



COP 26 Planning Meeting

11am-1pm Monday 17th February 2020

City Chambers, 253 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Action Points & Important decisions

- There was **widespread agreement and support for the Alliance's broad Alliance position statement** and overarching aims/intended outcomes to influence.
- We now have [a dedicated COP26 page on the Alliance website](#) with above details. This will be updated as we go. This page gives links to different ways of getting involved.
- **All present in favour of exhibition proposal** and willing to support in whatever way they can
- Those present felt **the Alliance should aim to be present in the Science Centre with the Scottish Government**; no concerns were raised about whether this was appropriate or not. Alliance staff to follow up on this asap.
- The Alliance should link **activity around COP26 (and climate) with the SDGs; and to be very explicit** about this connection
- In order to ensure partners' voices are heard and amplified, urgent need to **map who and when partners are coming to Scotland pre, during and after COP26**
- **A joint communications strategy for all alliance members is needed, hashtags, key messaging etc.**
- Move from large plenary meetings to smaller working groups going forward
- Alliance staff to **set up (or use existing) working groups (and online spaces)** for different work streams including:
 - Developing a shared COP26 communications strategy
 - Photo and film exhibition
 - Policy and influencing (existing Alliance Policy Committee)
 - 'Climate proofing' and developing an Alliance 'Climate Charter'
- Each of the above areas will have specific thread on [the Alliance Community](#), members to **get in touch if want involved in any one stream** and added to mailing lists.
- Members are encouraged to **add to [the google doc](#) calendar of activities and events**

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Summary of Agenda Items

1. Overview of actions since last meeting (20 mins)

Activity to date:

- Breadth of interest grows – 74 individuals have now actively engaged with us on COP26, across almost 50 organisations – but more to do (issue of how to engage the not already engaged to be discussed later)
- COP26 dedicated page on our website now live
- The Alliance is now full member of SCCS – aligning activities to support, particularly on policy asks at SG and UK level
- Photo & film competition launches tomorrow (18/02) – check website and Alliance mid-month bulletin for details
- Lewis flagged up the [Google doc](#) calendar of activities for collaboration, which was shared last week, and encouraged everyone present to contribute to this

'Climate Proofing' (wording change necessary), could this be our COP26 legacy?

- Carry out skills audit / needs analysis on 'climate proofing' at different levels (project, organisational, partner etc)
- Resources and workshops early summer
- Review at annual conference on 24th Sep
- Launch Alliance climate charter at COP and then AGM in December
- Discussion around whether the term 'climate proofing' is the appropriate term to use
- Suggestion made to frame the discussions and activities around 'climate' as opposed to COP 26 (which is just one time-bound event)

October Exhibition Proposal

- Tearfund Scotland, CCPM (SCIAF) & Gaia Education have pledged financial support for this proposal – Great, but more needed...

2. Group Discussions

a. Position statement and draft 'aims'

- There was widespread agreement and support for the Alliance's broad Alliance position statement and overarching aims/intended outcomes to influence. Some suggestions for improvement:
 - might be worth bringing the current last objective around policy influence up to the top, and specifying the development of a climate charter or manifesto for Scottish ID orgs
 - add that it is an opportunity to highlight ways to change behaviour in positive ways, not just harm reduction.
 - Something around adaptation funding could potentially be added.

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b. Photo & film exhibition

- Members in all groups said they could contribute logistics, labour, money, but will follow up later
- Discussions revealed that all present in favour of the exhibition and willing to support in whatever way they can (some further pledges of financial support were made, e.g. HALO Trust; in other instances, it was through the offer of staffing, or facilitating links, e.g. SFTF suggesting linking up with the Fairtrade Foundation at UK level – who have already expressed interest in doing something around the COP event)
- Mercy Crop keen to put resources forward, exact details TBC.
- Further suggestions for how to generate increased support/financial backing included through the launch of a crowdfunding campaign which members share across their own networks
- Venue needs more thought – The Lighthouse in Glasgow no longer definitely available
- John Ritches from JTS suggested St. Mary's Cathedral as a good alternative venue; Ian Dunn from SCIAF offered to contact Glasgow City Council contact to find out more about the possibility of using Glasgow Life venues; suggestions from some to go back to the Science Centre (via SG) to ask for more information on using that as our venue, although concerns were raised about the expense of visiting the Science Centre
- Members felt it would be very important to ensure that the photo exhibition is made available online after being displayed in Glasgow (to ensure legacy element, and widely accessible)
- The question around 'why do something in the lead-up' was asked; response was that this was considered to be an important time in engaging the Scottish public on the issue of the climate crisis, whereas during the COP26 event itself emphasis should be on international organisations accessing spaces
- Need to determine intended audience for photo exhibition (e.g. working with Centre for Climate Justice to engage school groups).
Photo exhibition could be a valuable way of connecting local grassroots groups with international partners in the lead-up to COP26 event (very climate-justice centred approach to take) – put forward by Nick, SCCS
- The Alliance could ask the Scottish Government or Roseanna Cunningham if we could have the exhibition in the Science Centre. There should be some Alliance presence in the Science Centre during COP. And then post the exhibition online.

c. Other activities, resources inputs

- Climate-proofing of Alliance members (e.g. through delivery of proposed workshop in Google doc calendar of activities; also through annual conference)
- Fulfil the role of an exchange (of ideas, bringing organisations together on climate change)
- Fulfil the role of serving as the link between Scottish Government and civil society orgs.
- Raise public perceptions of the climate crisis, and specifically of those most acutely affected (through public-facing exhibition)
- Alliance could provide a platform for blog posts from members, where they can highlight their own efforts under the Alliance umbrella.
- Agree on a hashtag to share across all groups prior to launch of exhibition, to drum up interest online.
- Alliance is the best way to link the work of all these NGOs, which can differ greatly, to a common purpose. Diversity of the Alliance should be highlighted and celebrated somehow.

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- Part of the narrative of the Alliance @ Cop26 must be around what is significant about Glasgow/Scotland's position – what story is Glasgow/Scotland looking to tell about itself at this time?
- Alliance could play a role in connecting people from the Global South to those offering accommodation etc as a gesture of goodwill in Glasgow. Can it support them to remain in the city if talks run over a la COP25? Could approach AirBnB, or its rivals, about an arrangement that works for all?

d. Presence at science centre?

- Those present generally felt that the Alliance should aim to be present in the Science Centre with the Scottish Government; no concerns were raised about whether this was appropriate or not.
- we should take advantage of the opportunity to have space in the science centre, even if we do not currently know what exactly we will do with it. Details can be worked out at a later stage.
- recognition that the Alliance is core-funded by SG so it would be appropriate to be seen to be working in partnership with them

e. Other organisation plans

- Mercy Corps will be finalizing plans this week, can share when approved. 2050 Climate Group will be having their Youth Summit in October (TBC). SMP has a strategy in place., document can be shared. JTS has their John Muir Way walk with rice farmers from Malawi – is attempting to engage MSPs and local news.
- Nick from SCCS mentioned that they will soon be launching a homestay programme (hosting programme) during COP; will be looking for help promoting this; good way to get bottom-up community-led engagement with the event

f. Other points raised

- need for the Alliance to link activity around COP26 (and climate) with the SDGs; and to be very explicit about this connection
- Regarding the SDGs, there should more action, building on top of awareness. Perhaps compile report or presentation on SDGs and what members of the alliance are doing to reduce their climate footprint. This map/graph/showcase could be exhibited. How are members acting in support of SDGs?
- There was also concern that we must keep the emphasis on ensuring that voices from the global south are heard
- Suggestion to establish a common set of asks for volunteers, agreed to by SCCS and the Alliance
- Suggestion of a mapping exercise of members, asking what partners are coming to Scotland around COP26 (this could be a way of ensuring that partners' voices are heard/amplified).
- There was interest on how to engage children and young people on the issues (other networks and resources were flagged up, including:
 - [Scotland's Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development](#) (which publishes a monthly 'Learning for Sustainability' newsletter
 - [IDEAS network and DECs](#)

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- [Scotland Malawi Partnership's Youth Committee](#) (and events aimed at young people, such as the Youth Forum and School Partnership Awards)
- [British Council's Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning](#) programme (partnership between British Council and DFID).
- MPs and MSPs may not partner up with a country, but there could have a connection or move towards taking a sustainable development goal.

3. Next steps and close

1. Alliance staff to work up final exhibition proposal; pursue other venue options
2. Assign actions points to different champions from across membership
3. Set dates for follow up meetings on different areas of work (smaller working groups?), e.g. exhibition, CPG event, climate proofing work

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