

Commonwealth Climate and Energy Policy
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Chair, *Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations* (IFCO: www.ifco.online)

Chair, *UN SIDS partnership "Learning from the Sharp End of Environmental Uncertainty in SIDS"* (<http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=2705&menu=1507>)

Convenor *Caribbean Studies Association: Working Group on Environment and Sustainability* (<http://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org>)

Member, *IUCN Commission on Education and Communication*
<https://iucn.org/about/union/commissions/cec/>

Advisory Board, *SOCARE (Society for Caribbean Research)* (<http://caribbeanresearch.net/en/about-socare/>)

Editorial Board: *Case Studies in Environment*, University of California Press
(<https://cse.ucpress.edu/content/editorial-team>)

Formerly:

Trustee and Projects Committee Chair, *Commonwealth Human Ecology Council* Principal Investigator, *Fisherfolk Livelihoods Case Studies, Commonwealth Fisheries Programme* (www.commonwealthfisheries.org)

UK Coordinator, *Schools at University for Climate and Energy (SAUCE)* Intelligent Energy Europe Project (www.schools-at-university.eu)

Does the Commonwealth have a future and could 'we' work with it?

“...we have little to fear from the reality of the Commonwealth, either as an organisation that may limp along for a few more years, or as a collection of Realms, which may actually survive a little longer. The main danger to the UK, as was amply demonstrated in the 2016 EU Referendum, is the myth of the Commonwealth. It is increasingly being commandeered by a grim collection of charlatans, chancers and outright villains. Our old comfort blanket has become toxic. It's time to grow up and set it aside.”

Philip Murphy 2018 *The Emperor's New Clothes*

But do new initiatives in the Commonwealth Secretariat indicate that the association is making the most of limited financial resources? Does the imperative of addressing the concerns of SIDS give Commonwealth environment and energy policy new traction?

The Commonwealth

56 Nations

2.5 billion people

26 Small Island/Developing States (SIDS)

The Commonwealth Regions:

The Caribbean (CARICOM) and the Americas (Canada)

Oceania (including Australia, New Zealand): PIF

Africa: ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS, COMESA

Main meeting: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM every two years):

source of policy and chance for civil society to influence the agenda ('AOs' Submission')

The 'ABC countries' (Australia, Britain, Canada - and New Zealand)

The BRICS: India and South Africa

and Nigeria, Malaysia, Singapore

Growing (added *Togo* and *Gabon* at Rwanda CHOGM 2022)

Key emitters as well as victim states

The Commonwealth is a voluntary, values-based association (not treaty-based)

Commonwealth Charter 2013

Quiet diplomacy but claims key role in ending apartheid in South Africa

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) communiqués:

source of policy

chance to influence (IFCO)

Leadership, governance

Three-headed: Head (King Charles), Secretary-General Baroness Scotland, Chair-in-Office (President Paul Kagame, Rwanda)

The intergovernmental Commonwealth: Secretariat, Foundation, Commonwealth of Learning (COL, based in Vancouver)

London-based Governing Board of High Commissioners

UK Role as former coloniser and main donor

Commonwealth Politics

'Electoral' outcomes: esp. ABC countries, India.

Risks of gangster capitalism at the centre

1989 Langkawi Declaration

The Commonwealth and the COPs

- Copenhagen – post-Trinidad CHOGM, failure

- Paris – post Malta CHOGM, success

- Glasgow – no prior CHOGM, derailed by India, Australia coal commitment

The UK's catastrophic influence today

- Gangster capitalism: rob the poor to pay the rich

- King told not to go to COP27

- Appointment of climate sceptic Rees-Mogg to environment role

- 100 licenses for North Sea drilling

- Reduction in ODA from 07% to 0.5%

- Rees-Mogg , climate sceptic, now responsible for environment

What can the REFORM group contribute?

Current Commonwealth Initiatives

Trying to integrate approach to the UN Treaties (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD) and trying to integrate approach to the UN Treaties (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD):

Commonwealth Blue Charter (<https://thecommonwealth.org/bluecharter/action-groups>)

Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH)

CommonSensing (partnership)

Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL)

Commonwealth Disaster Risk Finance Portal

NDC Partnership – Climate Action Enhancement Package

(Jamaica, Eswatini, Belize, Zambia)

Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transformation (CSET)

Gender Integration for Climate Action (Report)

The Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET)

Mandate confirmed at CHOGM June 2022

Biennial forum

Recent start (3 years ago),

3 Action Groups:

1. Energy literacy (led by Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), focus on peer to peer learning, youth and local communities, 7 countries signed up so far, mainly African and Caribbean

Raising public awareness, including distribution of children's books, looking for partnerships for distribution

2. Geothermal energy, led by Kenya: challenges and opportunities
3. Cross-cutting youth action group (UK, Singapore, Canada, Nigeria, Uganda...) working to develop project database of finance availability funding young people; currently at concept note stage
4. Working to integrate energy and climate ministry approaches

Green hydrogen is under discussion in Namibia

In SE4ALL, SIDS Clean Energy toolkit: business case for SE in SIDS, size of clean energy market, energy mix, government policies for Ren-E, investment, barriers and opportunities: investor roundtable (Barbados, Seychelles). Toolkit to come out just before COP27 to raise interest

Committed to just and equitable transition

Action areas with champions (as for Blue Charter)

Kenya leading on geothermal

Belize and Tanzania on rural distributed electrification

Possible Research Agenda

Loss and Damage quantification, reparations; 'victims and perpetrators'

UN \$100 billion per annum commitment not delivered

The ESG sham

Supply chain analysis

Geopolitics of Commonwealth energy policy

Environmental migration (of hedge fund managers)

Capacity analysis of skills supply: policy development and monitoring

Paradiplomacy/ multi-level governance international collaboration below state level

Sustainable Urbanisation Cluster of IFCO incl. ACU, CAP, CAA, ComSec

Key challenge: Guyana and Green Transition

Policy agenda

Private sector mobilisation (but 'ESG sham')

Policy transfer

Role in Carney's Net Zero Climate Alliance?

Conclusion

Modest gains with limited resources

A strong but small team in the Oceans and Natural Resources Division, using individual country champions for action

Limited monitoring data so far, but Blue Charter Action Groups appear to be succeeding.

Severe risk to Commonwealth sustainable energy policy posed by new UK Prime Minister's commitment to fossil fuel exploration and bonfire of environmental relations domestically

Worth exploring opportunities for collaboration.

Commonwealth region	SDG 7.1.1		SDG 7.1.2		SDG 7.2.1		SDG 7.3.1		NDC alignment (%)	
	2016	2020	2016	2020	2015	2019	2015	2019	2018	2020
Africa	51.9	59.2	29.1	31.5	59.5	56.2	6.3	5.4	58	58
Asia	91.8	96.3	60.7	71.1	25.2	19.8	3.6	3.6	60	58
Caribbean & Americas	97.1	98.7	94.5	93.2	10.1	8.8	5.4	5.0	55	51
Europe	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.0	10.7	2.7	2.1	40	40
Pacific	82.5	90.2	46.6	52.3	23.4	25.9	5.0	4.1	51	51
Commonwealth	79.2	82.8	58.7	60.3	32.1	30.7	4.7	4.6	53	52
World	88.6	90.5	64.0	69.0	16.8	17.7	5.0	4.7	N/A	N/A
Key	Very strong		Strong		Moderate		Weak		Very weak	

Source: 2021 SDG Tracking: The Energy Progress Report; UN SDG Indicators Database 2022.
 – SDG 7.1.1 – Proportion (%) of population with access to electricity.

– SDG 7.1.2 – Proportion (%) of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies for cooking.

– SDG 7.2.1 – Renewable energy share (%) in the TFE.

– SDG 7.3.1 – Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (MJ per US\$ purchasing price parity (PPP) 2011). – NDC alignment – Degree of potential alignment between country's climate and sustainable development objectives.

Africa	Asia	The Caribbean & Americas
Botswana ^{a, c}	Bangladesh ^b	Antigua and Barbuda ^{a, d}
Cameroon	Brunei Darussalam ^a	Bahamas, The ^{a, d}
Eswatini ^a	India	Barbados ^{a, d}
Gambia, The ^{a, b}	Malaysia	Belize ^{a, d}
Ghana	Maldives ^{a, d}	Canada
Kenya	Pakistan	Dominica ^{a, d}
Lesotho ^{a, b, c}	Singapore ^d	Grenada ^{a, d}
Malawi ^{b, c}	Sri Lanka	Guyana ^{a, d}

Mauritius ^{a, d}	The Pacific	Jamaica ^{a, d}
Mozambique ^b	Australia	St Lucia ^{a, d}
Namibia ^a	Fiji ^{a, d}	St Kitts and Nevis ^{a, d}
Nigeria	Kiribati ^{a, b, d}	St Vincent and the Grenadines ^{a, d}
Rwanda ^{b, c}	Nauru ^{a, d}	Trinidad and Tobago ^d
Seychelles ^{a, d}	New Zealand	Europe
Sierra Leone ^b	Papua New Guinea ^d	Cyprus ^a
South Africa	Samoa ^{a, d}	Malta ^a
Uganda ^{b, c}	Solomon Islands ^{a, b, d}	United Kingdom
Tanzania ^b	Tonga ^{a, d}	
Zambia ^{b, c}	Tuvalu ^{a, b, d}	
	Vanuatu ^{a, d}	

Source: The Commonwealth Secretariat.

1. Small state – Small States Country List (worldbank.org).
2. LDC – UN list of LDCs | UNCTAD.
3. Land-locked developing country (LLDC) – List of LLDCs (nationsonline.org).
4. Small island developing state (SIDS) – List of SIDS | Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,

Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Target	Indicator	Description
7.1		By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
	7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity
	7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
7.2		By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
	7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the TFC
7.3		By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
	7.3.1	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP
7.a		By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

	7.a.1	International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems
7.b		By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, in accordance with their respective programmes of support
	7.b.1	Investments in energy efficiency as a percentage of GDP and the amount of FDI in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services

Source: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7>.

Table 2.3 Emissions per capita, 2020

	Population totals		CO ₂ emission totals		Emissions per capita
	Millions	% of Commonwealth	10 ⁹ tonnes	% of Commonwealth	10 ⁹ tonnes/capita
6 higher-income CWCs	137.60	5.4	1,298.86	25.2	9.44
48 lower income CWCs	2,428.33	94.6	3,855.07	74.8	1.58
Commonwealth total	2,565.93	100	5,153.93	100	2.01
Global total	7,794.80	N/A	34,807.26	N/A	4.47

Source: Population data from UN Statistics; emissions data from Our World in Data.¹⁴

Table 2.4 Real economic growth rates (% change)

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022
World (195 countries)	2.5	-3.5	5.8	3.5
All CWCs	3.4	-5.1	4.6	5.1
African region CWCs	4.1	-3.2	4.8	4.1
Asian region CWCs	4.2	-6.2	8.3	5.3
Pacific region CWCs	3.0	-3.0	0.5	1.8
Caribbean & Americas region CWCs	2.1	-8.4	4.7	9.5
European region CWCs	4.3	-7.5	7.5	3.6
Commonwealth LDCs	5.4	-1.2	3.5	3.3
Commonwealth LLDCs	4.9	-3.3	5.7	3.8

Commonwealth SIDS	2.7	-7.7	4.2	6.1
Commonwealth small states	3.0	-7.1	4.6	5.6

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook and World Economic Databases. 19

Table 2.5 Global energy demand and emissions, 2020 and 2021 (% change)

	2020	2021	2022
Energy demand	-4.0	4.6	N/A
Crude oil demand	-8.6	6.1	1.9
Natural gas demand	-1.8	4.5	-0.0
Coal demand	-4.4	6.0	1.5
Renewable energy demand	3.0	8.3	N/A
CO₂ emissions	-5.2	5.7	N/A

Source: IEA Global Energy Review 2021 and various IEA commodity-specific forecasts for 2022. 22

Table 3.1 Mitigation base year, reduction targets, conditionality

Country	Base year	Emissions reductions (%)		Conditionality (%) of 2nd NDC*	
		1st NDC	2nd NDC	Unconditional	Conditional
Antigua and Barbuda	N/A	N/A	N/A	partly	partly
Australia	2005	26–8	30–5	30–5	0.0
The Bahamas	2030 BAU	30.0	N/A ^b	30.0	0
Bangladesh	2030 BAU	15.0	21.8	6.7	15.1
Barbados	2030 BAU	N/A	70.0	35.0	35.0
Belize	N/A	N/A	N/A ^a	partly	partly
Botswana	2010	15.0	N/A ^b	partly	partly
Brunei Darussalam	2015	20.0	N/A ^b	20.0	0.0
Cameroon	2010	32.0	33.0	32.0	0.0
Canada	2005	30.0	40–5	40–5	0.0
Cyprus	1990	40.0	55.0	55.0	0.0
Dominica	2014	N/A	N/A ^b	N/A	partly
Eswatini	N/A	N/A	19.0	5.0	14.0
Fiji	BAU	30.0	30.0	20.0	10.0
The Gambia	BAU	N/A	49.8	2.6	47.2
Ghana	2010	30.0	N/A ^a	partly	partly
Grenada	2010	40.0	40.0	N/A	partly
Guyana	N/A	N/A	N/A ^b	N/A	N/A

India	2005	33–5	N/A ^b	partly	partly
Jamaica	BAU	17.8	28.5	25.4	3.1
Kenya	2030 BAU	30.0	32.0	6.7	25.3

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660 million electricity gap (2030)

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Table 3.1 (Continued) Mitigation base year, reduction targets, conditionality					
Country	Base year	Emissions	reductions (%)	Conditionality (%) of 2nd NDC*	1st NDC 2nd NDC
				Unconditional	Conditional
Kiribati	BAU	61.8	N/A ^b	12.8	49.0
Lesotho	BAU	35.0	N/A ^b	10.0	25.0
Malawi	2040 BAU	N/A	51.0	6.0	45.0
Malaysia	2005	35.0	45.0	45.0	0.0
Maldives	2030 BAU	26.0	100.0	26.0	74.0
Malta	1990	40.0	55.0	55.0	0.0
Mauritius	2030 BAU	30.0	40.0	40.0	0.0
Mozambique	2020	N/A	N/A ^a	N/A	N/A
Namibia	2030 BAU	89.0	91.0	14.0	77.0

Nauru	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Zealand	2005	30.0	50.0	30.0	0.0
Nigeria	BAU	45.0	47.0	20.0	27.0
Pakistan	2030	BAU	20.0	50.0	15.0 35.0
Papua New Guinea	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rwanda	BAU	N/A	38.0	16.0	22.0
St Lucia	2010	2.0	7.0	N/A	N/A
Samoa	N/A	N/A	26.0	partly	partly
Seychelles	BAU	29.0	26.4	all	0.0
Sierra Leone	BAU	N/A	10.0	N/A	N/A
Singapore	N/A	0.36	36.0	N/A	N/A
Solomon Islands	2030	BAU	50.0	78.0	33.0 45.0
South Africa	N/A	N/A	N/A ^a	N/A	N/A
Sri Lanka	2030	BAU	20.0	14.5	4.0 10.5
St Kitts and Nevis	BAU	35.0	61.0	partly	mostly
St Vincent and the Grenadines	BAU	22.0	N/A ^b	22.0	0.0
Tanzania	2030	BAU	10–20	30–5	partly partly
Tonga	2006	N/A	13.0	N/A	N/A
Trinidad and Tobago	BAU	15.0	N/A ^b	15.0	0.0
Tuvalu	2010	N/A	N/A	partly	mostly
Uganda	BAU	22.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Kingdom	1990	40.0	68.0	68.0	0.0
Vanuatu	BAU	N/A	N/A	partly	mostly
Zambia	2030	BAU	47.0	47.0	25.0 22.0

Table 3.2 Carbon pricing in Commonwealth member countries	
Country	Carbon-pricing mechanisms
Canada	Name: Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution
	Purpose: jurisdictions can create their own carbon pricing mechanism, subject to meeting the federal benchmark; cap-and-trade systems need emissions reduction target as stringent or more stringent than 30 per cent
	Scope: applies to GHG emissions from all sectors with some exemptions for industry, agriculture and transport sectors to ensure exporting industries are not disadvantaged in global competition; covers 21 types of fuel plus combustible waste burned for producing heat or power
	Year of implementation: 2018

	Current price: federal benchmark C\$50/tCO ₂ e (US\$40/tCO ₂ e) in 2022; additional C\$15/t annually until C\$170/t 2030
New Zealand	Name: New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme
	Sectors included: New Zealand’s policy response to climate change includes broadest sectoral coverage of any ETS, directly covering forestry, waste, liquid fossil fuels, stationary energy, industrial processing and synthetic GHGs
	Cap: based on the five-yearly emissions budgets mandated by the ‘Zero Carbon Act’ and announced over a rolling five-year period with annual updates; allocations auctioned quarterly
	Year of implementation: 2008
	Current price: NZ\$37/tCO ₂ e (US\$26/tCO ₂ e)
Singapore	Name: Carbon Pricing Act
	Year of implementation: 2019
	Scope: applies to all facilities with annual GHG emissions of 25 ktCO ₂ e or more, with no exemptions. The carbon tax revenue supports initiatives to address climate change
	Price: S\$5/tCO ₂ e (US\$4/tCO ₂ e) from 2019 to 2023; pricing will be revisited in 2023

Table 3.2 (Continued) Carbon pricing in Commonwealth member countries	
Country	Carbon-pricing mechanisms
South Africa	Name: Carbon Tax Act
	Year of implementation: 2019
	Price: R120/t (US\$7/t) in 2021, increasing annually by inflation plus 2 per cent. To ensure a cost-effective transition, companies could receive tax-free allowances ranging from 60–95 per cent of their emissions, reducing the effective carbon tax rate
United Kingdom	Name: UK Emissions Trading Scheme
	Purpose: increase the climate ambition of the UK’s carbon pricing policy, while protecting the competitiveness of UK businesses
	Scope: applies to GHG emissions from the power sector, energy-intensive industries and aviation
	Cap: 155.7 MtCO ₂ e (2021), will decline by 4.2 MtCO ₂ e each year
	Allocation: auctioning is main method of allocating allowances
	Year of implementation: 2021
Price: October 2021 auction clearing price of £60/tCO ₂ e (US\$81/tCO ₂ e)	

Source: Authors’ analysis of UNFCCC NDC submissions, World Bank Carbon Pricing Dashboard³¹ and individual country websites.

Table 4.6 Tracking SDG7-highlighted countries

Measure	Progressing	More progress needed
Electrification	Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda	Sierra Leone, Pakistan
Access to electricity (keeping up with population)	Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,	Nigeria, Malawi
Access to electricity (annualised increase)	Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Eswatini, Uganda, Lesotho, Bangladesh, Rwanda	Malawi, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia
Off-grid access	Rwanda, Fiji, Vanuatu, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Cameroon	Bangladesh
Solar lighting	Fiji, Mauritius, Samoa, Uganda, Malawi, India, Sierra Leone	—
Technology and business innovation for electrification	Kenya, Nigeria	—
Financing to fund expansion of electrification	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	—
Access to electricity for refugees	—	Rwanda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Bangladesh,
Access to clean cooking	Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Eswatini, Guyana	Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kiribati
Clean-cooking population	—	India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan
Policy instruments to fast-track progress of access to clean cooking	India, Nigeria, Bangladesh	—
Promotion of clean fuels	Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, India, Zambia	—
Renewable energy increase (share of TFEC)	United Kingdom	India, Pakistan, Nigeria
Renewable energy: electricity	Canada, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Pakistan	—
Renewable energy: heat	United Kingdom	—
Energy efficiency	India, United Kingdom	Nigeria, Canada

The CCFAH provides support in:

- developing grant proposals and project pipelines;
- building human and institutional capacity;
- providing technical advisory services; and
- facilitating cross-Commonwealth cooperation and sharing of experiences and expertise by Commonwealth national climate finance advisers, who are deployed and embedded in relevant government ministry departments.

In addition to the general manager based in Mauritius, CCFAH currently has climate finance advisers deployed in 11 countries. As of March

2021, CCFAH has mobilised US\$43.8 million finance for approved projects in six countries and currently has US\$762.2 million in the pipeline for climate finance in 11 countries.