

Institution: Durham University		
Unit of Assessment: 24: Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism		
Title of case study: Establishing new global and national sport policy approaches towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: Between August 2014 to May 2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Iain Lindsey	Associate Professor	Aug 2014 to date
Period when the claimed impact occurred: Between May 2016 and July 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
<p>1. Summary of the impact</p> <p>Lindsey's research "has been direct[ly] credited with influencing a shift in global policy on sport and development" (E6, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2018; p9-10). Specifically, his work prompted and shaped international and national sport policies to align with new priorities of the United Nations' (2015) global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Having undertaken novel policy-oriented research on the use of sport for development outcomes, Lindsey was commissioned in 2016 by the Commonwealth Secretariat to write a report and policy guidance for its 54 member governments on <i>Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the SDGs</i>. This was the first publication globally to propose policy-focused recommendations for the contribution of sport to relevant SDGs and specific targets.</p> <p>Lindsey's policy guidance contributed to sport being included as an outcome for the first time in a Commonwealth Strategic Plan (2017-2021). It was also used to directly inform UNESCO's (2017) global framework for sport policy implementation, and it continues to be the Commonwealth Secretariat's primary policy guidance in the training and technical support they provide across their 54 member governments. Seven Commonwealth countries including Botswana and Mauritius have created and implemented new or revised national sports policies as a result.</p>		
<p>2. Underpinning research</p> <p>Since the start of the 21st century, the use of sport to contribute to development outcomes – known as Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) – has expanded significantly across the global North and South and has also been subject to increasing academic interest. Lindsey's research has been at the forefront of this emergent field, making distinctive contributions spanning local, national and global dimensions of SDP and bringing together critical analysis and advocacy for policy and practice improvements. He has developed new policy-orientated conceptual frameworks for SDP and undertaken original empirical studies with partners in sub-Saharan Africa, with all research collectively centring on three themes:</p> <p><u>SDP Policy Development and Coherence</u></p> <p>Lindsey's research made novel and significant contributions through applying concepts of policy diffusion [R1] and policy coherence [R4] to SDP for the first time. This has enabled his work to provide informed empirical analysis that explained limitations of governmental involvement across the SDP field [R1]. Lindsey and Bitugu's analysis of the diffusion of SDP policy across sub-Saharan Africa found that growing recognition of SDP in national policies was undermined by a lack of significant progress in detailed policy development and implementation [R1]. Where priority in many countries often remained orientated towards high-performance sport [R1], Lindsey & Darby [R2] argued that SDP policy should encompass greater policy coherence across "grassroots to elite and professional sport" to enable alignment across relevant SDGs. Lindsey's research in Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania [R3, R4] also identified that SDP policymakers and practitioners needed to focus attention towards learning from experiences in wider, "mainstream" development sectors in order to gain desired recognition for the potential contributions of sport to development outcomes.</p>		

In developing understanding of policy processes that span different geopolitical levels, Lindsey's work demonstrated that limitations of international guidance and support to national governments have hindered the development of implementable SDP policies. Analysis of 45 global and international policy documents for SDP identified that these commonly advocated that governments contribute directly to "implementing sustaining or scaling up SDP programmes" [R1] without fully accounting for constrained public finances in countries of the global South or the existing role of non-governmental organisations in implementing programmes. Instead, Lindsey recommended varied roles for governments in supporting SDP implementation, utilising specific policy tools and capacities that are unavailable to non-government organisations [R4]. Moreover, rather than provide short-term resource transfers, international institutions were advised to support national governments through in-depth capacity building [R1]. Across Lindsey's research, he has strongly and consistently recommended that international SDP policies and support should have sufficient flexibility to enable adaptation according to circumstances and priorities identified within particular countries [R1-6].

Collaboration across SDP and with other sectors

Lindsey's empirical research on relationships between different organisations that are associated with SDP has been distinctive, given that attention in other research and advocacy has commonly focused on individual SDP programmes. Findings from Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania have demonstrated a greater diversity of organisations engaging in SDP implementation and delivery than has been represented elsewhere [R1, R3, R4]. These findings served to emphasise the widespread need to address problems of fragmentation and competition across SDP organisations by developing different forms of collaboration and coordination. Research in Zambia also identified the importance of recognising the range of purposes that collaboration between organisations could achieve, including knowledge sharing, capacity building and pooling of resources [R3].

These findings enabled Lindsey to go beyond previously unsophisticated advocacy for more 'partnerships' that was found in previous SDP policy documents [R1], and instead propose novel and differentiated approaches to collaboration across SDP and with other development organisations [R3]. Key contributions from Lindsey's research have focused on ways in which governments and diverse non-governmental organisations may work together to effectively contribute to SDP implementation [R4, R5]. Specifically, a differentiated spectrum of relationships – spanning varied extents of governmental- to non-governmental-leadership and different degrees of formality and informality – was conceptualised [R5]. Linked to the SDGs, this conceptualisation provided a key framework for the policy guidance that Lindsey produced for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Use of evidence in SDP policy and practice

Lindsey and colleagues [R3, R6] have drawn on their empirical research to argue for more nuanced positions on the widespread narrative regarding a lack of evidence for SDP and the common focus on evaluation and research approaches that solely focus on specific programmes. The importance of avoiding accountability measures which foster exaggerated claims of impact has been recognised [R6]. Instead, to advance policy development, Lindsey's publications have advocated the value of gaining evidence that is contextually-sensitive and further differentiates between potential beneficiary groups in SDP [R3, R6]. Collation of national-level data, in addition to that at programme and community levels, has also been identified as important to SDP policy learning within and across countries [R1].

3. References to the research

[R1] Lindsey, I., & Bitugu, B. B. (2018). Distinctive policy diffusion patterns, processes and actors: drawing implications from the case of sport in international development. *Policy Studies*, 39(4), 444-464. DOI: 10.1080/01442872.2018.1479521

[R2] Lindsey, I., & Darby, P. (2019). Sport and the Sustainable Development Goals: Where is the policy coherence? *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 54 (7), 793-812. DOI: 10.1177/1012690217752651

[R3] Lindsey, I., Kay, T., Jeanes, R., & Banda, D. (2017). *Localizing global sport for development*. Manchester: Manchester University Press. DOI:10.7765/9781526104991

[R4] Lindsey, I. (2017). Governance in sport-for-development: Problems and possibilities of (not) learning from international development. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 52(7), 801-818. DOI:10.1177/1012690215623460

[R5] Lindsey, I., Chapman, T., & Dudfield, O. (2020). Configuring relationships between state and non-state actors: a new conceptual approach for sport and development. *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics*, 12(1), 127-146. DOI: 10.1080/19406940.2019.1676812

[R6] Jeanes, R. & Lindsey, I. (2014). Where's the 'Evidence'? Reflecting on Monitoring and Evaluation within Sport-for-Development. In Young, K. & Okada, C. (eds.) *Sport, Social Development and Peace*. Bingley: Emerald. DOI:10.1108/s1476-2854_2014_0000008009

Quality of research: All articles have been published in highly regarded journals within their respective fields, including two articles [R2, R4] in the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (Web of Science, 2018). Anonymised peer reviews of other articles indicated that: R1 "brings an innovative and timely perspective to the issue of policy diffusion ... and so this article makes important connections to sport"; R5 is "compelling, interesting, and an important offering in sport and development"; R3 "is unique in its framework and suggestions for future research on SFD". As a book chapter, R6 has been repeatedly cited as a key source in discussions of the evidence-base for SDP in published reviews of, and overarching commentaries on, the SDP field (e.g. Darnell et al. 2018; Peachey and Cohen, 2018; Whitley et al., 2019).

Associated grants & consultancy

Lindsey: Principal Investigator.

Sustainable Development in African Sport. Leverhulme Trust International Networks IN-050 (2011 – 2015); GBP97,118 (GBP32,407 to Durham University)

Lindsey: Principal Investigator/Consultant.

Policy guidance on Enhancing the contribution of sport to the Sustainable Development Goals. Commonwealth Secretariat (2016); GBP16,842

4. Details of the impact

Through his production of specific policy guidance for the Commonwealth Secretariat, Lindsey's research has prompted and shaped international and national sport policies to align with the new global development priorities which the SDGs represent.

Production and significance of new policy guidance for sport and SDGs

Impact has been generated in a context in which the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) 2015 resolution to adopt the 17 SDGs also gave specific, formal recognition to the contributory role of sport as an "important enabler of sustainable development". However, the breadth of sport's expected contribution across the SDGs brought into sharp relief the existing limitations of global leadership and governmental policy development for SDP [R1]. The importance of the UNGA's 2015 resolution, therefore, came at "a time when direction on available evidence, policy options, implementation approaches and monitoring and evaluation were required" by international and national policy makers in order to bring about the desired contributions of sport to the SDGs [E3, Head of Sport for Development and Peace, Commonwealth Secretariat].

This need for SDP policy development, and the alignment with his previous research in the SDP field, led to Lindsey (together with Chapman, researcher at St Chad's College, Durham University) being selected by the Commonwealth Secretariat to produce new policy

guidance for all Commonwealth governments on '*Enhancing the contribution of sport to the Sustainable Development Goals*' [E1]. Drawing on evidence and understanding from his research [R1-6] Lindsey and Chapman's report was the first globally to propose policy-orientated recommendations for the contribution of sport to relevant SDGs and specific SDG targets.

Preparation of the policy guidance benefited from the strong alignment between Lindsey's ongoing research on governmental policy development, collaboration and evidence use in SDP [R1-6] and the UN's specification of SDG17 which set out the desired 'means of implementation' for all countries to reach the other 16 SDGs. The overarching framework in Lindsey and Chapman's policy guidance and recommendations was therefore based on their (subsequently published, R5) conceptualisation of differentiated relationships between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Furthermore, Lindsey's research also addressed the need for linked but flexible recommendations for each of the SDGs covered in the report. These recommendations were, therefore, structured to advance: (i) governmental use of different policy instruments to steer implementation [R1, R4]; (ii) policy coherence with other development sectors and across grassroots to high-performance sport [R2], (iii) collation and use of differentiated evidence from diverse sources, including existing national datasets [R1, R3, R6]. Lindsey and Chapman finalised their report and policy guidance in May 2016; it was used from that date by the Commonwealth Secretariat and was formally published in April 2017 [E1].

Impact on strategic focus and leadership for SDP within the Commonwealth and across international institutions

Lindsey and Chapman's (2017) report subsequently and directly informed the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat's SDP programme and represents their primary policy guidance for sport and the SDGs [E1]. The report was collectively and formally recommended by Commonwealth Sport Ministers in August 2016 [E2] and, across the Commonwealth Secretariat itself, further "contributed to internal understanding and valuing of the work to link sport policy with wider sustainable development outcomes" [E3, Head of Sport for Development and Peace, Commonwealth Secretariat]. Consequently, sport was specifically included as one of 18 Intermediate Outcomes in the Commonwealth Secretariat's overall Strategic Plan for the first time in 2017 [E4] and Commonwealth Heads of Government committed, at their 2018 meeting, to working with sport bodies to maximise the contribution of sport to the SDGs [E5].

Externally, "The publication of [Lindsey and Chapman's] *Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the SDGs* further positioned the [Commonwealth] Secretariat as leader in the SDP space" and amongst a range of international institutions [E6, Commonwealth Secretariat Annual Results Report 2016-17, p44]. Testimonials further confirm how the Commonwealth Secretariat was "enabled us to speak with a level of authority around various policy positions that we wish to take forward" with external stakeholders because of recognition of the quality of Lindsey and Chapman's report [E3, Head of Sport for Development and Peace, Commonwealth Secretariat]. UNESCO and the OECD provided specific endorsement for the report [E6] and, between 2016 and 2018, it was used by the Commonwealth Secretariat to advance the reach of their advocacy across international institutions including the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Health Organisation, and African Union Commission [E3].

Impact on aligning global sport policy with the SDGs

Because of its status, the policy guidance produced by Lindsey and Chapman was "direct[ly] credited with influencing a shift in global policy on sport and development" [E6, Commonwealth Secretariat Annual Results Report 2017-2018, p9-10]. In particular, the policy guidance was cited as providing impetus towards re-orientating global sport policy commitments and "valuably informed the identification of specific SDGs and SDG Targets"

that were prioritised at the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) in July 2017 [E3, Executive Officer for Sport, UNESCO]. The Commonwealth Secretariat specifically utilised the content of Lindsey and Chapman's (2017) report in fulfilling their leading role in drafting new policy statements for MINEPS VI on "Maximizing the Contributions of Sport to Sustainable Development and Peace" [E3, E7, p9]. These statements became one of the three main policy areas that comprised the resultant *Kazan Action Plan and MINEPS Sport Policy Follow-up Framework* [E7]. The significance of the *Kazan Action Plan* was such that it was adopted by MINEPS VI as the "overarching reference for fostering international convergence amongst policy-makers in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sport" [E7, UNESCO, p3]. This advance in global sport policy was subsequently welcomed by the UNESCO General Conference in 2017.

Impact on development and implementation of national sport policies

Lindsey and Chapman's policy guidance has, and continues to be, used by the Commonwealth Secretariat in the training and technical support they provide across their member governments in order to align and implement national sport policies towards the SDGs. Since the completion of the policy guidance in May 2016, this has influenced policy change in seven countries, including:

- Botswana: The specific policy guidance on SDG5 (Gender Equity) produced by Lindsey and Chapman [E1] was a valued reference point in the development of Botswana's new national Gender and Sports Strategy [E8]. A specific recommendation for evidence use in Lindsey and Chapman's policy guidance, to ensure that all measures of sport policy implementation and outcomes are disaggregated by gender, is now a requirement of all organisations funded by the Botswana National Sports Commission [E6, E8].
- Mauritius: the Government has developed a new *National Sport and Physical Activity Policy* (published August 2018) orientated towards "global standards in harnessing the power of sport and physical activity to create impact against the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals" [E9, p25]. New allocations of MUR25m rupees and MUR38m rupees in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 national budgets were ring-fenced for implementation of the new policy through a dedicated and newly created unit in the Ministry of Youth and Sports [E10].

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

[E1] Lindsey, I. and Chapman, T. (2017) *Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

DOI:10.14217/9781848599598-en

[E2] The Commonwealth (4 August 2016) 8th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting Communiqué. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

[E3] Testimonials: (i) Head of Sport for Development and Peace, Commonwealth Secretariat (1 September 2020) (ii) Executive Officer for Sport, UNESCO (17 March 2020).

[E4] The Commonwealth (2017) Commonwealth Secretariat Strategic Plan: 2017/18 – 2020/21. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

[E5] The Commonwealth (2018) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Communiqué: "Towards a Common Future". London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

[E6] The Commonwealth, Commonwealth Secretariat Annual Results Reports (i) 2016-2017 & (ii) 2017-18. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

[E7] UNESCO (2017) *Kazan Action Plan*. Kazan: UNESCO.

[E8] Botswana National Sports Council & Women and Sport Botswana (2017) *Botswana Gender & Sports Strategy*.

[E9] Ministry of Youth and Sports (2018) *National Sport and Physical Activity Policy for the Republic of Mauritius 2018-2028*. Port Louis: Republic of Mauritius.

[E10] Republic of Mauritius (2018) *Budget 2018/2019: Promoting sports culture for a healthier nation*. Port Louis: Government Information Service, Prime Minister's Office and Republic of Mauritius, Budget (2017) 2017-2018, *Fostering a Sport culture in Mauritius*.