



**SMIDOS - CYMRU**

**SMIDOS EYE**



*A bi-monthly quick E-briefing*

Issue date:  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## Contents

[Funding Opportunities](#)  
[Free Consultancy Advice](#)  
[Conferences](#)  
[Learning Opportunities](#)  
[News from across Wales](#)  
[Consultations](#)  
[Research](#)  
[Climate Change](#)  
[Policy matters](#)  
[A good read](#)  
[Useful tips](#)  
[SMIDOS Eye next issue deadline](#)

**Feedback on SMIDOS EYE has been very encouraging.... Please pass on to us your news that others will be interested to use.**

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## Funding opportunities

### **WAG 'Wales for Africa' 2010/2011 Scheme open**

£270,000 will be available in this, the third round of WAG grants for international development. Applications must be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**. Applications will be assessed by 13<sup>th</sup> November and successful and unsuccessful applicants notified by 20<sup>th</sup> November. Grant offer letters will be sent out by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and grants are available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

SMIDOS will run a two hour briefing session on how to apply for these grants between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30p.m. on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October** at 9 Cathedral Road, CF11 9HA. Please book. Please book as soon as possible by E-mailing SMIDOS at [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com).

Application forms and guidance notes are available from [Jenny.Allen@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.Allen@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

### ***Remember* that the COMIC Relief International Development grants scheme is open**

This grant source is now open with key areas of interest being Trade / People affected by HIV & AIDS / People affected by conflict / Street and working children and young people / People living in urban slums / Women & Girls. Do not underestimate the complexity of applying to Comic Relief or the strange application forms!

For all information go to: [http://www.comicrelief.com/apply\\_for\\_a\\_grant/international](http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/international)

SMIDOS will help and support you in submitting bids, if you wish.

## Gold Star Communities grants

The 2009 Autumn grants round is now open with a deadline of **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**. Contact Gold Star Communities for further information.

## SMIDOS Funder finder

If you are looking for funding for your organisation or project, SMIDOS can carry out a funding search for its members on Funder Finder. Contact SMIDOS on 02920 706999 or [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com)

## WCVA Grant finder

If you are looking for funding for your organisation or project, WCVA can carry out a funding search for its members on Grantfinder. Contact the Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329, [help@wcva.org.uk](mailto:help@wcva.org.uk).

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## Free consultancy advice

SMIDOS provides direct consultancy advice on operational and governance matters. This can be short term or working over an extended period. To request this free service, contact SMIDOS at [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com).

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## Conferences

### SECOND 2009 SMIDOS DIALOGUE DAY

## Strengthening the contribution of Welsh diaspora civil society to international development

Saturday October 3rd 2009

10.30 am to 4.30 p.m.

**The Temple of Peace**

Cathays Park, CARDIFF, CF10 3AP

The diaspora community already do a great deal in supporting their families and communities in sub-Saharan Africa. They can access funding for international development purposes and there are opportunities to increase the impact of their effort. Most importantly their skills and knowledge can contribute greatly to the work of Welsh international development bodies, and in so doing strengthen community cohesion in Wales.

There are an increasing number of small and medium sized international development organisations and educational, health and community links, working from Wales in sub-Saharan countries. There are also numerous diaspora communities and organisations from these very same countries living and working in Wales.

To date the connection between these two groups of activity has been minimal and yet the value of joint working is enormous. Diaspora groups possess a complete knowledge of language and culture, together with an understanding of needs and the interventions likely to be successful. Increasingly they are looking to undertake development work back in their country of origin.

International development initiatives in Wales are developing their capacity to fund and manage projects and always benefit from the insight and local knowledge of those from the region and country they are seeking to support.

Most importantly, there is increasing debate about what constitutes sound and sustainable international development and how the provision of resources must go hand in hand with empowerment and the development of equal partnerships based on trust and reciprocity. If such relationships are to exist in Africa they must exist in Wales. The benefit to social cohesion here in Wales of working together on international development cannot be missed.

Providing you with a unique occasion to:

- Identify the shape of Welsh diaspora activity in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Clarify the development support that would benefit the international development work of Welsh diaspora groups.
- Examine ways to successfully organise diaspora groups – Direct attention towards the knowledge and skills within diaspora communities that are of value to international development operations in Wales.
- Inspire diaspora groups tapping into the identity and philanthropic traditions of the host community in Wales.
- Analyse how to establish, sustain and use effective partnerships.
- Direct attention towards the knowledge and skills within diaspora communities that are of value to international development operations based in Wales.
- Inspire diaspora groups to grow and pursue funding opportunities
- Offer an opportunity for diaspora groups to share experiences and good practice in international development.

Chaired by

**Mutale Merrill OBE. BAWSO**

**Chief Executive & Vice Chair of Cardiff and the Vale Local Health Board**

Speakers Include

**John Griffiths A.M., Deputy Minister for Skills Welsh Assembly Government**

**Dr. Esinath Ndiweni, University of Wales Institute**

**Dr. Admos Chimhowu, University of Manchester**

**Selina Moyo, Policy Officer Welsh Strategic Migration Partnership**

**Dr. Mwenya Chimba – Research, Information and Development Manager**

**BAWSO**

**Dr. Derick Ngulube Wales – Zambia International Development Group**

**Other speakers to be announced**

**Linking Schools with communities workshop. Run by WIDE - 22nd September in Llandrindod Wells. Location to be announced.**

The aims of the workshop are to:

- Consider the links between the schools effectiveness framework and Community Focussed Schools and explore the potential of international linking for developing partnerships.
- Discover what Gold Star Communities in Wales are already doing as part of Wales for Africa and how your school can become more involved.
- Find out what other opportunities exist.
- Provide advice and support.

Contact Craig Owen on 0800 2888329 or [cowen@wcva.org.uk](mailto:cowen@wcva.org.uk)

## **Women and Development in sub Saharan Africa - 6th October at Swansea Grant Theatre 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

*Covers 'The Aid Chain, Coersion and commitment in development NGO's' by Tina Wallace, & 'The diaspora community – two way investment'.*

Contact Jennifer Twelvetrees on 01792 467722 or [j.twelvetrees@hotmail.com](mailto:j.twelvetrees@hotmail.com)

## **Wales Third Sector Funding Conference - 7th October, Liberty Stadium, Swansea.**

This year's third sector funding conference is packed with more sessions, a wider range of funders, (plus some old favourites!), and intriguing ideas for new and better ways of working - to help you reduce costs and waste, and access more resources and support. We've focused on four key themes:

### **1. Procurement and tendering**

Haven't done it yet? - for many organisations in the third sector, it's only a matter of time, as more and more areas of work are put out to competitive tender. We've sessions for tender novices, as well as for those seeking to sharpen up their bids, and understand the buyer's mind-set.

### **2. Funders and funding streams**

*New this year* - sessions on BIG's recession package, equalities and inclusion funds, Comic Relief, Drinkaware UK, *plus* Tudor Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales, the Waterloo Foundation, BBC Children in Need, loan funds (Unity Trust and Charity Banks, Venturesome, and Invest to Save) and live European tender opportunities.

### **3. Assets and enterprise**

Social enterprise is rocketing up the political agenda, and more organisations are trying their hand at trading to extend and diversify income streams, while others take on the delivery of public services. Help is out there, if this is where you want to go! *Plus:* the new *Community assets transfer fund* will enable community assets to be used to generate income streams - find out how!

### **4. Smarter working**

The third sector's efficient, effective, responsive and makes every penny count. Right? If you think there's **no** room for improvement, don't bother with these sessions on: joint working to generate income; internet fundraising; making Gift Aid work for you; and applying 'Lean' thinking in the third sector...now there's a thought!

***Prices held at 2008 levels! Book early to secure your place!***

For a copy of the booking form please click [here](#) or contact: WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or [eventsadmin@wcva.org.uk](mailto:eventsadmin@wcva.org.uk)

## **Community Links Gathering for UN World Poverty - ‘*Under the Baobab Tree*’ 17th October, Llandrindod Wells.**

This is a joint event between Gold Star, UKOWLA and the Local Government Alliance for International Development, open to participants from across the UK, for community and civic groups interested in partnership links with Africa to explore:

- Engaging communities with global poverty & development issues.
- Increasing participation in linking activities in Wales and Africa
- Community cohesion by bringing together civil and civic society, schools professionals, ethnic and cultural groups.
- Mutually beneficial actions and projects developed through linking that contribute to a more just, equitable and sustainable world.
- Networking and recognizing good practice towards quality, equity based, organisationally sustainable linking partnerships.

Information and a registration form can be secured from [info@ukowla.org.uk](mailto:info@ukowla.org.uk)

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## **Learning opportunities**

### **Training sessions just for your Board Any day, any place, any where!**

SMIDOS provides free sessions for your Board, wherever it meets, on:

- Good governance
- Charity Registration
- Devising a fundraising strategy
- Applying to Trusts
- Getting to know the International Development Sector in Wales

### **Charity Financial Management Certificate 23 & 24 September 2009, Cardiff**

This course is aimed at volunteers and paid staff involved in the management or scrutiny of finances within a charity. By the end of the course participants will be able to: explain the procedures required for adequate and appropriate financial controls within charities; provide examples of good practice in relation to financial controls; define the term ‘reserves’ as applicable to Charities and assess the appropriateness of a reserves policy; plus many more. Further details are available from Shirley David, BEST, tel 01646 651655, email [sdavid@bestuk.org.uk](mailto:sdavid@bestuk.org.uk). BEST is a private sector organisation that offers training courses to voluntary and community groups in Wales.

### **Basic Skills Conference for voluntary and community groups in Wales Wednesday 23 September 2009, The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells**

Be part of a growing network of organisations who like to make a difference. There will be interesting workshops and speakers. Take the chance to find out what the project has done. Stand up and have your say. Further details are available from Joanne Jones, Administrative Secretary - Basic Skills, tel 01352 744018, email [joanne.jones@flvc.org.uk](mailto:joanne.jones@flvc.org.uk).

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## News from across Wales

### **Somali Progressive Association, a high profile player in international development in Wales, told to recover expenses paid to chair.**

Reproduced from Paul Jump, Third Sector Online, 21 August 2009

#### **Charity Commission inquiry finds chair was undischarged bankrupt**

The [Charity Commission](#) has told the trustees of a Somali charity in South Wales to look into recovering expenses paid to the organisation's former chair, who was an undischarged bankrupt.

The [Somali Progressive Association](#), whose income in 2007/08 was just over £200,000, runs a drop-in advice centre for Somalis in Cardiff. The commission opened an inquiry in September 2008 amid concerns the chair's financial status could endanger its funds. Undischarged bankrupts are disqualified by law from acting as trustees.

The inquiry, which ran until May, concluded that the organisation's other trustees had not been aware of the financial situation of their chair, who has not been named and who resigned shortly after the inquiry was opened. They also admitted they had not been aware of their obligation to make sure undischarged bankrupts did not serve on the charity's board.

The inquiry also found that the trustees had paid themselves fixed annual amounts to cover their expenses, ranging from £1,700 in 2004/05 to £2,281 in 2006/07. The commission said such fixed fees amounted to trustee payment, which was forbidden by the charity's constitution.

It also said the trustees should "take steps to consider recovery" of the expenses paid to the disqualified chair. The commission's [inquiry report](#) says the regulator will consider using its own powers to recover the funds if the trustees decide not to proceed.

The trustees have also been given six months to address a number of other failings in the charity's accounting practices, including not properly documenting income and expenditure and allowing people to sign their own salary cheques.

Before the inquiry report was submitted, the police told the commission that they were still investigating whether the chair had committed an offence by acting as a trustee while an undischarged bankrupt.

### **Another attempt to co-ordinate international development in Wales gears up.**

Following many months of work on the part of SMIDOS to seek to find common ground for the co-ordination of international development work in Wales which failed to identify sufficient common ground or collective desire on which to proceed the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) has taken up the challenge and aims to establish a itself is seeking to establish a 'co-ordinating structure of interests which is *'useful .. and not heavy in its set up, and ....covers the diversity of activity in the field'*.

WCIA currently represents the International Development Sector of the WCVA Partnership Council and there should be great advantage in developing a closer link with its constituency. However, the sector would appear currently to be more characterised by multiple growth points than a desire for collective action. However, every effort to support should be afforded to WCIA in this venture. More information is available from Stephen Thomas, Director of WCIA on 02920 228549.

## Wales for Africa 2009/2010 grant and ‘allocated funds’ announced.

The completion of the Welsh assembly Government Wales for Africa grants programme for 2009/2010 has taken far longer than anyone had anticipated. It had been hoped that this second round of grants would be agreed and paid out far quicker than the first round, but this has not been the case.

SMIDOS requested the following from WAG

- a list of organisations that have received or will be receiving grants in the 2009-10 round of the Wales for Africa Grant Scheme, including the total grant sum allocated and purpose of the grant; and,
- information on the funds paid or allocated to other outside bodies (including consultants etc) during 2009-10 in support of the programme – giving name of the body, amount of funding and purpose of the funding.

The following information was received and is now available to SMIDOS.

£268,500 was approved as grant aid in response to applications, just one third of the available budget. Two thirds of the available budget, £561,528, was allocated to schemes designed to meet the WAG Wales for Africa Strategy.

### WALES FOR AFRICA GRANT SCHEME 2009-10

The following grants were awarded under the Wales for Africa Grant Scheme for 2009-10:

**1. Wales – Somaliland Communities Link Partnership £60,000**

The aim of this project is to support the Somali community and others in Wales to both contribute towards delivery of the Millennium Development Goals in Somaliland, whilst building their own skills and a sense of community. A cross community partnership committee has been formed to co-ordinate activity in areas such as school / community links, health, youth and women. This funding enables the Somali Progressive Association (SPA) to continue employing a development officer and create volunteering opportunities in Wales and Somaliland. It will support training of the volunteers and fund the project activities proposed by the partnership committee.

**2. Fair Trade Wales Activities £56,500**

The Fair Trade Wales organisation continues to support awareness and growth of the Fair Trade movement amongst communities, schools, volunteer networks and other organisations across Wales, building on the success of the Fair Trade Nation campaign. With these funds Fair Trade Wales has employed a development officer to work with town and county groups, and a schools co-ordinator to support and increase the numbers of Fairtrade Schools in Wales.

**3. Fair Trade for Business £40,000**

This project builds on the work previously undertaken by the Wales Co-operative Centre to support the business community in Wales to increase their knowledge and use of Fair Trade or ethically sourced products. In particular this project aims to work with iconic Welsh businesses and the tourism sector in Wales. With these funds the Wales Co-op Centre employs a business adviser to give information, support with marketing and practical assistance to Welsh businesses on Fair Trade.

**4. Africa- Wales Honey and Beeswax Trade Project £33,000**

Bees for Development and Tropical Forest Products Ltd in Aberystwyth (the only registered Fairtrade importer in Wales) are working together to support beekeepers in Cameroon to trade their way out of poverty. This project aims to produce a Welsh-designed honeycomb separator that will assist the Cameroonian beekeepers to improve the quality and yield of their honey and beeswax to meet international standards. These products will then be sold through Tropical Forest Products and the learning from this initiative will be shared other beekeepers in Africa and Wales.

**5. Engineering Training - Mbale Workshop Project £20,000**

This project will support General Electric Aircraft Engines (GEAE) Wales apprentices on the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award scheme in Wales to provide training to students of a machine tool workshop in Mbale, Uganda. This gives the Welsh apprentices the opportunity to develop their teaching/training, leadership and business management skills, and will help the Ugandan students to improve the efficiency of the machine tool shop in Mbale as a business. Other institutions, such as the local hospital, in Mbale will then benefit from the production and repair facilities at the workshop.

**6. Hope for Zimbabwe £15,000**

The Batanai Women's Network, a Zimbabwean women's group in South Wales, aims to support the people of the rural Gutu district in southern Zimbabwe. This funding will enable them to develop this embryonic link.

**7. Monitoring and Evaluation Project - Zambia £10,000**

This project aims to establish a common monitoring and evaluation framework/protocol for 4 Welsh organisations working on development projects in Zambia. This will enable these organisations to better guide and assess the effectiveness of their work in Zambia. It will also strengthen the capacity of their organisations in Wales and their links with each other and other international development initiatives in Wales.

**8. Soroti Orphanage Construction Project £10,000**

Engineers for Overseas Development (EFOD) is a subgroup of the Institute of Civil Engineers in Wales who fundraise and volunteer for infrastructure projects in developing countries. This project will support 16 young engineers/architects from EFOD to expand their skills, knowledge and experience by designing and constructing an orphanage for around 80 orphans in Soroti (North East Uganda). The young professionals from Wales will work as a team to design and manage the construction of the orphanage complex.

**9. Health Workers Partnership £8,000**

Health professionals from Wales who undertake voluntary work in Africa often report that the experience expands their professional and personal skill development, their ability to find creative solutions in a resource-poor environment, and increases their motivation and enthusiasm towards their work. This project, co-ordinated by the Southern Ethiopia Healthcare Link, will evaluate the impact that working in Ethiopia has on Welsh healthcare workers and how it contributes to their work in Wales. It will also support 4 Welsh midwives to conduct a midwifery skills workshop in Ethiopia.

**10. Fairtrade Coffee Co-operative Business Support and Producer – Consumer Links £7,000**

This funding facilitates a volunteer placement for a Welsh business/organisation adviser to provide advice and support for the Gumutindo Coffee Co-operative in Mbale, Uganda. The aims of the project are to support the Co-operative's growth as a Fairtrade business, connect the farmers to the PONT-Mbale community link, and use this experience to promote greater understanding of Fair Trade in Wales and connections between Fairtrade producers and consumers.

**11. Wales World Trade Fair event £5,000**

A Wales World Trade Fair, co-ordinated by Love Zimbabwe (a fair trade crafts business), will be held using this funding to promote awareness of Fair Trade in Wales and the wide range of Fair Trade products that are now available. It will also increase knowledge about Wales' commitment to being a Fair Trade Nation.

**12. Disaster Relief Training courses and International Development Conference**

**£3,000**

**13.**

The funding gives enable students and professionals (largely in engineering and related disciplines) the opportunity to undertake training courses on disaster relief/ humanitarian work in Wales. The courses are run by RedR (the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief) and arranged by the Engineers Without Borders group of Cardiff University. An International Development conference will also be held.

**14. Fairtrade Debate – Hay Festival**

**£1,000**

This grant supported a Fairtrade debate, '*Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles*', which took place during the Hay Festival in Wales (May 2009). The debate involved Harriet Lamb, Executive Director of the UK Fairtrade Foundation talking to Rosie Boycott, campaigner and former editor of *The Independent* newspaper. It promoted greater understanding of the key issues surrounding Fair Trade in Wales.

**TOTAL FUNDS OFFERED (2009-10): £ 268,500**

<p><b>WALES FOR AFRICA ALLOCATED FUNDS 2009-10</b></p>
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The following expenditure is funding that has been allocated outside of the Wales for Africa Grant Scheme for 2009-10:

**International Learning Opportunities**

**£180,000**

This project is delivered under contract by VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), and it is being managed by Public Service Management Wales – a Welsh Assembly Government body supporting the development of managers and leaders.

This project aims to send c.25 public sector managers per year on 8 week placements with VSO's partners in sub-Saharan Africa. They share skills and knowledge, and develop their own skills in leadership, understanding of different cultures, and new ways of working.

**Gold Star Communities**

**£172,000**

This project is about building links between communities in Wales and communities in sub-Saharan Africa for mutual development. It was developed in partnership between the Wales Civil Society MDG Task Force and BUILD UK (Building Understanding through International Links for Development), and it is managed by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). It is recognised by the UN Development Programme as a pilot for working out the best attributes of community – community linking between Northern and Southern countries.

There are now over 100 community links actively engaged in this project and we hope eventually to link every community/area in Wales with a community in Africa. The partnerships aim to help deliver the MDGs and promote mutual community development and learning. They focus on 5 main topics (or 'gold stars') which are: health; livelihoods; the environment; children; and social harmony.

**Fair Trade Wales Coordinator**

**£50,000**

Ongoing funding has been provided to fund a full time Fair Trade Wales Coordinator to support and promote Fair Trade activity across Wales, working with communities, schools, organisations, government and others to increase the use of Fair Trade; and specifically to develop new Fair Trade Nation criteria and maintain Fair Trade Nation Status.

**Dolen Cymru core funding**

**£55,000**

The Dolen Cymru– Wales Lesotho Link will continue to expand its work supporting links between Wales and Lesotho and enabling individuals and organisations in Wales to make a real and lasting impact on the MDGs in the global South. Funding is for 2009 – 2010 for a sustained programme of work supporting the delivery of the Wales for Africa programme.

### **Territorial Approach to Climate Change**

**£50,000**

This funding has been allocated for engagement with the Territorial Approach to Climate Change programme being delivered in association with the UNDP and associations of regional governments. Wales is initially focusing on the Mbale region of Uganda. The funds will support the engagement of Welsh experts in the programme, supporting Ugandan visits to Wales and in delivering the commitments made in the Letter of Intent signed with the UNDP in late 2009. Costs already incurred so far include:

*£272.94 for Andrew Maweji, the Chief Administrative Officer, Uganda – to fly from Amsterdam to Cardiff .*

*£701.59 – Dr. Hilary Thomas expenses to participate in the joint Welsh Assembly Government/UNDP scoping mission to Mbale.*

*£550 consultancy costs for Dr Ele Fisher, of the Centre for Development Studies, Swansea University to compile a specialist policy briefing submitted to DfID.*

### **Small and Medium International Development Organisations (SMIDOS)**

**£34,528**

This project aims to increase skills, capacity and joint working of small and medium international development organisations in Wales. It will enable these organisations to network with each other and with larger international development organisations. It will also assist them to share information, link to other international development initiatives in Wales and develop capabilities in income generation and sourcing funding.

This scheme is designed to strengthen the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by SMIDO's in Wales through their work in Africa, and also to build and develop models of sustainable intervention that elevate the calibre of what Wales does through its Wales for Africa Strategy. It is central to the philosophy and approach to Wales in Africa and is focussed on tangible outcomes and measurable progress.

### **Wales for Africa Health Links support**

**£20,000**

Funding to increase the number and impact of hospital / health linking work in Africa is available from the Welsh Assembly Government's Welsh NHS Health Links fund (with a total budget of £50,000 per year). Guidance has been issued to NHS Trusts advising them to treat participation in such schemes as a valuable contribution to their staff's continuing professional development. The Wales for Africa funds pay for an annual conference for Wales – Africa Health work and the activities of a support group for links which promotes best practice amongst members. Wales now has a fifth of all of the hospital links with Africa in the UK.

**TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED (2009/10) £561,528**

**Internship opportunity in Lesotho with Dolen Cymru - application deadline very soon!**

Dolen Cymru is supporting their partner organisation, Lesotho Wales Link, to recruit and manage a 12-month internship to bridge the gap between the current Education Director's retirement and the appointment of a new Executive Director in October 2010.

The internship, which will be based in Maseru, Lesotho for up to one year, is an exceptional and rare opportunity for candidates to gain substantial field experience in international development in Africa, and to take on the exciting challenge of helping develop a well-known organisation.

Further information can be downloaded as follows:

- Lesotho Wales Link Development Intern - [Background Information](#)
- Lesotho Wales Link Development Intern - [Role Profile and Person Specification](#)
- Lesotho Wales Link Development Intern - [Application Form](#)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

Any queries should be directed to Dolen Cymru on 02920 497390, or email [swyddfa@dolencymru.org](mailto:swyddfa@dolencymru.org)

## **‘Size of Wales’ Project - Wales saving Africa’s tropical forest**

The preservation of our planet’s tropical forests is now recognised to be the critical dimension of the global efforts to tackle climate change. (Stern, 2006) .We are losing tropical forest at the rate of 13 million hectares a year and this contributes around 20% of the 32 Gigatonne annual human carbon footprint (University of Leeds, 2009). These forests also support over 50% of all terrestrial species and around a billion people in some of the world’s most underdeveloped communities. This is an emergency situation that will affect us all. It has to be addressed.

The aim of this project is to mobilise all sectors of Welsh society to sustain an area of tropical forest of 2.08 million hectares on a continuing basis by working in partnership with forest communities to assist them towards sustainable management of their forest resources and to make a significant and innovative contribution to reducing global carbon emissions. It is also of paramount importance to raise awareness and educate ourselves about our interdependence as we attempt the difficult transition from carbon effluence towards a society based on carbon retention.

Wales is often used as a reference point to describe forest loss, “an area the size of Wales...” Our aim is to turn this on its head and into a positive statement of the nation of Wales sustaining a tropical forest area of equivalent size and to provide leadership in demonstrating how a small country can make a difference in our greatest global challenge. We hope that if we can achieve this aim in the substantive and meaningful way laid out in this plan, other countries may opt to emulate the model that we are creating and ultimately reverse the destruction of our critically important tropical forest ecosystems.

‘Size of Wales’ is initially focused on sub-Saharan Africa as this coincides with the Welsh Assembly Government’s “Wales for Africa” programme and because forest communities in Africa are amongst the poorest in the world and thus most in need of assistance, in terms of delivery of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. The latest research (Caldiera, 2007) indicates that we get the greatest ‘cooling effect’ from forests located close to the Equator so it makes very good sense for us to prioritise support for these tropical communities in their efforts to move towards sustainable development and in the future we will look to broaden our scope to include sustenance for all tropical forest areas.

This ground-breaking initiative, implemented by the Wales Millennium Development Goals Task Force and hosted by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action will be a global first. A Project Manager for the project is now being sought: Further information is available from Peter Davies at [peter@pdpartnership.co.uk](mailto:peter@pdpartnership.co.uk)

### **‘Size of Wale’ - Project Manager**

Responsible to:

WCVA Chief Executive

'Size of Wales' Project Management Group  
Day-to-day management - Peter Davies, Project Coordinator, Millennium Development Goals Task Force and Commissioner for Wales, UK Sustainable Development Task Force

Salary:	£28,956 increasing to £30,552 after successful completion of six month probationary period.
Band:	5
Base:	Cardiff Bay, Aberystwyth or Rhyl. The post will require travel throughout Wales.
Hours:	35 hours per week.
Annual leave:	25 days plus 5 discretionary days
Probation period:	The post is subject to the successful completion of a six month probationary period.
Superannuation:	An additional 9% of salary will be available as a contribution to an approved pension scheme of choice or membership of the local authority final salary pension scheme.
Travel:	Use of public transport is preferred; when this is not convenient staff may use their own vehicles or use the car rental system. Mileage rates are paid in accordance with recommended Inland Revenue rates.
Contacts	WCVA Chief Executive and Cluster Co-ordinators Gold Star Communities Project Manager / Development Officer Other WCVA staff and units
Contacts (external):	Wales Civil Society Millennium Development Goals Task Force 'Size of Wales' Project Management Group Waterloo Foundation Welsh Assembly Government 'Wales for Africa' Team UN Development Programme Individual Wales-Africa Community Partnerships Cynnal Cymru / Sustain Wales Environment Sector Stakeholders County Voluntary Councils WCVA membership

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## Consultations

### Is there a role for local government in global poverty reduction?

Is there a role for local government in global poverty reduction? Does this type of work benefit our local communities in the UK? The UK Local Government Alliance for International Development has just launched a short survey and wants your views.

Responses are welcome from people working in as many different parts of local government as possible, even if you have never previously been involved in development work. Forward this survey to colleagues <http://surveys.lg-alliance.org/index.php?sid=14948&lang=en>.

All those who complete the survey and provide their contact details will automatically be entered into our prize draw to win a Fairtrade chocolate hamper sponsored by Divine Chocolate [www.divinechocolate.com](http://www.divinechocolate.com).

### 'Gold Star Communities' seeks new direction and new name

Gold Star Communities will soon be asking its participants for their opinions on the long-term branding and development of the project and the *name*.

The Gold Star scheme was piloted in Wales for partners BUILD, and has been successful such that other countries, in particular Norway, will be launching their own Gold Star projects later this year. The UN Gold Star Award and Framework will continue to underpin the Welsh project.

The project is run by WCVA and its management group is to consider options for its future development and what it should be called. The current options are:

a) **'Global Communities'**: the frontrunner, sounds similar but is much clearer in meaning to the public. It reflects the outward looking nature of Welsh communities who have African links, their championing of global citizenship, and the interdependence of the world today with such challenges as climate change and trade.

b) **'Baobab'**: an African name drawn from the 'tree of life' that supports communities throughout Africa, with its deep roots, strong trunk and blossoming leaves symbolic of the efforts, and fruits, of people to people links. Inspiring story behind the name, but doesn't say what the community links network do!

c) **'Affricymru'**: A 'compounded' word joining Wales and Africa in Welsh – symbolic of the joining of communities, and geographic focus of Wales-Africa links.

d) **'Wales-Africa Community Partnerships for Sustainable Development'**: the 'does what it says on the tin' option, though not quite snappy to roll off the tongue!

All these options would have a strap-line e.g. '*The Wales-Africa Community Links Network*,' and could continue to use the Gold Star image and branding on the award framework itself.

Responses and ideas should be sent to [cowen@wcva.org.uk](mailto:cowen@wcva.org.uk) as soon as possible as the decision will be taken on **23<sup>rd</sup>. September**.

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## Research

### **Regeneration Skills Collective, Wales (rscw4africa) produces a *Wales for Africa* Initiative and Action Plan.**

This interesting report is based on 73 responses to an electronic questionnaire and produces a variety of recommendations for year one of an action plan - see below. Well worth a read. Further information and a copy of the report can be secured from Roisin Willmot ([roisinwillmott@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:roisinwillmott@rtpi.org.uk))

- Set up *rscw4africa* committee, at least four committee meetings planned
- Support RTPi Cymru international workshop
- Design website, ask institute support to set up website, publicise through RSCW institutes/institutions
- Publicise *rscw4africa* to Gold Star Communities, and other community partnerships
- Meet with Dolen Cymru to agree potential *rscw4africa* input to design of training and conference centre
- Meeting with NDR Committee to agree Seminar in Feb/March 2009
- Run NDR seminar Feb/March 2009
- Develop links with Commonwealth Association of Planners, Africa-UK Engineering Partnership for Development
- Explore potential for extending ILO programme to institutions in Wales
- Identify potential funding streams; preparation of ideas for grant submissions

### **Money Transfer & Container Freight**

SMIDOS is undertaking research into the costs of Money transfers and Container freight. An initial questionnaire is to be followed up by a more extensive one which was found to be necessary.

## **Anti-malaria drugs**

SMIDOS is seeking information on the costs attached to anti-malaria drugs required by those travelling to sub-Saharan Africa. The breadth of cost is considerable, and SMIDOS aims to publish where these drugs can be most cheaply acquired.

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## **Climate Change update**

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## Policy matters

### WAG Cross Party International Development Group

The members of this group are David Melding AM, Leanne Wood AM, Mick Bates AM and John Griffiths AM. It last met in March 2004. SMIDOS has requested that it be convened to consider the work of SMIDOS and recommendations emerging from the first 18 months of SMIDOS work.

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## A good read

*Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day* (by Collins, Morduch, Rutherford & Ruthven) tackles the fundamental question of how the poor make ends meet. Over 250 families in Bangladesh, India, and South Africa participated in this unprecedented study of the financial practices of the world's poor.

These households were interviewed every two weeks over the course of a year, reporting on their most minute financial transactions. This book shows that many poor people have surprisingly sophisticated financial lives, saving and borrowing with an eye to the future and creating complex "financial portfolios" of formal and informal tools.

This book is worth a look and reveals the nuggets of what needs to be addressed in tackling poverty – with or without the current 'climate change' debate! £19.90 on AMAZON (Hard Back)

*The State of Africa – A history of fifty years of independence: Martin Meredith, Free Press / Public Affairs Books ISBN 3743232224*

It is possible to believe that the many problems that Africa faces - war, genocide, poverty, famine - are the faults either of Western governments and financial institutions and/or the result of natural disasters. How is that an entire continent, pretty much, can be in such dire straits? Why is it that it is afflicted with so many deep-rooted and intractable problems? Martin Meredith's 'The State of Africa' seeks to explore the recent history of the continent, throwing much light on the answers to these difficult questions.

Meredith's work has an enormous scope, covering as it does the entire continent, from Egypt and North Africa right on down to South Africa, via the Congo, Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan and the rest. Add to this wide geographic scope the fact that it looks at the period from independence onwards, starting with the story of Kwame Nkrumah and Ghana in the late 1950s and closing with relatively recent events in Darfur and Zimbabwe. While the book certainly lacks the depth of a dedicated study of the history of any one country, Meredith makes a good job of providing convincing over-views of the principal events and key protagonists in recent African history.

Unfortunately for Africa the first generation of post-independence leaders set the a pattern that continues to the present day. Without exception leaders like Nkrumah, Kenyatta, Nyerere and so on took power with excellent motives only to build regimes that were dysfunctional, corrupt, nepotistic and unfailingly authoritarian. With inexorable logic the systems they built lapsed into gangsterism that obeyed a single directive and that was to retain power at all costs. In many cases this meant exploiting tribal and racial

differences, building huge networks of patronage and nepotism, enriching supporters and exploiting the rest of the population.

The following generations of leaders have been, if anything, worse. Seizing and keeping power by force, these leaders have plundered their countries to an unimaginable extent. Meredith paints detailed portraits of people like Mobutu, Amin, Bokassa and so on, men who bled their countries dry and whose policies led to poverty and war that continues into the present.

This is not to say that Meredith ignores those factors that contributed to these dismal outcomes. Artificial borders imposed by colonial powers, under-development, lack of educational opportunities for Africans, Cold War power politics and more were all factors that contributed to the problems that newly independent states faced in Africa. However, the narrative that Meredith effectively outlines makes plain that these factors were exacerbated many-fold by incompetence, egotism, greed and plain old fashioned lust for power. Without established institutions in place to check their power the new leaders of Africa turned their countries into money-making machines for themselves, families and supporters.

The dismal and depressing picture that emerges is not without hope. Botswana, for example, managed to steer a course towards a viable economy, multi-party democracy and stable society. Nelson Mandela turned his back on 'Big Man' politics, in stark contrast to Robert Mugabe in neighbouring Zimbabwe.

However, the over-whelming picture that emerges is of tyranny, violence and venality on a scale that beggars belief. It is not the Western banks that emerge as the principal villains, but those African leaders who swallowed up loans and bribes by the billion. It is the population of Africa who are the real victims of this story - they have suffered poverty, violence, ill-health and oppression. It needn't have been so. It doesn't have to be that way even now.

Along with William Easterly's '[The White Man's Burden](#)' and Robert Guest's '[The Shackled Continent](#)', this book is required reading for anyone interested in contemporary Africa.

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## SMIDOS Useful Tip



If you have too many cases for your next outward journey by BA E-mail Mary Brew on [mary.brew@ba.com](mailto:mary.brew@ba.com) as she has the discretion to increase the weight at no additional cost of what a charity worker takes out - because they bring so little on their return flight! Filling out a short form is required.

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## SMIDOS *EYE*

The third edition of SMIDOS EYE will be circulated on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. Deadline for event information and comments is 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

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If you would like information on events or activities included in this regular briefing then please send us copy in good time to SMIDOS at [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com)

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