

## Policy Committee Wed 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Venue: Meeting Room 4.1, 4th floor Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh

### Committee members:

The Alliance, IIED, IVS, Christian Aid Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Tearfund Scotland, SCIAF, Water Witness International, Carey Tourism, University of Edinburgh, Thrive

### Present:

Ben Wilson (SCIAF), Kenneth Watt (Oxfam), Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), Cathy Ratcliff (Thrive), Benjamin Carey (Carey Tourism), Dorcas Pratt (Water Witness International), Lewis Ryder-Jones (the Alliance)

### Apologies:

Simon Anderson (IIED), Emma Gardner (Christian Aid)

### Last meeting action points:

- Terms of Reference – these were amended, presented to BoT and agreed. Now up on website. Main change, maximum numbers increased, gender balance
- Vice-chair nomination – Ben Wilson is interested, no one objects.
- New chair – Simon wants to step down given role as chair of BoT. New chair ideally needs to be Board member – anyone interested contact Simon or Lewis. May be work around with ToR if it is not a Trustee.
- PCSD - Wiki online. Shop window report in development

### Action points and decisions:

On COP26:

- Aims for Alliance meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December:
  - COP education – Ben to lead
  - An idea of what can be achieved by working together
  - Identify voices from southern partners that we can access
  - What are we going to do? How should the Alliance engage and amplify the voices of smaller members? Is there work the Alliance can do beyond representing its members?
- Action: Benjamin to consider how best to engage private sector within our membership for COP26 planning.
- Action: All - Share thoughts on following questions:
  - COP funding opportunities?
  - What role do you see the Alliance having?

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- Is there a role for linking public perceptions work to COP?
- Action: Lewis to contact GCU about 17<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### On Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD):

- Encourage/incentivise participation in Wiki by:
  - Emailing members and ask for specific examples. Mention that the Minister and SPICe (Scottish Parliamentary Information Centre) who are a resource for Ministers and advisors will see this. Frame requests based on showcasing the work of members
  - The wiki needs to stay live to be most useful.
- PCSD Shop window report to pull out international development angle (from wiki) to feed into different fora. Policy coherence between e.g. climate, business and trade and migration – Lewis to work on draft content ideas and share
- Action: All – please continue to promote and consider/speak to Lewis about ways to contribute to its development
- Form and function of Inter-Ministerial Group still being worked out.

#### On 20<sup>th</sup> November meeting with Minister:

- Agenda points discussed (listed below) and already shared with Scot Gov. Note, they refused point about Manifesto development due to role as Minister and SNP MSP being distinct.

#### On Future CPGs:

- Action: All – next meeting 26th November. Please share briefing and encourage MSP attendance
- Action: All – Group to get back with more concrete offers and ideas for dates

#### AOB:

- Action: Kenneth to get in touch with Lewis to set up sub-committee 2021 manifesto development

#### Discussion Points:

##### COP26 and SCCS international group and plans:

- COP president keen to have Scot Gov inside the 'negotiation tent' – SCCS keen on this too, but if No.10 gets its way, Scot Gov unlikely to be on inside
- COP26: Key event, side events and fringe events.
- How are Universities going to engage?
- Ideas to engage smaller members –
  - Polling to smaller members, what are the issues you would raise?
  - Is there a mapping exercise to be done? Can common messages be identified to have a limited number of jointly agreed powerful messages and avoid fragmentation? e.g. thematic areas related to people directly affected by climate change working with southern partners (e.g. water security, food/smallholder farmers) ? or closing civic space around the world?
- Event showcasing members' work either before or during COP26. (Glasgow School of Art? Galleries?)
- Dorcas from WWI – WWI working on informing a new water security strategy with DFID
- Cathy – small orgs want to be facilitated

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- Dorcas – is there an accountability research piece to do here? 'What makes people stand up and take action – and what makes governments react (or turn off/glaze over)?'
- Climate justice – SG grantees hold knowledge. Let's tap in
- Travel. The environmental impact of the event is massive and makes it open to criticism ("hypocrisy"). Scotland is (not entirely unjustifiably) considered a leader in sustainability and it would be great if we could create guidelines to help make COP26 the greenest event ever. There's a number of public and private sector travel and tourism organisations in Scotland and beyond that I think could helpfully assist; these include some leading international organisations that would potentially be able to contribute funds. I could certainly help facilitate. I'll separately connect Dorcas with a travel/water NGO I know.
- Legacy. I am aware of proposals for afforestation projects as a legacy for COP26. The science of afforestation is extremely dodgy, especially in Scottish peatlands and other ecosystems. Before legacy proposals gain too much momentum, can we encourage some scientific assessment? This would also be a nice opportunity to involve some of the Alliance's academic members.

20<sup>th</sup> November meeting with Minister – Agenda items:

- Form and function of the Inter-Ministerial Group? Timeframe? Thematic areas on wiki could be a starting point – conversations on each issue with Ministers.
- PCSD
- COP26
- 2021 manifesto – how does the Alliance and its membership engage with the Government on this? Plans post-2021?
- Are there any low hanging fruits between us and you? Easy wins we can work on together?
- Scot Gov position on UK Aid spend in relation to Brexit
- DFID and Scot Gov relationship
- The international aspects of the Climate Change plan, how can
- Carbon footprint of COP26 is massive. Opportunity to look at guidelines to mitigate the effect of the event (not just afforestation and reforestation)
- What does he see as the positives of the sector? Where does he think the sector needs to up its game?
- What more does he want the Alliance doing going forward?
- The importance of Global Citizenship Education in schools in Scotland – will he lobby John Swinney to keep funding there?
- GCE – what are your plans post 2021?

CPG ideas:

- Note from Hazel – Ruth Valerio, author and climate activist, as well as Head of Tearfund's Global Advocacy will be up in Scotland Wed 4 March - Sat 7 March. She is a great speaker on how climate change impacts those in Global South and could talk about COP. Reason to choose specific date for something perhaps?
- Need to develop topics and in future each theme presented in Cross-Party Group meeting should develop a clear, crisp ask.

**Next Meeting:** February 2020, Doodle poll will be sent out

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