



Research partnerships and collaborations helping to address the sustainable development goals

Below is an example demonstrating our response to Target 6.3 and Target 6b:

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally; Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Exeter researchers have worked with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) to inform policy and regulation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the environment. The team's research resulted in two antimicrobials (trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole) being included on the EU Water Framework Directive's Priority Hazardous Substances Watch List (EU) 2020/1161. This lists potential aquatic pollutants that should be carefully monitored by EU member states to determine the risk they pose to the aquatic environment, and whether they should be subject to EU Environmental Quality Standards (EQS). The Water Industries and Pollution Expert at the EEA, who is involved in Water Framework Directive policy formation, said that the research on sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim "informed the discussion for the new watch list, as can be seen in the meeting paper acknowledgements and JRC's technical report acknowledgements" This is resulting in changes in environmental surveillance for potentially hazardous chemicals.

One symptom of the rapidly warming world is accelerated sea level rise. For Small Island Developing States, addressing development challenges while planning for climate change is a constant struggle. Kiribati is a low-lying island nation in the Pacific Ocean, and is often defined by the grim prognosis for its future. There are pressing development challenges which affect people's lives in Kiribati today, such as access to clean water, and dealing with increasing amounts of waste. As Claire Anterea from the environmental organisation Kirican has said 'we will drown in rubbish before we drown in water'. Exeter research work with Kirican, a Climate Change NGO in Kiribati, to co-design a community-level programme towards sustainable development. The project funded a community initiative to provide educational workshops and buy two trucks to remove rubbish that was polluting the water supply and presenting a danger to children in three villages (Nanikai pop. 803; Banan pop. 1,170; Ambo pop. 1,688) on the Island of Tarawa (pop. 40,000). In order to empower the community, KiriCAN helped establish a new waste collection strategy utilising these trucks: "When we talk about waste [the villages] really want to do something to solve it ... The project with the trucks will give them hope."