**Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) Renewable Energy Forum**

7th March 2019

Edinburgh City Chambers

**Minutes**

Edgar Bayani, Community Energy Malawi

Stuart Brown, SMP

Francesco Brutto, Kuwala Energy

Harry Burt, CCL Components

Damien Frame, University of Strathclyde

Stuart Galloway, University of Strathclyde

Charlie Goodwin, Scottish Government

Nicholas Gubbins, Community Energy Scotland

Agnes Holmes

Elizabeth Hooper, Practical Action

David Hope-Jones, SMP

Sneh Jain, University of St Andrews

Sarah Knight, LTSI

Ruth Milliken, Scotland Lights Up Malawi

Ian Nicol, Scottish Government

Estrida Nyirenda

Grace O’Donovan, SMP

Denis Robson, SMP Board

Lewis Ryder-Jones, The Alliance

Gillian Wilson, Community Energy

Scotland

David Hope-Jones introduced the panel Chairs, Prof Stuart Galloway (University of Strathclyde) and Nicholas Gubbins (Community Energy Scotland CEO and SMP Board Member), and welcomed members to the new Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) Renewable Energy Forum. The Forum began as a result of a recognised increase in cooperation in this area and demand from SMP members.

As stated in the Terms of Reference for this introductory meeting, Renewable Energy is one of two new Strands in the inter-governmental Global Goals Partnership Agreement (GGPA), signed between the President of Malawi and the First Minister in April 2018. The SMP and its sister organisation in Malawi, the Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP) have committed to advancing these priorities through their continuing efforts to help coordinate, support and represent the civic links between our two nations. MaSP has created two new groups, one for each of the two new Strands in the GGPA. Each of these Strand Groups meet biannually, with the Renewable Group having most recently met on the 29th November in Lilongwe. In this context, SMP members in Scotland approached the SMP asking the Partnership to establish a sister-group in Scotland, to help coordinate, represent and support cooperation in this area and to help advance the priorities agreed in the Conference Statement.

This new SMP group is a Member Forum, sitting alongside the existing SMP Forums in Health, Further and Higher Education, Primary and Secondary Education, etc. Like all SMP Forums, this is not an operational group, directly involved in direct delivery, but a space for those involved to come together, network, share their learning, be informed by Malawian input, and discuss future collaboration. A copy of the presentation by Stuart Galloway which follows the outline of the meeting can be read [here](file:///C:\Users\Stuart%20B\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Desktop\Renewable%20Energy%20Forum,%20Stuart%20Galloway,%20University%20of%20Strathclyde.pdf).

In advance of this meeting, a draft Terms of Reference document was created. The document was subject to change at the approval of members present at the Forum to reflect member-led priorities and [the updated version can be found here](file:///M:\Strand%203%20%20%20%20%20Strengthening%20existing%20links\Events\2019%20Events\2019%2003%2007%20Renewable%20Energy%20Forum\TORs\TORs%20final.doc). Nicholas Gubbins and Stuart Galloway were invited to co-chair this group for the first 12-18 months, following which a chair will be allocated by the Forum membership on a rotating basis.

In the context of this meeting, David also reminded members of the recent [Special Scottish Screening of The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/past-events/the-boy-who-harnessed-the-wind-special-scottish-screening/) at The Dominion Cinema in Edinburgh on 28th February – an inspiring true story in which young William Kamkwamba aims to build a windmill pump to irrigate the land and save his family and community from drought and famine. The SMP continues to work with William Kamkwamba as he not only supports working in the renewable energy space, but is also aware that Scotland has expertise and leadership in this field and, while he was not able to take part remotely on the date of the meeting, he is keen to work with the new Forum going forward.

Stuart Galloway acknowledged the impactful work being done by members and the broad range of experience and knowledge gained over time by those working in this field. The goal of the Forum is to build upon that. Following introductions, Stuart asked for approval of the Terms of Reference outlined for this Forum. The full document can be read [here](file:///C:\Users\Stuart%20B\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\HF1PHQXK\SMP%20Renewable%20Energy%20Forum%20ToR%20DRAFT%20v2.0.pdf), and is also available on the SMP website event page.

Suggestions to the ToR’s were as follows:

* To include an emphasis on providing affordable energy systems, not just supporting access to modern energy services alone. It was noted that the ToR’s would add in the word ‘affordability’.
* To be more specific on learning from experience. The Forum noted it would like to see what business models others have used and what methods members have tried, including their technology and solutions.
* To add in some level of advocacy. While it was noted that the group is not an executive one, and therefore cannot undertake policy action, the SMP can represent issues going forward as it undertakes lobbying and advocacy to preserve its independence. If this Forum wished to, it could take forward priorities, but it wouldn’t be empowered to make any final decisions.

Following approval of the ToR’s on condition of amendments, Stuart directed the Forum to approval of the Outline Programme of Work, which was unanimously approved.

Edgar Bayani, Director of Community Energy Malawi, then gave a presentation setting the scene of Renewable Energy development in Malawi. You can view/read Edgar’s presentation [here](file:///C:\Users\Stuart%20B\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Desktop\Presentation%20by%20Edgar%20Bayani,%20Community%20Energy%20Malawi.pdf).

Stuart thanked Edgar for his presentation, and directed the meeting to approving an Information Resource on Project Activity. Stuart noted that one of the primary goals would be developing awareness of the nature and extent of off-grid renewable energy project activity in Malawi. The SMP would support this through wider mapping of its membership working in this area. It was also noted that it would be useful to host links to other data repositories. Stuart noted that a pitfall of current operations in this field is the lack of a coherent map of what resources are available, and where one might find these resources when setting up a project. It was noted that it would be useful to find a way of sharing information, be able to have an open conversation, and identify types of resources that members are struggling to find. Attendees were asked to consider what kind of information they would like to gather in the context of resource-mapping. David noted that the SMP website currently hosts an online geographic map of where all of its membership work across Scotland, available to view [here](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/members/). For each member, there is an entry in an online database that is public and searchable thematically, geographically, through keywords or by SDG. While the map uses Google mapping which is simple and easy to do, its main shortcoming is that it is a single geographic pinpoint on a map. This is good for geolocating one’s headquarters but not for those who work across Malawi in multiple locations. There is a balance between useful and usable detailed data against something that is collatable. The SMPs current system is free and transparent, but what would be useful is less technology and more ‘human behind the tech’. While the SMP is encouraging people to keep this data up to date, this is something that the SMP can action going forward. It would be less useful to have multiple mapping exercises of what is happening in Malawi, but there may be scope for better technological opportunities to map these interactions. A lot of organisations and projects that currently update this online SMP map would not define themselves as operating within the Renewable Energy field, so this exercise needs to be cross-cutting.

Lewis Ryder-Jones of Scotland’s International Development Alliance also provided an update on his forthcoming visit to Malawi. He noted that the Alliance will be looking at how energy interacts with the other SDG’s. It was noted that many projects in Malawi use renewable energy but aren’t necessarily renewable energy projects, so Lewis will be looking at mapping that connection to other development outcomes on a case-study basis. The purpose is to promote energy as an important aspect of other SDG’s rather than try to map energy alone across the board.

The Alliance has members operating in more than 140 countries. They have recently undertaken research aiming to map their members programmes and projects to the SDG targets they felt their projects were contributing towards, in order to map interlinkages between goals and targets. Importantly, not many organisations drill down to target level, so this mapping exercise should allow better understanding of the SDGs, overlap between organisations and also where gaps exist. The Alliance hopes to be able to publish a comprehensive document on Scotland’s international development organisations and their contributions to SDGs in 2019.

In the context of data mapping, the Forum noted that it would also be important not simply to collect data for the sake of it, but rather so that duplication is avoided, and knowledge gained is able to be transferred in a way that allows others to see what has or hasn’t been tried before. It was also suggested that the SMP makes Renewable Energy a separate area of partnership that members are able to select as their priority when signing up to the SMP’s membership or when updating their existing member profiles. This will allow others to see this as publically searchable content and see who is operating in this field.

The meeting concluded by agreeing to meet two to three times per year, which brings the next date of the Forum to be held in June 2019. The meeting finished with networking time over Malawian G&T’s.