXVth International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology (SHE) from November 5-8th 2023 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, USA. CHEC has had a long-standing relationship with SHE, so it was a positive experience to be able to attend this conference as a CHEC representative, to be able to present two papers, and to network and learn new ideas and knowledge in this evolving area of Human Ecology.

The SHE Conference was held in the University's Environment and Natural Resources building which is strongly reflective of eco-friendly design.



The Environment and Natural Resources Building at the University of Arizona

The theme for this conference was: Sowing Human Ecological Future: Vision, Justice, and Diversity. Diverse themes embraced many aspects of human ecology and evolving areas of focus for this time on Earth. Session themes included: Teaching Human Ecology, Food Waste, Diet and Disease, Biodiversity/Human/Animal Relations, Environmental management, Theoretical perspectives, Community, Forming Networks, Culture, Diversity, and Well-being, Optics and Nature, Indigenous Knowledge & Practice, Tourism, Community and Conservation, Political Economy of Human Ecology, Human Ecology Models, Climate Change, Eco-Disasters, Problem-solving, Food security and Diet, and an 'Ignite' presentation section that showcased key themes in a short time frame in moving power point presentation with voice followed by discussion.

Events

XXVth International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology (SHE)

Janine Pierce presented an Ignite presentation (7-minutes) slideshow followed by discussion. This presentation was well attended both face to face and by virtual attendees and was well received. The presentation was titled ***Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC): Helping People & the Planet*** and focused on overviewing CHEC, and the Human Ecology Foundation, the global reach of Commonwealth projects around the world, and presented the many projects and publications and other activities of CHEC: all in 7 minutes! The presentation generated much discussion and there were a number of comments of how broad ranging across many countries the projects of CHEC are, and how much has been achieved on small funding. There were a number of inspired attendees as a result of this presentation and an increase of awareness of what CHEC focus is.



Dr. Janine Pierce's Presentation at the SHE Conference

Dr. Pierce also presented a paper in the Climate Change stream titled ***Climate Change: Citizen Scientists as Planetary Guardians and Monitors: The Australian Story***. This paper was well received with a number of attendees interested to become involved as Citizen Scientists which is a big focus area of community members and schools supporting scientific research in Australia and many countries.

This SHE Conference was informative, being attended by a CHEC representative enabled profiling of CHEC to attendees and was a good opportunity to learn of developments in knowledge, issues, and strategies pertaining to human ecology in the world today.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from November 30th – 13 December 2023. The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council was proud to be able to send three delegates to the meeting, with one Governing Board member attending in his official capacity. Governing Board Members Chair Mark Robinson, Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla, and Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah attended on behalf of CHEC, while Governing Board Member Fogamomi Niccolo Moeono attended in his official capacity with the Samoan delegation.



The CHEC delegation along with COP28 delegates attending the Rotary International Reception in Dubai

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member

Fogamomi Nicc Moeono

My experience as Samoa's youth delegate and Mitigation negotiator at COP28

The beginning of 2023 was filled with promise and hype for the COP28 Presidency to deliver pivotal outcomes at the end of COP28. For the first time in almost 30 years, “fossil fuels” in any UNFCCC text was highlighted in the CMA decision text of the 1st Global stocktake. The exact mention of the language is in para 28, where the negotiators for AOSIS fought for strong language and tightened any loopholes for developed nations and fossil-fuel-centric countries to continue on the business-as-usual trajectory. The 2 weeks of negotiations between Parties, especially those that fought hard to not include any mention of “fossil fuels” also coupled efforts to not have any mention of “phase-out” in any sort. Parties not willing to follow UNFCCC procedures to allow for progress discussions in inf-infs meant that formal consultations were stalled and little progress happened in the first week. The stalling tactics were faced not only in the Global stocktake negotiations but also in the Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, Just Transition, and Article 6 negotiations. The negotiation group G77 + China struggled to find common ground on several thematic topics, especially the Mitigation Work Programme, which from a technical point-of-view, should be one the heart of these discussions. To have the MWP operationalized in only the last few years shows that, at-risk and vulnerable countries and islands to climate impacts, are finally being heard on the global stage, despite calling for immediate action since COP1.



Samoa Delegation with Minister Schuster and Youth Delegates

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Fogamomi Nicc Moeono

The second mention of “fossil fuels” can also be found in para 28, which mentions “phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or the just transition, as soon as possible”. What exactly does “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies” mean in this context is not clear, and does not provide any urgent need to direct finance in a manner that addresses the call AOSIS has been calling for 28 years. Lead Negotiator, Anne Rasmussen, delivered a powerful statement at the closing ceremony, highlighting the ‘litany of loopholes’ in the final decision text, in which AOSIS was not in the room when the decision was finally gavelled.

The outcomes of COP28 can be found online, however, what is not seldom discussed or highlighted, is the tremendous work that goes behind the scenes for our negotiators. I was fortunate to be part of the International Climate Youth Delegates Programme (ICYDP), as well as being a Youth Delegate and Mitigation Negotiator for Samoa. I also represented other organizations, CSOs, and UNFCCC constituencies such as YOUNGO. This is the first time that I have attended a COP, therefore, not one word could describe my experience.

I did everything and anything any youth delegate could do such as negotiate, lobby, share technical expertise, speak at 9 side events, meet other delegates, attend and organise bilaterals, and most importantly learn how the UNFCCC process happens. Thousands of young people attend COP to try and make an impact, and unfortunately, they are not in the room where the change happens.



*Nicc presenting along with Abhiir Bhalla and partners from Climate Outreach and CSET Youth at our Official Blue Zone Side Event **Communities Catalysing Social and Environmental Change** at COP28*

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Fogamomi Nicc Moeono

For my fellow Pacific youth, who were not able to attend, I took my attendance at the COP as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share experiences in the negotiations and do everything that I could do to make an impact on their behalf. My experience at the SB58, was an eye-opener, as I saw first-hand the under-representation of Pacific Youth in the UNFCCC process. This led to LCOY Samoa, and for the first time, Samoa Youth were able to contribute to the UNFCCC process through the YOUNGO Global Youth Statement. Being a youth delegate for Samoa meant that the demands of youth in Samoa could be lobbied for a favourable outcome.

I left the COP28 feeling, I left no stone unturned. Despite the weak outcomes of several decision texts, I found solace when I returned to Samoa, knowing that we did everything, despite the odds that were against us. When I look back at how far AOSIS and Samoa have come at this COP, I am proud to say that a small group of 39 small island states were able to make a significant impact and influence the UNFCCC process. My role in all of this may be insignificant in the grand scheme of things, but together, we are strong. And that is the lesson I took away from all of this.



Fogamomi Nicc Moeono, Anne Rasmussen, Justin Lima at COP28 in Dubai

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Fogamomi Nicc Moeono

The question that I am yet to answer, is 'How do I bring all this knowledge and experience back to my local communities?'. The UNFCCC is a machine that is continuously moving. Learning about it is one thing, but implementing it when you go to a COP, is a different experience. I was able to learn the process through the ICYDP and get insight from experienced youth delegates. To be frank, young people in Samoa are far from this, and there are limited resources, capacity, and support. But I see this as an opportunity for CSOs to bridge this gap, as well as support our Pacific Governments when they go to COPs. The role of Pacific young people today needs to be multi-faceted. They need to be negotiators, lobbyists, technical experts, youth representatives, political advisors, CSO representatives, and many more. Our delegations are small enough to allow us to do it. That is the edge we have over several Parties. I mentioned that there is no singular word to describe my experience at COP. But I do encourage anyone to go at least once and join the negotiations. In my opinion, that is how you can effectively make an influence and make the most of COP.

Fogamomi Nicc Moeono
CHEC Governing Board Member
Samoa



Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

This report outlines the key activities and engagements that took place during COP28, as documented by Isaac Aboah, COP28 delegate, representing the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council as Governing Board Member. The event brought together various stakeholders to discuss climate action, youth involvement, and collaborative efforts toward sustainable development.



Global Climate Action Overview

Energy Transition

COP28 saw the launch of the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, endorsed by 130 national governments, committing to triple the world's installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements.

Focusing on People, Lives, and Livelihoods

The Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda continued to accelerate action to build resilience in vulnerable communities. The COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery, and Peace was endorsed by 78 national governments and 40 organizations, committing to enhancing financial support for climate adaptation and resilience.



Isaac Aboah at a Commonwealth event speaking to panelists, including Commonwealth Secretary General The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

Climate Finance

A significant focus at COP28 was on mobilizing climate finance. The UAE Leaders' Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework was endorsed by 13 national governments, aiming to unlock investment opportunities and deliver at scale.

Inclusivity

COP28 emphasized inclusivity, with initiatives like the Youth Climate Champion and the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership, ensuring representation of all voices, particularly vulnerable communities and underrepresented groups.

Personal Insights and Engagements

Commonwealth Youth Engagements

Photos and updates were shared from the Commonwealth COP28 Youth Leaders Meeting. Key discussions involved youth mainstreaming and the relevance of the Commonwealth at COP28, highlighting the importance of integrating youth perspectives in climate action.



*Isaac Aboah (right) presented at **How cities and business are doing it** on behalf of CHEC at COP28*

Panels on Climate Advocacy and Innovation

At the Youth Pavilion, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens hosted a youth-led panel on climate advocacy. Panelists discussed their initiatives and the challenges they face, emphasizing the need for policy and funding support for youth-led climate solutions.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

Rotary International Reception

Mark, Abhir and I honoured an invitation to the Rotary International Reception at the Hilton Palm Jumeirah Hotel as members of one of the accredited organisations. This event provided an excellent opportunity for networking and set the stage for subsequent engagements.



Isaac Aboah at the COP28 Health Pavilion



Commonwealth Youth Meeting with The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC

Panel on Financing Opportunities

Discussions at the WHO Health Pavilion focused on advancing climate change and health financing, with contributions from key stakeholders, including H.E. Prof Muhammad Ali Pate and Dr. Agnès Soucat. This panel highlighted the intersection of health and climate, stressing the importance of integrated approaches.

Climate Justice and Public Perception

Leia Booth from the Climate Justice - Just Transition Donor Collaborative led a training session on climate justice, providing insights into organizations focused on climate justice and just transition. Professor Anthony Leiserowitz from Yale discussed public perceptions of climate change, emphasizing the need to address visible health concerns to connect the public to climate reality.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah

Follow-up Meetings and Networking

A productive meeting with Arif Zaman post the Rotary Reception explored potential collaborations, focusing on leveraging women's expertise and mutual support between organizations. This meeting underscored the importance of building strong networks for effective climate action.

Conclusion

The engagements at COP28 demonstrated the critical role of youth, finance, health, and justice in the global climate agenda. The engagements at COP28 showcased the importance of youth involvement in climate action and the need for collaborative efforts across different sectors. The panels and discussions highlighted the critical areas of financing, health, and justice in the climate agenda, providing a comprehensive overview of the ongoing efforts and future directions for sustainable development.

Isaac Aboah
CHEC Governing Board Member
Ghana



Isaac Aboah with a fellow delegate at COP28 in Dubai

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

I had the honour of representing CHEC at 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) in Dubai, UAE between the 2nd – 11th of December 2023. I was part of CHEC's delegation at the conference, comprised of Chair Mark Robinson, and fellow Board Members Isaac Aboah and Nicc Moeono.



COP28 was an absolutely exhausting yet enriching roller coaster experience. From attending panels, to meeting heads of state, speaking on panels, interacting with people from all over the world and exchanging different ideas – the 9 days went by in a blur. I don't remember getting more than 4-5 hours of sleep on any given night: because there was so much to do! The sessions would start at 8/9 AM and go on till 10 PM, after which there would be networking and sightseeing events – all of which proved to be very insightful.



Governing Board Member Isaac Aboah, Chair Mark Robinson, and Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla in Dubai at COP28

Although the CHEC Team would usually start its day with a breakfast huddle at Expo City with a plan to divide and conquer, we would often find ourselves pulled in all directions with many new and exciting events coming to our knowledge as the day progressed. I would've easily attended 70+ events during those 9 days, at Expo City – within the Blue Zone and Green Zone, but also all across Dubai.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

These were events hosted by the Rotary, Indian colleagues, think tanks, industry associations, business clubs, embassy/government(s) and more.



Abhiir Bhalla with a fellow delegate at COP28 in Dubai

I was initially charted to speak on two panels but ended up being invited to speak on four:

1. ***Youth Power: Charting the South Asian Climate Future*** (YOUNGO – 3rd December – Blue Zone)
2. ***Pillars of the Green Transition*** (Newsweek – 5th December – Green Zone)
3. ***The Urgent Need to Invest in Climate Education*** (Earth Day Network – 8th December – Blue Zone)
4. ***Communities Catalysing Social & Environmental Change*** (CHEC, CSET Youth & Climate Outreach – 9th December – Blue Zone).

On each of these four panels, I represented CHEC and spoke on diverse issues ranging from air pollution to community-led action on climate, underscoring the need for youth voices in climate having not just a seat but also a say at the decision-making table.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla



*Abhiir presenting along with Nicc Moeono and partners from Climate Outreach and CSET Youth at our Official Blue Zone Side Event **Communities Catalysing Social and Environmental Change** at COP28*

The second panel, having been hosted by Newsweek, was also covered in [their publication](#). They summarised one of my 3 interventions appropriately on their website:



*Abhiir speaking at the Newsweek event **Pillars of the Green Transition***

"Abhiir Bhalla, a sustainability advocate on the board of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, started his climate action at just 15 years old when he was inspired to do something about the air quality in his home city, Delhi.

"We need to talk about climate in the context of people's health," he said. Air pollution is the world's greatest environmental health threat and leads to an estimated 8 million deaths globally each year. The health burden is especially severe in Asia, and much of the soot and smog comes from burning fossil fuels.

Events

COP28 in Dubai

The Report of CHEC Youth Advisor Abhiir Bhalla

"Air quality in Delhi is proof that decarbonization needs to happen now, and not in 10 or 20 years," Bhalla said. "The health impacts can already be felt now."

COP28 was the first of the annual U.N. climate talks to devote a day to health and climate change connections. Bhalla said that was heartening, but now his focus is on ensuring that there will be funding to bring action."

Following the 3rd panel, I introduced CHEC Chair Mark Robinson to the senior leadership of Earth Day Network, an international non-profit present in over 100 countries. They had a fruitful exchange and discussed the possibility of future collaborations. I was happy to take on the responsibility of being an additional representative of CHEC on the fourth panel when another panelist had to withdraw at the last minute. Although I wasn't very well prepared, the idea was to share success stories of community-led climate action, and I chose to champion one of COP-28's key themes of storytelling to do the same.

Panel discussions aside, a key moment of reflection for me lay in understanding the different contexts that so many of us came from, from all around the world – and yet, we were also suffering at the hands of climate change in different ways. It was good to exchange notes on the creative ways with which different communities were solving similar issues. The road ahead lies in adopting shared best practices and collectively advancing the climate agenda while holding key stakeholders accountable and ensuring their money (climate finance) is where their promises are at!

I'm indeed indebted to CHEC for supporting my visit to the UAE for COP28. I am also grateful to UNFCCC YOUNGO for providing me with a significantly subsidised hotel room at Rove City Centre (which turned out to be one of the most environmental-friendly hotels I've stayed at)! I hope to continue to meaningfully add value to all that CHEC does in the time to come.

Abhiir Bhalla
CHEC Youth Advisor
India



Abhiir representing CHEC and his home country of India at COP28

A Meeting in Aotearoa

CHEC and HEF Members catch-up in Auckland



HEF Trustee Margaret Evans, CBE, with CHEC Governing Board Members Jennifer Nickel, Nicc Moeono, Emily Robinson, and Subbu Loganathan

During a visit to beautiful Aotearoa (New Zealand), Governing board member Subbu Loganathan and Honorary Secretary Emily Robinson met our Oceania CHEC Governing Board members **Fogamomi Niccolo Moeono** and **Jennifer Nickel**, and Human Ecology Foundation (HEF) Trustee **Margaret Evans, CBE**, over dinner in Auckland - generously provided by Jennifer and Margaret. It was the first time many of us were able to meet each other in person.



CHEC Members and HEF at dinner in Auckland, New Zealand

A Meeting in Aotearoa

CHEC and HEF Members catch-up in Auckland

It was a heartening experience to catch up and exchange ideas in person, especially to go through the great work being done in the field of climate change education and sustainability outreach within the University of Waikato. We also enjoyed listening to some anecdotes about CHEC founder, Zena Daysh from Margaret, who also shared older newspaper clippings and photographs from Zena's time in New Zealand.



Several of the Newspaper Articles written about and by Zena Daysh, CHEC's Founder reviewed on our visit

Subbu Loganathan
CHEC Governing Board Member
United Kingdom

In Memoriam

Dr. Letitia Eva Takyibea Obeng, FGA

**CHEC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER
HEF TRUSTEE**

10 January 1925 – 23 March 2023

After CHEC's first international conference on human ecology in Malta in 1970, a think-tank in Ghana to look at the long-term ecological changes produced by the Volta Dam project was initiated by Letitia Obeng, an outstanding practical field biologist and international science manager.

Letitia was the first Ghanaian woman to obtain a degree in zoology (from the University of Birmingham, UK) and the first to be awarded a Ph.D. (from the University of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine). She has been described as "**the grandmother of female scientists in Ghana**".

Letitia Obeng worked as a parasitologist and hydrobiologist and was a Senior Program Officer of the United Nations Environment Program. Before joining UNEP, she was Project Co-Manager of the Volta Lake Research Project (Obeng, 1973, 1977). During the period 1965-1974, she was the Director of the Institute of Aquatic Biology, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana. From 1960 to 1964 Dr Obeng was on the research staff of the National Research Council and Ghana Academy of Sciences, and previously she was a Lecturer at the College of Science and Technology in Kumasi (1952-1959). She was Chair of the Global Water Partnership an international network of over 2,800 organizations in some 160 countries supported by 13 Regional and over 80 Country Water Partnerships – from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012. She had extensive experience in water and sanitation service delivery.

During the 25 years she spent at the World Bank, Obeng also worked on or was responsible for sustainable development areas such as water resources management, agriculture and rural development, social/community development, environment, environmental health, waste management, urban development, and growing capacity. She also held managerial and director positions in the Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, and at a corporate level, Director, Office of the President, while at the World Bank. Dr. Obeng was a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (President 2007-8), a Fellow and Silver Medallist of the Royal Society of Arts, and Consulting Expert to the Rachel Carson Trust Fund for the Living Environment. CHEC was very fortunate to have such an outstanding, global leader of women in science as a member of the Governing Board from 1971 to 1987 and as Trustee of the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF) from its inception in 1985 until her death.



Key writings by Dr. Letitia Obeng on the Volta Lake in Ghana and other issues

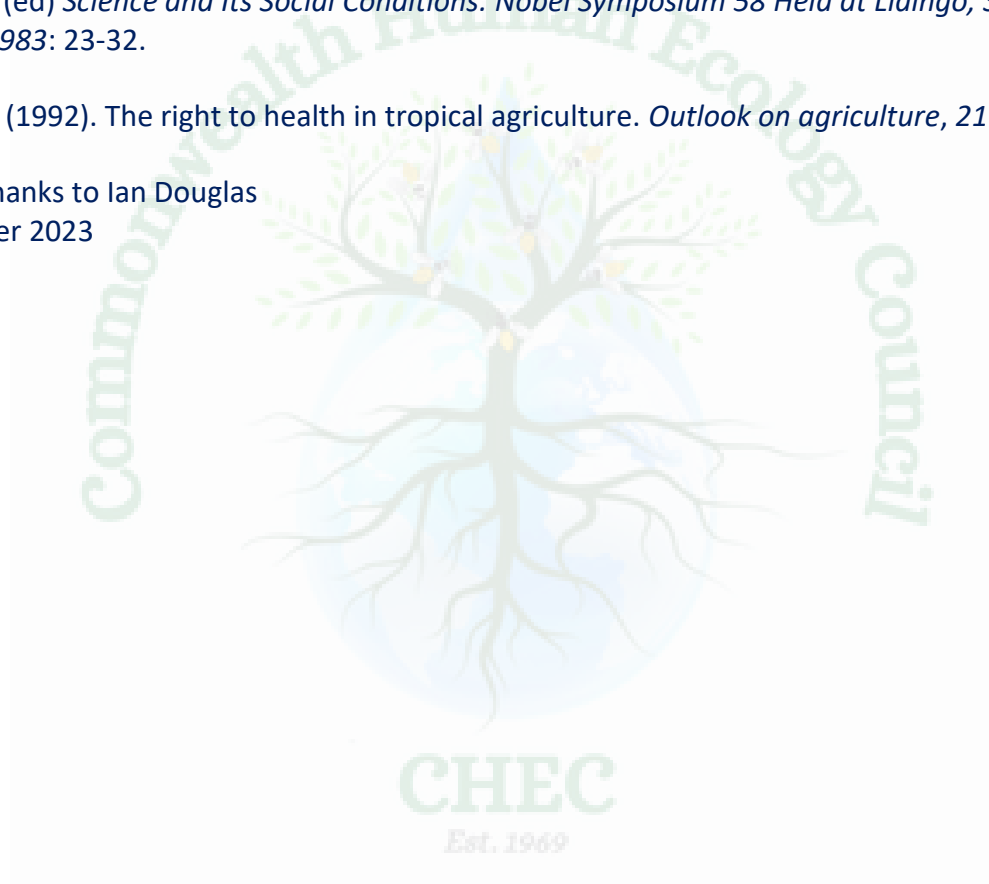
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With kind thanks to Ian Douglas
14 November 2023



In Memoriam

Keith Thompson

FORMER CHEC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

1936-2023

Keith Thompson who was a member of the CHEC Governing Board in the nineteen-nineties, died peacefully in Hamilton, New Zealand on 02 December 2023, aged 85. Keith was a scientist and environmentalist who did much to improve the understanding of the importance of wetlands both in New Zealand and in Uganda, Congo, Czech Republic, Australia and the Antarctic. Born in north-east England, he completed his Honours thesis at the University of Burham under the supervision of David Bellamy, who later became one of the most well-known UK environmentalists and nature broadcasters. Moving to the University of Waikato, New Zealand in 1975, he lived a full and adventurous life as a botanist and ecology lecturer and throughout his career was a passionate advocate for the management and protection of wetlands. to the country's ecology, teaching and inspiring more than one generation of New Zealanders.



In the Waikato, he was a key player in the advocacy and management of wetland restoration projects, including Lake Rotokawau and Kimihia, Torehape peat block and the Hangamarino swamp. Becoming known as “The Bogman”, he fought for wetland protection and recognition of the role of peatland in carbon uptake and thus climate change mitigation. He shared his enthusiasm with adults and children, being a driving force in the Junior Naturalists Club. On Friday nights he lectured school age children, from age 10 years upwards, on ecology and lead field trips and camps into the bush. One colleague from this time was impressed at how quiet and incidental Keith's teaching style was, almost as though it was not happening at all.

Keith was one of a group of Waikato activists that included Margaret Evans (a Human Ecology Foundation Trustee) and Norman Stannard (now an Honorary Patron of CHEC) which greatly helped CHEC's 1995 pre-CHOGM workshop in Auckland and which has sustained a vibrant CHEC community and links with Waikato University in Hamilton. Keith had enormous respect for Zena Daysh. After she died he wrote:

“A single encounter with Zena and I was duly ‘organised’ – no was never an option! Seriously though, meeting with Zena was one my life-changing experiences. Thereafter, Human Ecology played a major role in my teaching and my research. Most of us are instantly replaceable when we pass on, but Zena was special: her legacy is far more than most of us can ever hope to achieve in our lifetimes. Her infectious enthusiasm for social justice and her dedication to improving the lives of people was an example to us all. She was a mine of ideas, an indefatigable campaigner and an irresistible negotiator. I am privileged to have known Zena and I will miss her.”

With kind thanks to Ian Douglas

CHEC Governance

Members of the CHEC Governing Board Nov 2023

Honorary President:	Hon. Levi Oguike, CHEC Nigeria
Patrons:	Mr Norman Stannard, New Zealand Ms Eva Ekehorn, Sweden
Chair:	Mark Robinson, CHEC UK
Honorary Treasurer:	John Bonham, CHEC UK
Company Secretary:	Emily Robinson, CHEC UK

Other Members of the Board:

Isaac Aboah, Melo, Ghana
 Rhonda Cox, Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, UK
 Dr Saadyah Chishti, CHEC Pakistan
 Hon. Sannusi Daggash, CHEC Nigeria
 Emeritus Prof Ian Douglas, School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester, UK
 Simon Gusah, FutureBenue Project, Australia
 Hayden Greenfield, FCDO, 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
 Dr Jennifer Lim, University of Wolverhampton, UK
 Subbu Loganathan, Pico Analytics UK
 John McDonnell, University of London, UK
 Philipp Mitterbauer, Ruffer, UK
 Jennifer Nickel, Waikato Regional Council, New Zealand
 Fogamomi Nicollo Moeono-Alaiasa, CHEC Oceania/Samoa
 Michael Mutter OBE (formerly DFID UK)
 Dr Janine Pierce, University of South Australia, Australia
 Trevor Peel, National Liberal Club, UK
 James Ross, Conductor and Music Director, UK
 Norbert Sangura, CHEC Kenya
 Bharati Sadasivam, International Development, India
 Jane Samuels, Tools of Change, UK

Youth Advisor to the Board:

Abhiir Bhalla, Youth Environmentalist, India

Zena Daysh and Donald Denman Human Ecology Foundation (HEF)

CHEC is supported by its subsidiary charity, the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF). This can provide support to small projects either solely or in joint funding, either financial or in kind, with other partners in Commonwealth developing countries.

Financial Statement

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies	-	-
Grants	2,650	313
Subscriptions & donations	-	-
Exceptional items	<hr/> 2,650	<hr/> 313
Investment income	27,301	31,311
Investment income received	95	7
Deposit account interest	<hr/> 27,396	<hr/> 31,318
Total incoming resources	<hr/> 30,046	<hr/> 31,631
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities	17,045	16,188
Project expenditure		
Support costs		
Management	4,317	5,661
Trustees' expenses	-	-
Rent, rates & insurance	-	-
Repairs & renewals	-	-
Light and heat	118	152
Postage, telephone & fax	-	313
Printing & publications	808	1,049
Sundry expenses	5,220	4,693
Travel, conferences & admin	-	-
Administration costs	606	5,966
IT consultancy	-	-
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	<hr/> 11,069	<hr/> 17,884
Finance	108	19
Bank charges		
Governance costs	-	-
Wages	1,776	1,620
Accountancy and legal fees	<hr/> 29,998	<hr/> 1,639
Total resources expended	<hr/> 29,998	<hr/> 35,711
Net expenditure	<hr/> 48	<hr/> (4,080)

Support CHEC

Support our Projects

CHEC has successfully implemented projects and programmes in the following Commonwealth countries: Kenya, Uganda, The Gambia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Malta, New Zealand, India, Canada, Guyana, Barbados, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Nigeria, Australia, and Sri Lanka. The work of CHEC is supported by many foundations and trusts, particularly the [Commonwealth Foundation](#) and the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#), but with help from UN agencies like [UNESCO](#), [UN Habitat](#), [UNEP](#), the UK and other governments and by the voluntary efforts of both members and non-member friends and colleagues.

There are several ways you can support the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council:

Become a member [here](#)

Donate [here](#)

Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter [here](#)

and don't forget to

CHEC us out on our social media pages on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube!



Photo: Paradise, New Zealand (Photo by: Emily Robinson)

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00966772 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 272018

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The aim of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), an educational charity, is to further the importance of a holistic and sustainable view of the world and a continuing emphasis on development through the implementation of human ecology. CHEC's programmes strive to awaken the Commonwealth to the need for deeper human and ecological philosophies to achieve a wider coalition between all levels of society and the natural world on which they depend.

Mission Statement

Human Ecology embraces the principles of natural and moral philosophy. It draws on knowledge and understanding from the sciences and humanities to develop and promote holistic and sustainable initiatives, ideas, and development projects with the aim of enhancing and strengthening people's relationships with each other and with their natural environments. Human Ecology, from this standpoint, works to create sustainable, lasting improvements in people's lives by fostering projects that engage and enhance the skills of local communities, involve all sectors of society, improve livelihoods, and maintain environmental benefits. It is a philosophy and a process and is constantly learning and adapting, just as it is educating, encouraging, and stimulating others. It has become an academic field of enquiry, a developmental philosophy, an approach to sustainability and a new means of unifying political, economic, and social endeavours to provide a meaningful future for rural and urban people in the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

Significant Activities

During 2023, as CHEC entered its 53rd year, the organisation has continued to focus on areas of great international concern such as climate change, food and water security, pollution in the air and in the oceans, urban resilience as well as the role of education in seeking improvements in all such matters where CHEC believes human ecological thinking can help towards programmes that are aimed at achieving sustainability. CHEC's efforts in this regard support the principles outlined by Heads of Government in the Commonwealth Blue Charter and, more recently at the 2022 Rwanda CHOGM, the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter. In this regard CHEC's work has continued to focus on the importance of restoring mangroves which help protect coastlines and the importance of this has been highlighted by the concern of the 32 small Commonwealth member states about the impact of rising sea levels, tropical storms, protection of coastal fishing grounds, corals, and reefs.

CHEC UK works with other CHEC Chapters and contacts around the Commonwealth, and in partnership with civil society organisations globally. CHEC is a member of the Informal Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO) which brings Commonwealth Accredited Organisations together to discuss where they can work in greater harmony and partnership. CHEC is also in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is working to update its status and is revitalising its role within ECOSOC. It is hoped that this work, which is in progress, can be completed in the first half of 2024. It is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE) and the International Development Organisation (BOND).

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COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant Activities

CHEC, which is accredited by UNFCCC, attended COP-28 in Dubai towards the end of 2023. A delegation was led by CHEC's Chair, who was accompanied by three delegates under the age of thirty from Ghana, India and Samoa two of whom are members of CHEC's Governing Board and the one from India who is CHEC's Youth Adviser. They all participated in many forums at COP-28 and details are available in CHEC's 2023 Annual Report, which can be accessed on CHEC's website (www.checinternational.org). CHEC which became a virtual organisation in 2022 has continued in that mode throughout 2023. Attendances at Governing Board meetings have remained high with members tuning in from all regions of the Commonwealth. Thanks to the facilities, provided by the National Liberal Club, these are now often face to face in the UK and hybrid, or on occasions just hybrid. This works well and has greatly improved CHEC's international reach.

Current Projects

With the support of its subsidiary charity, the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF), CHEC has both completed on-going projects and embarked on new ones. These are located in a number of Commonwealth Member Countries and it is hoped that very soon every region of the Commonwealth will be represented. Details of all can be found on CHEC's website at www.checinternational.org

Publications and Website

During 2023, CHEC's website has continued to develop and has been praised by many who have seen it. CHEC Annual Reports are published on it, as are CHEC Points, newsletters, and all recent journals. It keeps friends of human ecology alert, updated on discussions around the Commonwealth on climate change adaptation and mitigation, the state of the soil, rivers, lakes, and oceans. It looks at how our consumption affects the environment and what we can do about it. Our reach to civil society has improved through CHEC's continuing attempts to build up our followers on social media. Newsletters have been published, but CHEC Points remain in abeyance, but it is hoped to resuscitate these at some stage in 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Funding Sources

The finances of CHEC are monitored by its Finance Committee, whose membership is reviewed following the Annual General Meeting, usually held in November. CHEC's banking arrangements remain with Barclays and have been satisfactory since their review in 2022. Financial support for projects is also received from the income of the Human Ecology Foundation (HEF), a subsidiary trust of CHEC but is serviced by its own trustees. HEF incorporates the legacy of CHEC's Founder, Zena Daysh, and protects its capital value. Income from its investments fund CHEC's projects and has helped with the development of CHEC's website, as well as other areas of CHEC's work in need of support. It also contains a capital element, which is not part of the legacy, specifically reserved for CHEC in case a situation was to arise requiring additional support.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

An active year ahead is expected in 2024 as CHEC prepares for CHOGM in Samoa in October 2024 and a project is being undertaken in that country in mid-2024. We are working closely with countries in that region, including Australia, regarding CHEC's possible attendance at that meeting. Attendance at COP meetings will also continue.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its deed of trust and governance documents, and constitutes a company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. Its Articles of Association were updated to accommodate current legal requirements, approved at an EGM in February 2015. It is run by CHEC's Governing Board.

Work continues to be dependent on its global membership and supporters, as well as on its Governing Board members and volunteers. Board composition is mindful of diversity and gender. A membership and fundraising committee set up in 2022 has continued its work in 2023. Gratitude is due to all involved in our work. Details of the Trustees are attached to this report. CHEC's Finance Committee meets regularly and reports to the Governing Board, which has set its terms of reference. Its composition is reviewed annually.

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Safeguarding is reviewed, as appropriate.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Charity's purpose focuses on raising global public awareness and providing education on all aspects of human ecology.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00966772 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

272018

Registered office

The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

Trustees

Mr J Bonham
Mr M Robinson
Prof. I Douglas
Mr M Mutter
Dr R Kalra
Ms J Samuels
Ms R Cox
Mr S Loganathan
Mr T Peel
Ms E Robinson
Dr J Ross
Mr P Mitterbauer
Mr H Greenfield

Honorary Patrons

Mr N Stannard
Mrs E Ekehorn

Honorary President

Mr Levi Oguike

Company Secretary

Ms E Robinson

Independent Examiner

M E B Giles FCA
Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

Mr M Robinson - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Ltd**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Ltd ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



MEB Giles FCA

Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

Date:

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		2,650	-	2,650	313
Investment income	2	27,396	-	27,396	31,318
Total		<u>30,046</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,046</u>	<u>31,631</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		12,953	-	12,953	19,523
Charitable activities					
Project expenditure		17,045	-	17,045	16,188
Total		<u>29,998</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,998</u>	<u>35,711</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		48	-	48	(4,080)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		6,872	3,327	10,199	14,279
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>6,920</u></u>	<u><u>3,327</u></u>	<u><u>10,247</u></u>	<u><u>10,199</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Balance Sheet
31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	-	-	-	861
Cash at bank		9,219	3,327	12,546	10,958
		<u>9,219</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>12,546</u>	<u>11,819</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,299)	-	(2,299)	(1,620)
		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				6,920	6,872
Restricted funds				3,327	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

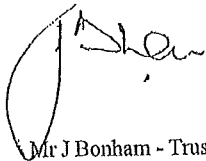
The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Balance Sheet - continued
31 December 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr J Bonham - Trustee



Mr M Robinson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	313	-	313
Investment income	31,318	-	31,318
Total	<u>31,631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,631</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	19,523	-	19,523
Charitable activities Project expenditure	16,188	-	16,188
Total	<u>35,711</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,711</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(4,080)	-	(4,080)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	10,952	3,327	14,279
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>6,872</u></u>	<u><u>3,327</u></u>	<u><u>10,199</u></u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>-</u>	<u>861</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Trade creditors	523	-
Accrued expenses	1,776	1,620
	<u><u>2,299</u></u>	<u><u>1,620</u></u>

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	6,872	48	6,920
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>10,199</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>10,247</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	30,046	(29,998)	48
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>30,046</u>	<u>(29,998)</u>	<u>48</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,952	(4,080)	6,872
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,279</u>	<u>(4,080)</u>	<u>10,199</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	31,631	(35,711)	(4,080)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>31,631</u>	<u>(35,711)</u>	<u>(4,080)</u>

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,952	(4,032)	6,920
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,279</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>	<u>10,247</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	61,677	(65,709)	(4,032)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>61,677</u>	<u>(65,709)</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Subscriptions & donations	2,650	313
Investment income		
Investment income received	27,301	31,311
Deposit account interest	95	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,396	31,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	30,046	31,631
 EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Project expenditure	17,045	16,188
Support costs		
Management		
Trustees' expenses	4,317	5,661
Postage, telephone & fax	118	152
Printing, publications & staty	-	363
Sundry expenses	808	1,049
Travel, conferences & admin	5,220	4,693
IT consultancy	606	5,966
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,069	17,884
 Finance		
Bank charges	108	19
 Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,776	1,620
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	29,998	35,711
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure)	48	(4,080)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00966772 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 272018

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7 to 8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 12
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	13

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The aim of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), an educational charity, is to further the importance of a holistic and sustainable view of the world and a continuing emphasis on development through the implementation of human ecology. CHEC's programmes strive to awaken the Commonwealth to the need for deeper human and ecological philosophies to achieve a wider coalition between all levels of society and the natural world on which they depend.

Mission Statement

Human Ecology embraces the principles of natural and moral philosophy. It draws on knowledge and understanding from the sciences and humanities to develop and promote holistic and sustainable initiatives, ideas, and development projects with the aim of enhancing and strengthening people's relationships with each other and with their natural environments. Human Ecology, from this standpoint, works to create sustainable, lasting improvements in people's lives by fostering projects that engage and enhance the skills of local communities, involve all sectors of society, improve livelihoods, and maintain environmental benefits. It is a philosophy and a process and is constantly learning and adapting, just as it is educating, encouraging, and stimulating others. It has become an academic field of enquiry, a developmental philosophy, an approach to sustainability and a new means of unifying political, economic, and social endeavours to provide a meaningful future for rural and urban people in the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

Significant Activities

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COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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CHEC, which is accredited by UNFCCC, attended COP-28 in Dubai towards the end of 2023. A delegation was led by CHEC's Chair, who was accompanied by three delegates under the age of thirty from Ghana, India and Samoa two of whom are members of CHEC's Governing Board and the one from India who is CHEC's Youth Adviser. They all participated in many forums at COP-28 and details are available in CHEC's 2023 Annual Report, which can be accessed on CHEC's website (www.checinternational.org). CHEC which became a virtual organisation in 2022 has continued in that mode throughout 2023. Attendances at Governing Board meetings have remained high with members tuning in from all regions of the Commonwealth. Thanks to the facilities, provided by the National Liberal Club, these are now often face to face in the UK and hybrid, or on occasions just hybrid. This works well and has greatly improved CHEC's international reach.

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Principal Funding Sources

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

An active year ahead is expected in 2024 as CHEC prepares for CHOGM in Samoa in October 2024 and a project is being undertaken in that country in mid-2024. We are working closely with countries in that region, including Australia, regarding CHEC's possible attendance at that meeting. Attendance at COP meetings will also continue.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

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Work continues to be dependent on its global membership and supporters, as well as on its Governing Board members and volunteers. Board composition is mindful of diversity and gender. A membership and fundraising committee set up in 2022 has continued its work in 2023. Gratitude is due to all involved in our work. Details of the Trustees are attached to this report. CHEC's Finance Committee meets regularly and reports to the Governing Board, which has set its terms of reference. Its composition is reviewed annually.

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Safeguarding is reviewed, as appropriate.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Charity's purpose focuses on raising global public awareness and providing education on all aspects of human ecology.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00966772 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

272018

Registered office

The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

Trustees

Mr J Bonham
Mr M Robinson
Prof. I Douglas
Mr M Mutter
Dr R Kalra
Ms J Samuels
Ms R Cox
Mr S Loganathan
Mr T Peel
Ms E Robinson
Dr J Ross
Mr P Mitterbauer
Mr H Greenfield

Honorary Patrons

Mr N Stannard
Mrs E Ekehorn

Honorary President

Mr Levi Oguike

Company Secretary

Ms E Robinson

Independent Examiner

M E B Giles FCA
Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
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S11 9PA

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

Mr M Robinson - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Ltd**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Ltd ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



MEB Giles FCA

Brown McLeod Limited
Chartered Accountants
The Old Workshop
1 Ecclesall Road South
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9PA

Date:

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		2,650	-	2,650	313
Investment income	2	27,396	-	27,396	31,318
Total		<u>30,046</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,046</u>	<u>31,631</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		12,953	-	12,953	19,523
Charitable activities					
Project expenditure		17,045	-	17,045	16,188
Total		<u>29,998</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,998</u>	<u>35,711</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		48	-	48	(4,080)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		6,872	3,327	10,199	14,279
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Balance Sheet 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	-	-	-	861
Cash at bank		9,219	3,327	12,546	10,958
		<u>9,219</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>12,546</u>	<u>11,819</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,299)	-	(2,299)	(1,620)
		<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>6,920</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				6,920	6,872
Restricted funds				3,327	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>10,247</u>	<u>10,199</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

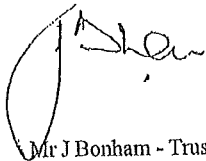
The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

Balance Sheet - continued
31 December 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr J Bonham - Trustee



Mr M Robinson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	313	-	313
Investment income	31,318	-	31,318
Total	<u>31,631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,631</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	19,523	-	19,523
Charitable activities Project expenditure	16,188	-	16,188
Total	<u>35,711</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,711</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(4,080)	-	(4,080)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	10,952	3,327	14,279
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>6,872</u></u>	<u><u>3,327</u></u>	<u><u>10,199</u></u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>-</u>	<u>861</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Trade creditors	523	-
Accrued expenses	1,776	1,620
	<u><u>2,299</u></u>	<u><u>1,620</u></u>

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	6,872	48	6,920
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>10,199</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>10,247</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	30,046	(29,998)	48
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>30,046</u>	<u>(29,998)</u>	<u>48</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,952	(4,080)	6,872
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,279</u>	<u>(4,080)</u>	<u>10,199</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	31,631	(35,711)	(4,080)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>31,631</u>	<u>(35,711)</u>	<u>(4,080)</u>

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,952	(4,032)	6,920
Restricted funds			
Project fund	3,327	-	3,327
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,279</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>	<u>10,247</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	61,677	(65,709)	(4,032)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>61,677</u>	<u>(65,709)</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL LTD

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Subscriptions & donations	2,650	313
Investment income		
Investment income received	27,301	31,311
Deposit account interest	95	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,396	31,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	30,046	31,631
 EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Project expenditure	17,045	16,188
Support costs		
Management		
Trustees' expenses	4,317	5,661
Postage, telephone & fax	118	152
Printing, publications & staty	-	363
Sundry expenses	808	1,049
Travel, conferences & admin	5,220	4,693
IT consultancy	606	5,966
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,069	17,884
 Finance		
Bank charges	108	19
 Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,776	1,620
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	29,998	35,711
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure)	48	(4,080)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements