The next steps for this project

I have prototype designs that I would like to develop further. Through discussion with interested parties and local entrepreneurs, designs can be tweaked, allowing the possibility then to manufacture further prototypes and the opportunity to do some real in country market research. I have a contact in Rwanda who runs a renewable energy company there and is more than happy to field test my products once he has some.

With respect to increasing its impact and future work I am very keen to embed these products in the west to, where we suffer from 'throwaway consumer product syndrome' ! Here lighting to read by isn't the issue but ambient lighting without the requirement to always connect to the mains is a market.

Charging mobile phones similarly without the use of the ubiquitous 'wall plug' would be another market.

Both of these market sectors would also be open to the idea of a beautiful wooden, reduced plastic, design, possibly made in Africa or locally, even if it was slightly more expensive than the Chinese plastic equivalent.

I believe once the basic product design is finalised I am hoping that future design iterations will happen organically as the local skill base improves.