

Future17

SDG Challenge

PROJECT EXAMPLES



Throughout the previous cycles of Future17 there have been a huge range of inspiring projects collaborating with various project partners from all around the world. We present several examples below of projects that may help to inspire your own project development.



University
of Exeter



BREAKING THE CYCLE – EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT FOR CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS IN BANGLADESH (BANGLADESH)



*Sustainable
Development
Goals:*



Summary:

The project aims to support vulnerable children through an integrated model that combines quality education, safe accommodation, and market-relevant vocational skills, while strengthening long-term sustainability through a professional fundraising strategy.

**Students: Exeter, AUS,
Stellenbosch and UNEC**

Mentors: Exeter and Stellenbosch

Findings and conclusion:

The project team collaborated with the Life Transformation Foundation to turn their vision for supporting marginalized children in Dhaka into a fundable, actionable plan. They assessed the challenges, clarified the operational model, and identified key priorities to address poverty, exploitation, and educational exclusion.

To enable fundraising and launch readiness, the team produced a comprehensive set of deliverables, including a pitch deck, funder database, program templates, brand identity, donor outreach materials, and a complete social media and website strategy.

COMIC BOOK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ACTION (UGANDA)



Sustainable Development Goals:



Summary:

The project aims to inspire young people to take environmental action by turning complex issues into engaging stories and visuals. Students will create a multi-issue comic for schools, libraries, and online platforms to raise awareness and encourage eco-friendly behaviors, with impact measured by reach, engagement, and changes in attitudes.

Students: Exeter, Duke Kunshan and UNEC

Mentors: Duke Kunshan and UNEC

Findings and conclusion:

The team created a comic aimed at children and young readers to make environmental issues more engaging and accessible. It follows Leo and Sienna as they explore themes of deforestation and pollution through imaginative storytelling, promoting responsibility, friendship, and hope.

A collaborative design process combined multiple narratives and visuals. Expected outcomes include reaching over 10,000 readers, 5,000+ social media engagements, a 25% knowledge increase, 2,000+ pledges, 50 community projects, and strengthened partnerships, media coverage, and volunteer involvement.

AIRPORT NEXUS: RESEARCHING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES AT NEWQUAY (UK)



Summary:

The project aims to make Cornwall Airport Newquay a hub for sustainable aviation and community benefit by reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy and circular practices, supporting green jobs and skills development, and creating replicable models for environmentally responsible regional airports.

Students: Exeter, AUS, Stellenbosch and UNEC

Mentors: Exeter

Sustainable Development Goals:



Findings and conclusion:

The project team conducted Cornwall Airport Newquay's first integrated sustainability assessment, evaluating energy, emissions, waste, water, operations, SAF readiness, and governance using international frameworks. They identified the airport's current status, key impact areas, and essential metrics for Net-Zero and accreditation.

The team's work underpins the Airport Nexus Sustainability Toolkit, supporting evidence-based decisions, pilot projects, investment prioritisation, and alignment with aviation decarbonisation pathways.

BEYOND THE PLATE: MAPPING PLANT-BASED PERCEPTIONS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BRAZIL (BRAZIL)



Sustainable Development Goals:



Summary:

This project examines Brazilian university students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors around plant-based eating, including misconceptions, barriers, and openness to reducing animal products. It also explores their awareness of the link between food choices and climate change. Findings inform strategies to promote more ethical, sustainable, and practical eating habits.

Students: Exeter, AUS, Stellenbosch and UNEC

Mentors: Stellenbosch

Findings and conclusion:

The team found that surveys for Brazilian students need cultural and methodological adaptation. Items referencing foreign foods or plant-based trends may not reflect local diets, and unclear, lengthy, or double-barreled questions can cause confusion. Using concise wording, visual aids, and regionally relevant examples can improve clarity. Ethical approval, Portuguese informed consent, and secure data handling are essential. Future surveys should be culturally adapted and aligned with Brazilian research standards.

ECOCERT17: ENERGY PERFORMANCE FOR AFRICAN HOMES (SOUTH AFRICA)



Sustainable Development Goals:



Summary:

The project aims to establish an energy performance certification framework for African homes, enabling households, builders, and policymakers to make informed decisions that improve efficiency, affordability, and sustainability. The vision is for every home to be energy-smart, cost-effective, and climate-resilient, helping reduce carbon emissions, address energy poverty, and promote sustainable housing, while setting a global benchmark for green growth.

Students: Exeter, AUS, Stellenbosch and UNEC

Mentors: Stellenbosch and UNEC

Findings and conclusion:

The project proposes a three-pillar residential EPC framework that integrates home energy efficiency improvements, standardised benchmarking, and behavioural incentives to promote better energy use. It aims to help households reduce costs, understand their energy performance, and adopt more sustainable practices.

The framework supports SDG 7 and SDG 11 by making energy use measurable and actionable at household level. Future work should focus on community pilot studies and partnerships with financial institutions and retailers to enhance incentives and policy integration.

CHATBOT FOR CHANGE: EMPOWERING 100K FAMILIES (PARAGUAY)



Summary:

This project aims to support Fundación Paraguaya's 100K Initiative by developing an AI-enabled mentorship chatbot to help 100,000 microfinance clients tackle multidimensional poverty, as measured across all Poverty Spotlight indicators. The chatbot will guide families through their customer journey, provide tailored messages addressing key poverty indicators, and re-engage those who have become inactive.

*Sustainable
Development
Goals:*



Findings and conclusion:

The project team developed an AI-enabled mentorship chatbot for Fundación Paraguaya's 100K Initiative, delivering a Customer Journey Design, Chatbot Messaging Framework, and Re-Engagement Strategy. These outputs map client interactions, guide AI-driven messaging, and reconnect inactive users, creating a scalable, human-centred model that translates the Poverty Spotlight methodology into a practical tool to support families' progress toward sustainable poverty reduction.

**Students: Exeter, AUS,
Satbayev and Stellenbosch**

**Mentors: Exeter and
Stellenbosch**

CLIMATE HEALTH SOLUTIONS FOR MATERNAL AND NURSING WOMEN IN AFRICA (NIGERIA)



Summary:

The project aims to strengthen maternal and child health resilience to climate change in Africa by improving healthcare infrastructure, integrating climate adaptation measures, and building capacity among healthcare providers and communities.

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**Students: Exeter, ASU
and Abu Dhabi**

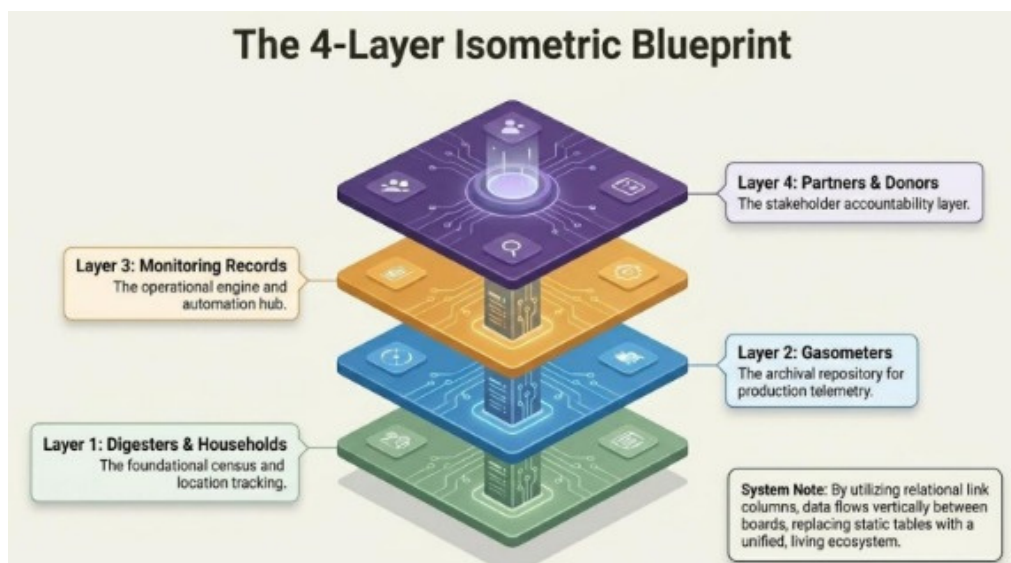
Mentors: ASU and AUS

Findings and conclusion:

The project team found that climate change is worsening existing maternal health inequalities in North-Eastern Kenya through food and water insecurity, disrupted access to healthcare, disease exposure and displacement. Key vulnerabilities include limited access to skilled birth attendants, long distances to health facilities and maternal malnutrition.

The team proposes a Climate-Resilient Maternity Framework focused on strengthening health systems, improving nutritional and economic support, and engaging young people through community-based maternal care networks.

DESIGNING AN INTEGRATED CRM AND AUTOMATION SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED BIOGAS PROGRAMMES (INDONESIA)



Sustainable Development Goals:



Summary:

The project aims to develop an integrated CRM and automation system for su-re.co, a Bali-based environmental think-do-be tank supporting climate resilience through research, climate-smart businesses and community initiatives. The system connects data on farmers, biogas digesters and partner organisations to improve coordination and monitoring as its clean energy programmes expand.

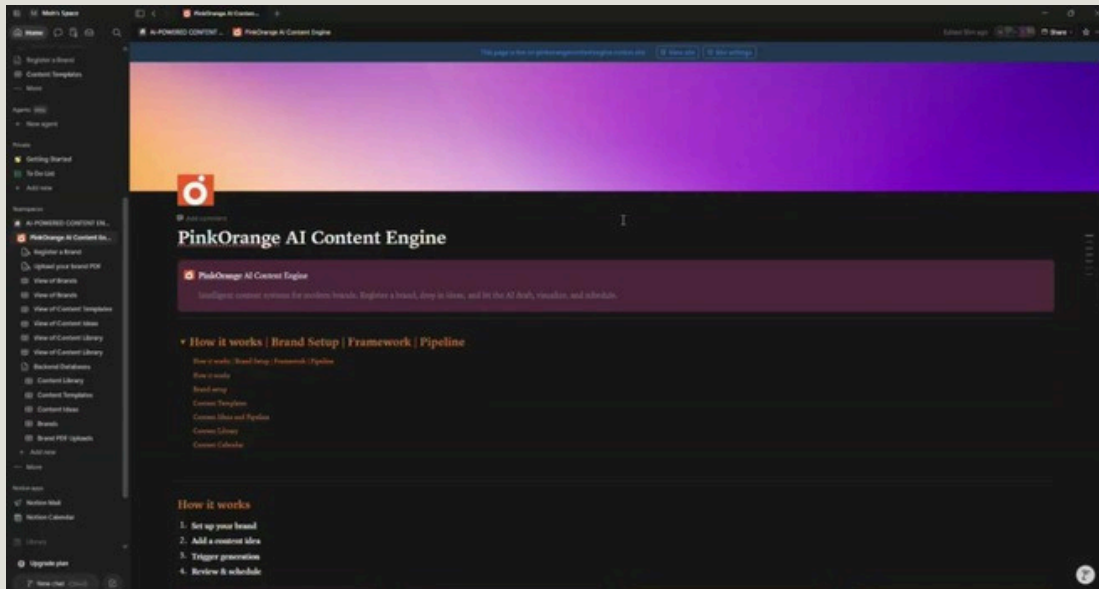
Students: Exeter, Abu Dhabi, Auckland, and KFUPM

Mentors: KFUPM and UNEC

Findings and conclusion:

The project team found that fragmented Excel-based data was limiting su-re.co's ability to manage and scale its community-based biogas programme effectively. The team addressed this by developing a centralised, four-layer CRM system, bringing household, digester, partner and maintenance data together. The new system improves operational visibility and coordination, providing a stronger foundation for the company to scale its clean energy solutions.

AI-POWERED CONTENT ENGINE FOR SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH (UK)



Summary:

The project explores the design and development of an AI-enabled content generation engine to help small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) meet the growing demand for high-quality, consistent and cross-platform digital marketing content.

Findings and conclusion:

The project findings show that SMBs lack affordable and scalable solutions for creating consistent and efficient marketing content. Based on market and trend analysis, the team developed a no-code, AI-enabled content engine with a Notion-based backend to help businesses create and manage content more quickly and systematically.

Students: Exeter, Abu Dhabi, KFUPM, Satbayev and UNEC

Mentors: Exeter and Abu Dhabi

Sustainable Development Goals:



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS · ETHICAL TRADE · RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION (BRAZIL)



Summary:

The project explored the European market potential for Horta da Terra's Amazonian functional products, analysing demand, pricing and consumer preferences across the EU, UK and Switzerland. It aimed to identify priority markets and retail channels to support the company's phased entry into Europe.

Students: Exeter, ASU, AUS, Birmingham and KFUPM

Mentors: Satbayev

Findings and conclusion:

The project team found that Horta da Terra's Amazonian PANC products have strong potential in European markets, supported by their organic certification, freeze-dried format and distinctive Amazonian origin. The team identified promising pricing opportunities and recommended prioritising online, direct-to-consumer and organic retail channels, with a phased market entry starting with açai in the UK and Germany.

Sustainable Development Goals:



MAPPING ALTERNATIVES TO DEEP-SEA MINING: GLOBAL SOLUTIONS LANDSCAPE (NORWAY)



*Sustainable
Development Goals:*



Summary:

This project explores and maps existing and emerging alternatives to seabed mining, categorising global solutions, new materials and alternatives to rare earth elements.

Students: Exeter, Abu Dhabi and UNEC

Mentors: Birmingham and Satbayev

Findings and conclusion:

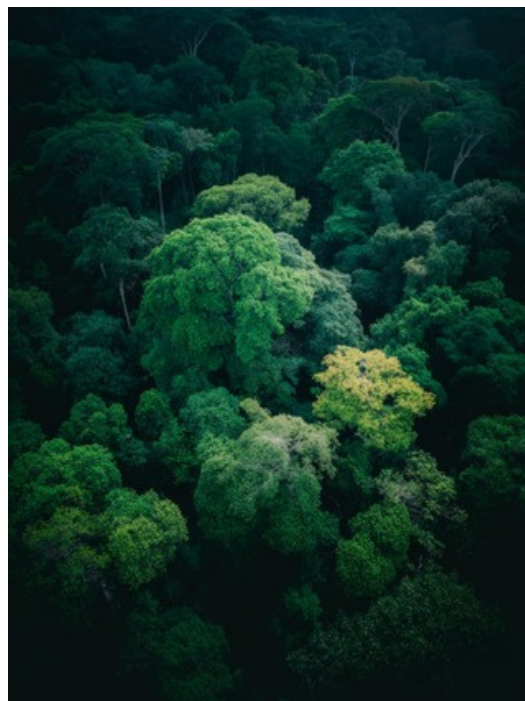
The project team mapped 115 alternatives to deep-sea mining across 35 countries. The findings show that promising alternatives, particularly battery recycling and urban mining, already exist but are not yet sufficient to replace mineral extraction. Scaling circular solutions and accelerating material innovation will be key to reducing reliance on deep-sea mining.

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BEYOND EXTRACTION (MEXICO)



Summary:

This project analyses how sustainable tourism initiatives in Latin America and the Global South are financed, focusing on fiscal strategies, government involvement and revenue-sharing models that support community benefit, environmental protection, and the inclusion of women and Indigenous communities.



Findings and conclusion:

The project team found that community ownership, appropriate financing and local revenue sharing are key to achieving equitable and sustainable tourism. The case studies also highlight the importance of legal protections, conservation incentives, and meaningful women's and Indigenous participation. These models demonstrate that community-led tourism can be replicated when the right financial, governance and policy conditions are in place.

Students: Exeter, Birmingham, KFUPM and UNEC

Mentors: Abu Dhabi and KFUPM

*Sustainable
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