



2024 Trustee Report

CORE OBJECTIVES

For nearly two decades, Evidence for Development has steadily pursued its goal of promoting livelihood security for the poorest in the challenging context of the climate emergency and continuing inequitable development.

Evidence for Development (Efd) works to make quantitative understanding of livelihoods more accessible globally, developing improved research tools, piloting their use across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and working with partners to extend the reach of our training and capacity building initiatives.

We have pioneered research to better understand the impact of climate change on rural livelihoods and work with colleagues in the Walker Institute at University of Reading (ranked 5th in the world for atmospheric science) to progress new interdisciplinary approaches to analysing local climate impacts. The purpose is to translate complex science into useable information to guide climate adaptation at community level.

For the first time, this is allowing policy makers to ground their climate adaptation work on a rigorous evidence base, using a 'climate impact storyline' approach, which links global climate models to local impacts. Efd has developed and continues to refine the field research and analytical tools needed to collect and analyse the high quality livelihood information required for this evidence based climate adaptation work.

To achieve maximum impact, we recognise the importance of linking academic, government and NGO partners and supporting dialogue between them.

The quantitative household economy measurement and modelling methods championed by Efd are widely used in sub-Saharan Africa by governments, UN agencies, academic researchers and non-government organisations for early warning and food security assessment. Details of these approaches can be found in Seaman et al (2014) and Petty et al (2022) and on our web site (www.efd.org).

Current applications of this established work involve close collaboration with experts from meteorology, agronomy and hydrology to develop climate-environment-livelihoods impact models that are informing policy and projects, ranging from National Adaptation Plans to local NGO interventions.

These collaborations have been made possible through Efd's partnership with the Walker Institute (walker.reading.ac.uk/), an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Reading, which supports the development of climate resilient societies and facilitates our collaboration with colleagues from across the natural, physical and social sciences.

The partnership has enhanced our impact across the three core pillars of our work: research, capacity building and technology development, which is reflected in the programmes of work described in this report.

[1] Seaman, J, A et al (2014) *The Household Economy Approach. Managing the impact of climate change on poverty and food security in developing countries* Climate Risk Management <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2014.10.001>

[1] Petty, C et al (2022) *Adaptation Planning: An Integrated Approach to Understanding Vulnerability in the Lake Victoria Basin* Front. Clim., 24 January 2022 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2021.782534>

GATHERING EVIDENCE

Over many years, we have worked with overseas colleagues to refine practical and affordable field research techniques, to collect data that is reliable and of the highest quality. This information is used to measure current levels of food security and living standards and to model the impact of shocks or changes (for example droughts, floods, disease) on people’s food access and basic living standards. Information is also collected on the means and resources that are available to local communities to protect their livelihoods in the face of emergencies. This information is essential in understanding the ‘coping capacity’, resilience and potential adaptive capability of populations across the globe. Examples of this work are described in this report.

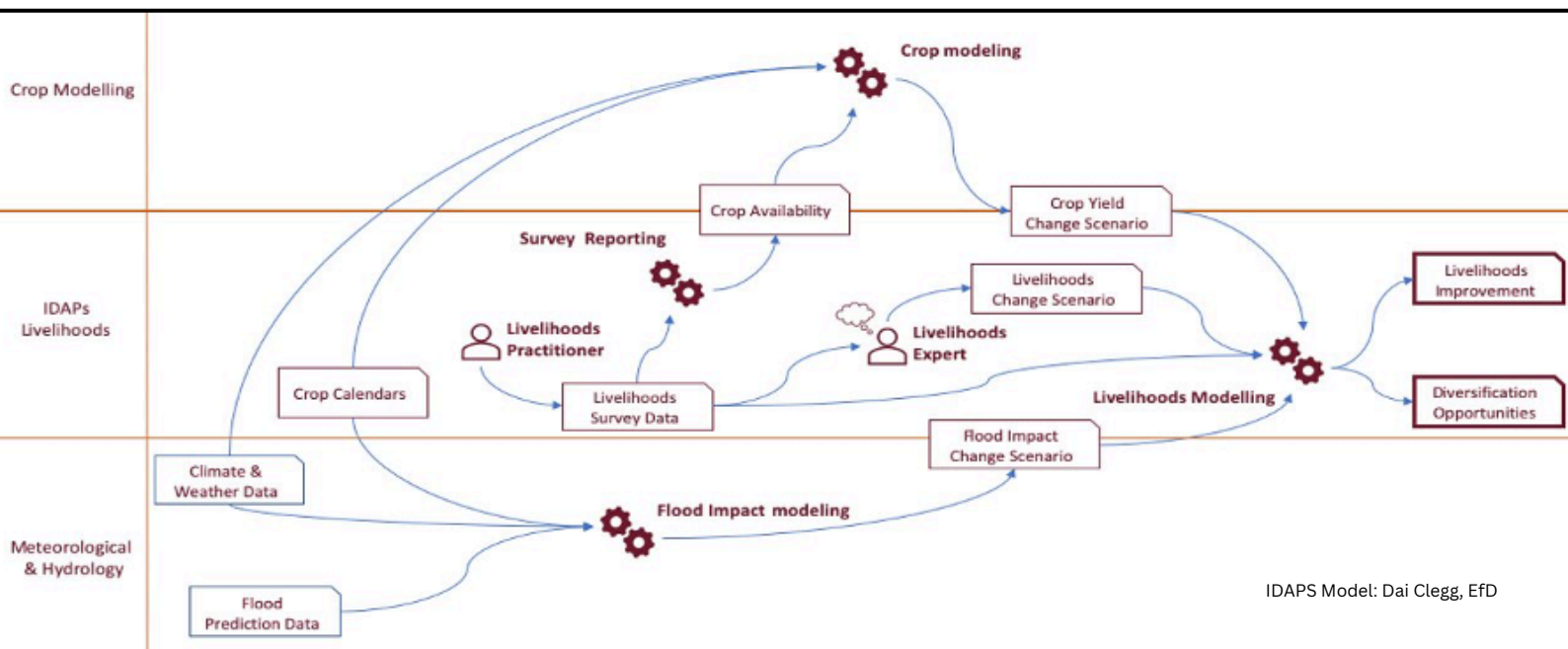
To analyse complex household economy data, we have developed cloud-based software, ‘OHEA’ and ‘OIHM’, enabling users to assess levels of livelihood resilience and to model the economic impact of different hazards on crop production, livestock yields, employment and access to humanitarian and other assistance. A micronutrient analysis function has also been developed in response to requests from both the research and NGO communities.

Complementing this work, we have developed an Integrated Database and Applications for Policy Makers (IDAPS) in a project that is jointly led by EfD and the Walker Institute. (see walker.reading.ac.uk/project/idaps/) This allows researchers to link changes in a defined crop-hydrology-climate model to the HEA livelihoods database, showing the quantitative impact on households producing specified crops.

By bringing together models and data sets from across disciplines (currently agronomy, meteorology, hydrology, livelihoods) and providing both visual and quantitative outcome analysis, we are able to show non-specialist stakeholders the consequences of different ‘climate storylines’ on household income.

Climate storylines are plausible, science based future climate scenarios. Data is presented in a meaningful easily, understandable way that allows users to interact with the scientific data, and to create their own scenarios– for example, ‘if rainfall increased in this area as predicted under RCP 4.5 carbon emission scenario how would the increased precipitation impact on flooding, waterlogging and sweet potato yields in this district? What measures might therefore be needed to protect sweet potato crops? What would the likely cost be?’

IDAPS was initially piloted for work in sub-Saharan Africa, but the geographical scope is now extending to South Asia. More information on the methodologies used by EfD can be found at www.efd.org.





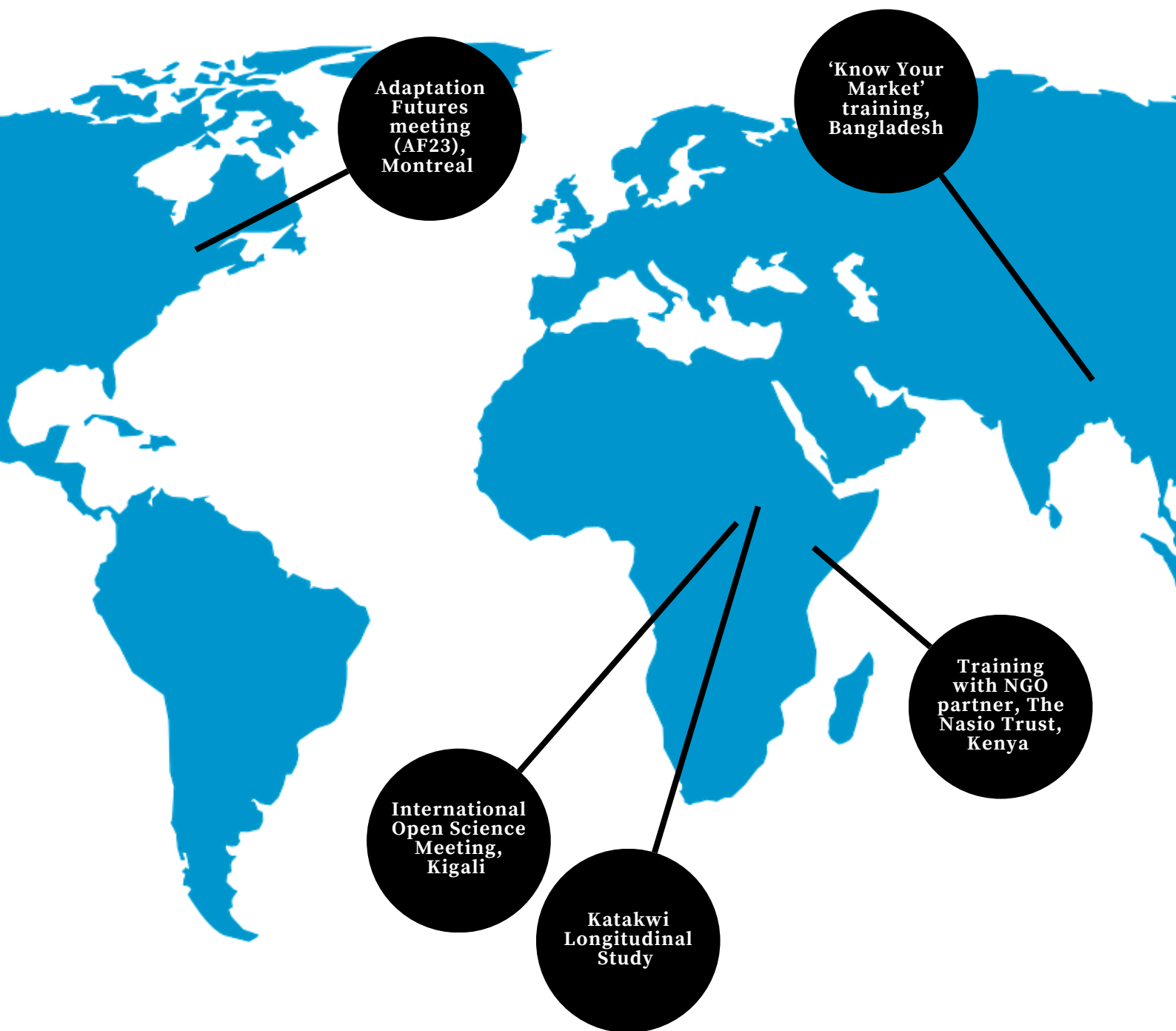
PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

Since 2016, when EfD established its close links with the Walker Institute, we have developed wider connections with universities and research institutes in the UK and overseas, extending our capability to influence policy and interdisciplinary research.

As noted, the focus of our **research and technical development** work is on modelling the potential impact of climate change on rural livelihoods in Africa and S Asia.

In addition to field-based household economy research, our partnership with the Walker Institute has enabled us to extend the reach of our **training activities** by co-developing a series of remote and 'in person' capacity building courses.

These are delivered through the Walker Academy (walker.reading.ac.uk/academy/), which has a growing portfolio of on-line courses and to date, has reached academics, students, members of government agencies, research institutes and NGO staff across sub-Saharan Africa as well as in the UK.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2023-24

We work internationally and in the UK. Places where we've worked recently are shown on the map.

KATAKWI LONGITUDINAL STUDY, UGANDA

A seasonal HEA update of a longitudinal (5 year) study we have been conducting in Katakwi district, Uganda was completed by a local extension worker in August 2023, with additional support from the Walker Institute. This has provided proof of concept of the ability to decentralise data collection, provided that systems are in place for initial training and quality control. The information collected has been added to the OHEA database for Katakwi, providing a unique resource for research and policy action to support climate adaptation in an area that has become increasingly prone to unpredictable and extreme weather events.

OPEN SCIENCE MEETING, KIGALI OCTOBER 2023

Data from the Katakwi study was presented at the prestigious international Open Science meeting in Kigali, in October 2023. A poster session, led by EfD Senior Associate James Acidri, who undertook the Katakwi field work and Fiona Spuler (Reading PhD student) highlighted the range of hazards impacting on household incomes over the 5 year study period. This has provided evidence of the relative loss of 'resilience' across different wealth groups followed in the study and is an important quantitative contribution to the 'adaptation and resilience debate' for which detailed evidence is often lacking, particularly from sub Saharan Africa. The data we have collected underlines the importance of understanding the multiple socio-political-environmental as well as climatic factors that result in 'disaster' for some communities and merely a 'bad year' for others.

ADAPTATION FUTURES MEETING (AF23), MONTREAL , OCTOBER 2023

Dr Celia Petty (EfD Director) and Professor Rosalind Cornforth (Director of the Walker Institute) attended the AF23 meeting at the beginning of October 2023, leading a session on behalf of the World Climate Research Programme's 'My Climate Risk' initiative (See walker.reading.ac.uk/my-climate-risk/) Celia presented work from Katakwi, illustrating the range of different hazards facing community members and the implications for adaptation to 'climate risks'. A Q (Question) storming session followed focusing on 'resilience and adaptation' and the practical actions that could be taken to a) fill the information void and b) address the political and institutional failures that continue to hold back action to support climate adaptation at a local, community level.



Celia Petty presenting at Adaptation Futures

CAPACITY BUILDING

This has included an on-line training (Know Your Market’) in support of a Walker Institute project aimed at the better design of index based crop insurance in Bangladesh (October-November 2023) and a field based training with a new NGO partner, The Nasio Trust, in Kenya (July 2024).



BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh training drew on HEA field work carried out as part of a Walker Institute-Syngenta Foundation (SFSA) project. Students were able to access the training instance of OHEA on the IDAPS platform and were shown a range of analytical functions, which highlighted the diversity of smallholder livelihoods in the project area. Efd supported this training by ensuring that students could navigate easily to relevant data sets. We also provided students with temporary software access credentials. Efd is now well placed to engage further with agencies in Bangladesh that wish to enhance quantitative assessments of the impact of their work with poor rural communities



KENYA

Efd and The Nasio Trust (www.thenasiotrust.org/) have held extensive discussions during 2024, resulting in an Efd led assessment and training in Kenya. The Nasio Trust, a well-established community-based organisation with a strong supporter base in the UK that has been working in Kakamega district for over 20 years. Aware of increasing rates of poverty and growing demands on its services, Nasio recognised the need to understand and address the underlying causes of these problems and requested Efd’s support to train its staff in household economy measurement and modelling, with a view to an on-going partnership. As a first step, an IHM training and baseline study was led by Efd Senior Associate Hosea Machuki in July 2024, in one of Nasio’s project villages. We are currently developing an MoU with Nasio to continue our capacity building work and to extend this to a joint training partnership, where Nasio Trust would provide training facilities and logistical support and Efd training leadership and teaching materials. A report is available on line at www.efd.org/news/



Hosea Machuki training field staff at the Nasio Trust centre in Kenya

GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY

Over the first quarter of this year our Chair, Dr Debby Potts, led a review of Efd's governance. We also reviewed our current software functionality and considered potential enhancements. The purpose of the latter review was to ensure that our technical capability is aligned with the needs of both the food security/humanitarian sector and the research community, where our unique contribution relates to the integration of livelihoods data with future climate models and storylines. In addition to this we have also been looking at the potential use of the detailed data collected in IHM studies to provide an alternative insight into the nature and extent of poverty to those based, for example on the World Bank's Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) standard. Results are currently being assembled with a view to possible publication.

The Charity Commission's Charity Governance Code (assessment – smaller charities 2020) was used to identify possible points of weakness in our current organisational structures and strategies, including policies, future plans and financial sustainability. We are pleased to report that our structures and procedures all meet the standards relevant to a small charity without permanent staff. Initial steps towards greater financial sustainability are in place, focusing on raising the profile of the organisation, with a focus on Efd's software and its capabilities for project design, monitoring and impact measurement. We will also seek to develop new training partnerships, as with The Nasio Trust and, to support our financial sustainability, we will aim to generate income from licencing Efd's software to agencies that have completed a full training programme and that meet other conditions to be set out in licencing agreements.

Review of Efd's software:

In order to reach the widest possible range of users it is essential that reports generated from our OHEA software are compatible with those produced, for example, in HEA studies by USAID FEWS NET or agencies such as Save the Children and Oxfam. The review highlighted just one 'missing' report ie a 'livelihood protection' threshold at wealth group level. Our software developers are currently looking at the cost of producing relevant output charts, with a view to implementing this feature in the near future.

PhDs:

Efd Senior Associate Stella Ngoleka is progressing well with her part time PhD at the University of Reading on the subject: *'Applying climate science to understand 'My Climate Risk' among smallholder farmers in Malawi.* Stella has organised employment on a one week on/one week off basis which is allowing her to commit dedicated time to her PhD. CP is co-supervising her research Will Shields has completed the first year of his part time PhD study.

Intern Programme:

King's College London

In line with our commitment to provide students with experience and skills that would support future careers in international development work, Debby Potts and Celia Petty supported 2 intern students from King's College London in the period January-April 2024. Students received training in HEA and IHM methodology and were introduced to the OHEA and OIHM software. This enabled them to carry out useful work uploading IHM data from the old software to our cloud-based platform. With our supervision and mentoring, they developing presentations describing the context of the study sites where data was collected.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2024-25

Research, capacity building and technical innovation.

We will continue to work with the Walker Institute and other external organisations, collaborating in research and training with a clear focus on the applied use of climate and livelihoods information, and where training and capacity building are core project objectives. Forthcoming work includes

The Nasio Trust

We will finalise an MoU with The Nasio Trust with a view to creating an HEA/IHM training hub in Kenya. Training will be designed for NGOs and other agencies that wish to improve the targeting and monitoring of their livelihood projects, based on a rigorous baseline analysis. This information will also support climate resilience and adaptation work at community and household level.

AGRHYMET, the Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology centre for the Sahel

The Walker Institute will be conducting a Summer School in Ghana, in support of AGRHYMET's World Bank funded Food Security Resilience Programme. This will include a session: 'Why we need quantitative livelihoods information to promote climate - food security resilience'. Celia Petty will introduce household economy data and tools, together with a demonstration of the OHEA and OIHM software. There will also be a field-based day in which trainees will observe demonstration focus group interviews, with the cooperation of volunteer interviewees, organised in consultation with partners in Ghana. The purpose of these activities, which are at AGRHYMET's request, is to give them a full understanding of what would be involved if a household economy component were introduced into their curriculum.

If successful, this will provide an important institutional base for the long-term establishment of HEA and IHM expertise within the region. (See also walker.reading.ac.uk/project/strengthening-agrhymets-training-program/)

Horizon 2020 ClimTip project

In the coming year, HEA data from the Sahel region will be reviewed by a research fellow in the Walker Institute, with Celia's guidance. The HEA data will be used to assess the livelihood impacts of various tipping point scenarios eg collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). Relevant climate diagnostics are currently being developed by project partners based in a range of European universities. One of the outcomes of this work will be to raise awareness of the importance of high quality livelihoods information and the need to invest in HEA data collection systems across regions such as the Sahel, where information is patchy and project based. (See also walker.reading.ac.uk/project/climtip)

Website and social media

News updates and reports are published on Efd's website. We also encourage interns to write blogs describing their experiences working with Efd.

Finances

Funding remains a major challenge for the organisation. A strategy to raise awareness of EfD's software and its capabilities will be put in place during 2024-5. This will be backed up by enhanced training capability through our partnership with The Nasio Trust, and proposed work with AGRHYMET. We are also exploring potential work with the private sector where livelihood information would support ethical investments with a pro poor objective (eg in solar energy).

Over its existence the charity has experienced a variability of funding and has therefore adopted a cost structure with very low fixed costs, thereby providing resilience in recognition of this uncertainty.

Risk management and GDPR compliance

The Trustees review the major risks facing the organisation on a regular basis. We have also reviewed our GDPR compliance, with guidance from our legal advisers at Covington and Burling.

The Personal Security Policy continues to provide useful guidance for staff and contractors across Africa and elsewhere.

Securing sufficient income to maintain central operations continues to be our greatest financial risk and although we have taken steps to maintain financial reserves to cover approximately 12 months of non-discretionary operating costs, we remain aware of the importance of operating in a stable financial environment. Our financial approach with its close attention to cost control have allowed us to maintain this level.

Pro bono support

Project grants, development work, and contracts over the past year continue to raise a range of legal and accounting questions. We are extremely grateful to both our legal advisers, Covington and Burling, and to our accountants, Lee, Dicketts and Co., for their unfailing support and considerable pro bono contributions. Tom Nurse continues to give invaluable assistance with web site development, maintenance and graphic design.

EfD's Board

The Board met regularly throughout the period. There have been no changes in Board membership.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (Registration Number 05189185) and as a charity (Registration number 1109840), formed on 26 July 2004.

The trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

L Little
M Hansen FCCA
Dr D Potts
M Harper
W Shields

In accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, potential new trustees are identified by the existing trustees, and where appropriate proposed to the charity by formal notice not less than fourteen days and not more than thirty-five clear days before the date of any general meeting, following which their appointment is undertaken by way of ordinary resolution of the charity's members.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of winding up.

Finances

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Lee, Dicketts & Co be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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M Hansen FCCA

Trustee

Dated.....

We will continue our work to
support climate resilient
futures in the coming year...



We appreciate your interest.
Please contact us if you would like
to help EfD make an even greater
impact.