

A community center for Mompiche, Ecuador

On the situation of mothers and children's poverty in Esmeraldas and Muisne

Before presenting the project, we would like to give some information about the poverty situation in Esmeraldas in general and especially among women and children. We would like to point out how important it is to offer support, as the crisis that has been going on for decades has worsened for women and children in recent years.

Muisne amongst the poorest cantons in Ecuador

According to a study conducted 2018¹ the Canton Muisne is one of the four Cantons in Esmeraldas where a majority of residents are haunted by a poverty trap. A poverty trap is conceived as a situation in which a household cannot leave the precarious environment in which it lives, either due to internal household reasons or external reasons such as a lack of government support to improve its quality of life. Muisne has been in this state since at least 2001.

A study from 2014 also concludes: "It can be seen that the parishes with the highest incidence of poverty (57%-96%) at the national level are concentrated in the northwestern part of the country (provinces of Esmeraldas, Imbabura and Carchi) and the central-eastern part (in the highlands: provinces of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, and in the Amazon: provinces of Napo, Pastaza and Morona Santiago). Muisnes Gini-Coefficient between 0,21 to 0,29 is way below national average (0,41), which basically means, that most of the citizens of Muisne are equally poor."²

Additionally, the organization of SOS Children Villages states: "... the region is one of the poorest in Ecuador: around 65% live in poverty. Thousands of families lack access to drinking water, paved roads, and sewage systems, and health care." And further "Around 214,000 children and young people live in the province of Esmeraldas. Around 76 per cent of these live in poverty. Around ten per cent of children aren't able to live with their parents."³

¹ Correa-Quezada et al: „Poverty Traps in the Municipalities of Ecuador: Empirical Evidence“, [MPDI 2018](#)

² Cabrera et al: „Análisis geográfico de la pobreza y desigualdad por consumo en Ecuador“, [NEC 2016](#)

³ [SOS Children's Village Esmeraldas](#): „Esmeraldas is one of the poorest regions of Ecuador“

Impact of the Corona Virus on women employment

Unfortunately, the impact of the Corona Virus did not make the situation better. Data shows a 7,4% year-over-year increase of Unemployment and underemployment for December 2020. Just over one-third of the population earns less than \$84.05 per month and is considered poor as a result. At the same time, extreme poverty, defined as a monthly salary lower than \$47.37, increased by six percent to 14,9%. In absolute terms, this means that more than one million people fell below the poverty line within a year. Rural areas are the worst affected.⁴

Women are particularly affected by this development: 45% more women were unemployed in December 2020 than in December 2019, compared to an increase in unemployment among men of "only" about 12 percent⁵. The poverty of women and especially mothers has of course a direct impact on the poverty of children as well.

Another problem is the high rate of teenage pregnancies in Esmeraldas. With 111 births per 1,000 adolescent girls (15–19 years old), Ecuador has the highest adolescent fertility rate among all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean⁶. Esmeraldas is one of four provinces with the highest adolescence birthrate of girls between 10 and 14 years of age (up to 7,14 birth per 1000 citizens)⁷ in Ecuador. In total 78% of teen pregnancies are between the ages of 10 and 14, and 80% of these pregnancies are the result of sexual abuse⁸.

Introduction:

The Community Center for Art and Science proposes innovative ways to study and promote awareness of the ecosystems in Mompiche tropical forest and their governance systems as models for conservation and regenerative development. This process of raising awareness starts with fostering environmental self-recognition through diverse workshops and activities organized by the community center, focusing on the intersection of art, science, and empowerment. The ultimate goal is to provide continuity to these creative and environmental education processes, transitioning them into professionalization and entrepreneurship opportunities. It is imperative to empower the next generation with a deep understanding of the biodiversity and ecosystem resources they possess. The project aims to redefine environmental

⁴ Dora: „Ecuador: Armut und Arbeitslosigkeit im Corona-Jahr drastisch gewachsen“ [America21 2021](#)

⁵ Jara et al: „The role of automatic stabilizers and emergency tax–benefit policies during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ecuador“ [United Nations University 2021](#)

⁶ Herrán and Palacios: “Evaluating and Improving upon Ecuador’s Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Policies in an Era of Increased Urgency” [Ann Glob Health. 2020](#)

⁷ „Consecuencias socioeconómicas del embarazo en la adolescencia en Ecuador“ [UNICEF 2020](#)

⁸ „Esmeraldas: Nacen 17 bebés por cada 1000 habitantes“ [La Hora 2022](#)

leadership, demonstrating that conservation can be a fulfilling career and a sustainable way of life.

The project targets five key beneficiary groups:

1. The youth of the Bolivar parish, who are Afro-descendants, indigenous, multi-ethnic, and multicultural. They represent the future generation responsible for preserving the intricate relationships between the forest, river, mangrove, and sea ecosystems. Special emphasis is placed on empowering women as the fundamental cornerstone of the territory. Immediate attention is required for the young indigenous, Afro-descendant, and mixed-race females.
2. Socio-environmental leaders and their efforts in environmental and cultural conservation, focusing on transferring knowledge across generations.
3. Entrepreneurs engaged in biological and touristic value chains, utilizing ecosystems as a platform for regenerative entrepreneurship.
4. Academic communities from institutions across the country, fostering long-term exchanges to ensure research findings are applied and benefit the local territory.
5. Residents who will benefit from workshops conducted by volunteers to enhance their skills and knowledge. These workshops will cover various topics such as vocational training, sustainable farming practices, artisanal crafts, digital literacy, and other relevant subjects. By engaging volunteers, the community center aims to tap into the expertise of individuals who can contribute their time and knowledge to uplift the local population and promote self-sufficiency.

The community center will pursue its mission through 9 primary pillars:

1. Female empowerment

The project aims to empower local women in the Mompiche community by organizing workshops that harness the sustainable and local resources of the rainforest to create natural products. These workshops provide women with the knowledge, skills, and tools to craft high-quality goods using ingredients such as cacao, coconut, and paja toquilla, while promoting sustainable practices that respect the environment.

The workshops will begin by educating participants about the sustainable harvesting and sourcing of the chosen materials. Women will learn about the importance of responsible practices to ensure the long-term viability of these resources. This knowledge will instill a sense of environmental stewardship among the participants, empowering them to engage in sustainable entrepreneurship.

Next, the workshops will focus on the creation of natural products using the selected ingredients. For example, women can learn how to make handmade chocolates using locally sourced cacao, incorporating traditional techniques and flavors unique to the region. They can also explore the process of extracting coconut oil and using it to create a range of beauty and skincare products. Additionally, the workshops can introduce the art of working with paja toquilla, a local fiber traditionally used for weaving hats, which can be transformed into various handicrafts and accessories.

Throughout the workshops, emphasis will be placed on ensuring the use of sustainable and locally available materials. This approach not only preserves the rainforest ecosystem but also promotes economic self-sufficiency within the community. By utilizing resources readily accessible in their surroundings, women can reduce reliance on external suppliers and create products that have a distinct connection to their cultural heritage and environment.

Furthermore, the project will support the women in developing entrepreneurial skills to effectively market and sell their natural products. Business-related workshops can cover topics such as product branding, packaging, pricing, marketing strategies, and customer relations. Participants will gain insights into market trends, target audiences, and how to leverage their unique selling points. Additionally, they can learn about the importance of social and environmental responsibility, promoting transparency and ethical practices within their businesses.

The project will provide ongoing support to the women entrepreneurs, assisting them in accessing local and regional markets to showcase and sell their natural products. This can involve collaborating with local businesses, markets, and online platforms to create avenues for product exposure and sales. By facilitating market access, the project enables the women to generate income, support their families, and contribute to the economic development of the community.

Through these workshops, local women will be empowered to become skilled artisans and entrepreneurs, creating natural products that resonate with their cultural heritage and the sustainable resources of the rainforest. By utilizing ingredients like cacao, coconut, and paja toquilla, women can generate income while preserving the environment and promoting the unique qualities of their region. The project nurtures the spirit of entrepreneurship, fostering self-reliance, economic empowerment, and a sense of pride among the women of the community.

2. Provision of high-quality, complementary education free of charge

The project also places great importance on the well-being and future of local children. Through engaging workshops, educational programs, and artistic activities, the center provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn, grow, and explore their potential. These activities go beyond traditional education, incorporating elements of

art, science, and sports to foster holistic development. By focusing on prevention and intervention programs related to issues such as drug abuse and micro-trafficking, the center aims to protect children from harmful influences and equip them with the necessary tools to make positive life choices. Through the power of creativity and self-expression, children are encouraged to embrace their talents, develop critical thinking skills, and become agents of change within their communities. Among this activity we will prioritize film/photography, music and surf.

3. Film Workshop

The project can organize film workshops focused on capturing and preserving the stories, traditions, and rituals of the ancestral culture. Local community members, particularly elders and cultural experts, can be invited to share their knowledge and narratives. Participants in the workshop can learn various aspects of filmmaking, including scriptwriting, cinematography, directing, and editing. They can be provided with basic filmmaking equipment and taught how to use it effectively. The workshop can guide them in creating short films or documentaries that showcase the rich cultural heritage, rituals, traditional practices, and oral history of the community. Through this process, the ancestral culture can be recorded, documented, and shared with future generations and a wider audience.

4. Music Workshop

Music workshops can focus on preserving and revitalizing traditional music forms, instruments, and melodies of the ancestral culture. Local musicians, elders, and traditional music experts can be invited to lead the workshops. Participants can learn about the significance of different musical instruments, traditional rhythms, and melodies. They can be taught to play these instruments and encouraged to compose new music inspired by the ancestral culture. The workshops can also emphasize the importance of storytelling through music, conveying messages, and capturing the essence of the cultural heritage. By preserving and promoting traditional music, the workshop participants can contribute to the continued celebration and transmission of their ancestral culture.

5. Integration of Film and Music Workshops

To enhance the impact, the project can integrate the film and music workshops. Participants from the film workshop can collaborate with musicians from the music workshop to create soundtracks for the films or documentaries produced. This collaboration can provide a comprehensive artistic expression of the ancestral culture,

where the visuals captured through film and the music composed reflect the depth, emotions, and spirit of the community's traditions. This integration can create a powerful platform for storytelling and cultural preservation, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the ancestral culture both within the community and among a wider audience.

The film and music workshops play a vital role in keeping children away from drug use by providing them with alternative outlets for self-expression, creativity, and personal development. Here's how these workshops can contribute to maintaining children out of drug use:

1. **Positive Engagement:** The film and music workshops offer a positive and engaging environment for children to channel their energy and emotions. By immersing themselves in creative pursuits, children have a constructive outlet that keeps them occupied and reduces the likelihood of turning to drugs as a means of escape or thrill-seeking.
2. **Skill Development:** The workshops focus on building practical skills related to filmmaking, music composition, and performance. As children learn and develop their talents in these areas, they gain a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. Acquiring new skills and honing their craft provides a sense of purpose, making them less susceptible to engaging in drug use.
3. **Emotional Expression:** Film and music offer powerful mediums for children to express themselves emotionally. Through storytelling, music composition, or performing arts, children can explore their feelings, thoughts, and experiences in a safe and creative space. This emotional outlet allows them to process challenges and stressors without resorting to drugs as a coping mechanism.
4. **Peer Support and Mentorship:** The film and music workshops foster a supportive community environment where children can interact with like-minded peers and mentors. This sense of belonging and positive social connection reduces their vulnerability to peer pressure associated with drug use. Having positive role models in the form of workshop facilitators and mentors also provides guidance and support, helping children make informed choices and navigate challenges effectively.
5. **Education and Awareness:** The workshops can include educational components that raise awareness about the risks and consequences of drug use. By providing accurate information and facilitating discussions on the topic, children gain a better understanding of the harmful effects of drugs on their physical and mental well-being. This knowledge empowers them to make informed decisions and resist peer pressure when faced with situations involving drugs.

6. **Alternative Recreational Activities:** Engaging children in film and music workshops offers them alternative recreational activities that are fulfilling, stimulating, and productive. By providing opportunities for creative expression, collaboration, and performance, the workshops create a natural attraction that steers children away from idle or risky activities, including drug use.
7. **Sense of Achievement and Future Prospects:** The film and music workshops can instill a sense of achievement and cultivate aspirations for the future. As children explore their talents and witness their progress, they gain a sense of hope, purpose, and ambition. This positive outlook motivates them to focus on their personal growth, academic pursuits, and future prospects, reducing the appeal of engaging in drug use.
8. **By providing a creative and supportive environment, promoting skill development, emotional expression, and positive peer connections, and fostering awareness and education, the film and music workshops act as preventive measures to keep children out of drug use. These workshops offer them an alternative path filled with creativity, personal growth, and a sense of belonging, ultimately steering them towards a healthier and drug-free lifestyle.**

6. Preservation and revitalization of ancestral indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures.

The implementation of the Community Center for Art and Science project encompasses a dedicated focus on the preservation and revitalization of ancestral indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures. Through a multifaceted approach, this initiative actively engages with local communities to honor and celebrate their rich cultural heritage. To begin with, the project establishes a platform for knowledge sharing and intergenerational exchange. By facilitating workshops, seminars, and cultural gatherings, the center creates opportunities for elders and community members to pass down traditional knowledge, stories, and practices to younger generations. This transmission of ancestral wisdom ensures the continuity and preservation of indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures, safeguarding their invaluable traditions from fading into obscurity. Moreover, the project fosters the revitalization of cultural expressions through various artistic mediums. It provides resources and training in music, dance, visual arts, and other forms of creative expression. By supporting local artists and artisans, the project encourages the exploration and revitalization of traditional artistic techniques and styles. This enables indigenous and Afro-descendant communities to express their cultural identity, maintain a strong connection with their roots, and share their unique heritage with a broader audience.

In collaboration with community members, the project also organizes cultural events and festivals. These gatherings serve as platforms for showcasing traditional music, dance, crafts, and culinary arts, allowing the wider public to experience and appreciate the richness of indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures. By promoting cultural exchange and dialogue, these events foster mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation among diverse communities.

Furthermore, the project emphasizes the preservation of indigenous languages, recognizing their crucial role in maintaining cultural identity. It supports language revitalization initiatives by providing resources, training, and documentation tools. Through the center's efforts, indigenous and Afro-descendant languages are valued, preserved, and passed on to future generations, reinforcing the cultural fabric of the communities.

In sum, the implementation of the Community Center for Art and Science project actively promotes the preservation and revitalization of ancestral indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures. By facilitating knowledge transfer, supporting artistic endeavors, organizing cultural events, and valuing indigenous languages, the project ensures the safeguarding and celebration of cultural heritage. It empowers communities to reclaim their identities, strengthens social cohesion, and cultivates a deeper appreciation for the diverse cultural tapestry that enriches society as a whole.

7. Mitigation of climate change and sustainable utilization of natural resources through entrepreneurial projects.

The Community Center for Art and Science project takes a proactive approach to mitigate the impact of climate change and promote the sustainable utilization of natural resources through entrepreneurial projects. Recognizing the urgent need for environmental stewardship, this initiative integrates innovative strategies and practices to address these pressing challenges.

Firstly, the project promotes environmental consciousness by raising awareness about climate change and its implications for local communities. Through educational programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns, it informs community members about the causes and effects of climate change, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices. By fostering a deeper understanding of environmental issues, the project encourages individuals to adopt eco-friendly behaviors and make informed decisions regarding natural resource management.

Furthermore, the project actively supports entrepreneurial endeavors that align with sustainable practices and contribute to the local economy. It provides training, mentorship, and resources to aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to establish environmentally friendly businesses. These ventures may focus on renewable energy, organic farming, eco-tourism, or other sustainable sectors. By nurturing and promoting

such enterprises, the project stimulates economic growth while ensuring the responsible use of natural resources.

In collaboration with local communities, the project also implements initiatives for sustainable land and resource management. This includes promoting agroforestry practices, reforestation efforts, and sustainable agricultural techniques that minimize the use of harmful chemicals and promote biodiversity. By engaging community members in these initiatives, the project fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for the local environment, encouraging sustainable practices and reducing the ecological footprint.

Moreover, the project emphasizes the importance of conservation and sustainable use of water resources. It supports the development of water-saving technologies, rainwater harvesting systems, and irrigation methods that optimize water usage. By implementing these practices, the project helps mitigate the effects of climate change-induced water scarcity and fosters the sustainable management of this vital resource. In summary, the Community Center for Art and Science project actively works towards mitigating the impact of climate change and promoting the sustainable utilization of natural resources through entrepreneurial projects. By raising awareness, supporting sustainable businesses, implementing land and resource management initiatives, and emphasizing water conservation, the project aims to foster a more sustainable and resilient future. It empowers communities to actively participate in environmental stewardship, ensuring the well-being of both present and future generations while fostering economic growth and social development.

8. Implementation of workshops led by volunteers to enhance the skills and knowledge of residents, fostering self-sufficiency and personal development.

The implementation of workshops led by volunteers plays a crucial role in enhancing the skills and knowledge of local residents, fostering self-sufficiency, and promoting personal development. This initiative recognizes the importance of empowering individuals within the community and providing them with opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge. By organizing workshops led by volunteers, the project creates a dynamic learning environment that encourages active participation and promotes self-growth.

The workshops are carefully designed to address the specific needs and interests of the local residents. Volunteers with expertise in various fields, such as art, science, technology, business, and practical skills, are recruited to lead these workshops. This ensures that a diverse range of topics and disciplines are covered, catering to the diverse interests and aspirations of the community members.

The workshops are interactive and hands-on, allowing participants to actively engage in the learning process. They are structured to provide both theoretical knowledge and

practical application, enabling participants to acquire not only theoretical understanding but also the necessary skills to apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios. This approach fosters a sense of self-sufficiency by equipping individuals with the tools and capabilities to pursue their goals and aspirations independently.

Moreover, the workshops promote personal development by nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Through art-related workshops, individuals are encouraged to express themselves creatively, explore different art forms, and develop their artistic abilities. Scientific workshops stimulate curiosity, encourage experimentation, and foster a deeper understanding of scientific principles. Practical skills workshops, such as entrepreneurship, communication, or vocational training, equip participants with practical skills that can enhance their employability and contribute to their personal growth.

By involving volunteers as workshop leaders, the project creates a collaborative and inclusive learning environment. Volunteers act as mentors and facilitators, providing guidance and support to participants throughout the workshops. This mentorship aspect encourages the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences, fostering a sense of community and promoting social cohesion.

9. Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles through Sports Introduction.

The project aims to create a comprehensive community center that addresses the diverse needs of the local population, with a particular focus on empowering children and promoting their well-being. One crucial aspect of the project is the inclusion of sports as a means to guide children towards a healthy lifestyle and keep them actively engaged.

1. Sports as a Key Focus:

Recognizing the importance of physical activities for children's development and overall health, the project will dedicate a significant space within the community center to sports-related initiatives. By offering a range of activities, we aim to provide children with alternative outlets for their energy and interests.

2. Skate Surf Park:

Mompiche is renowned internationally as a premier surfing destination. However, the inconsistency of waves throughout the year leaves children without their favorite physical activity for extended periods. This can lead to issues such as drug use and involvement in prostitution. To address this, the project will incorporate a skate surf park, catering to children's love for board sports.

The skate surf park will be thoughtfully designed to blend seamlessly with the surrounding flora, encircling trees and vegetation. This approach ensures that the recreational space is not only attractive but also environmentally sustainable.

- Benefits of the Skate Surf Park:
- By providing a dedicated area for skateboarding and surf-related activities, the project aims to achieve multiple objectives:
 - a. Health and Well-being: The park will offer children a safe and engaging environment to participate in sports, promoting their physical health and fostering an active lifestyle.
 - b. Mitigating Risk Factors: By offering an appealing alternative to surfing during periods of low wave activity, the project helps reduce the potential negative outcomes associated with idleness, such as drug use and involvement in child prostitution.
 - c. Community Integration: The skate surf park will serve as a focal point for social interactions, fostering a sense of community and providing opportunities for children to connect with their peers in a positive and inclusive setting.
 - d. Skill Development: Through skateboarding and surf-related activities, children will have opportunities to develop new skills, enhance their coordination, and boost their confidence.

Creating a Sustainable and Attractive Space:

The design of the skate surf park will prioritize sustainability and aesthetic integration with the natural surroundings. By incorporating green spaces, surrounding the park with trees and vegetation, and utilizing environmentally friendly materials, the project seeks to minimize its ecological footprint and preserve the beauty of the area.

Conclusion:

By incorporating a skate surf park and emphasizing sports as a means to promote active and healthy lifestyles, the project endeavors to provide children in Mompiche with a safe, engaging, and inclusive environment. This initiative aims to mitigate potential risks, foster community integration, promote skill development, and contribute to the overall well-being of the children. By embracing sustainability and creating an attractive recreational space, the project not only benefits the community but also ensures the preservation of the natural environment for future generations.

How the project aligns with and promotes human rights.

The Community Center for Art and Science is deeply committed to upholding and promoting the principles of human rights through its transformative initiatives. By focusing on empowerment, inclusivity, and education, the project actively contributes to the fulfillment of fundamental human rights for the local community, particularly for women and children.

1. **Right to Education:** The project recognizes education as a fundamental human right and ensures that local women and children have access to high-quality, complementary education free of charge. By offering workshops, activities, and educational programs, the center equips individuals with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to develop their potential, enabling them to actively participate in society and make informed choices for their future.
2. **Right to Non-Discrimination:** The project is committed to fostering inclusivity and combating discrimination. It focuses on empowering marginalized groups, such as women, indigenous communities, Afro-descendants, and multi-ethnic individuals, ensuring they have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes. By actively promoting gender equality and recognizing the unique contributions of diverse communities, the project aims to eliminate discrimination and promote social cohesion.
3. **Right to Health and Well-being:** Through prevention and intervention programs, the project addresses issues such as drug abuse and micro-trafficking, safeguarding the health and well-being of local children. By providing a safe and nurturing environment, promoting physical activities, and addressing substance abuse, the project contributes to the right to health, ensuring children grow up in a supportive environment conducive to their well-being.
4. **Right to Cultural Identity:** The project acknowledges and celebrates the cultural diversity of the local community, with a focus on preserving and revitalizing ancestral indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures. By engaging with community elders and leaders, the project ensures the transmission of intergenerational knowledge, fostering a sense of cultural identity and belonging among younger generations. This protects the right to cultural identity and contributes to the richness and diversity of the local cultural landscape.
5. **Right to Participation and Empowerment:** The project actively engages women and children in decision-making processes, empowering them to become active agents of change in their communities. By providing opportunities for leadership development, entrepreneurship, and environmental awareness, the project enables individuals to exercise their right to participate in the social, economic, and environmental development of their region.

Through its comprehensive approach to education, empowerment, inclusivity, and cultural preservation, the project aligns with and fulfills the goals of human rights. By ensuring access to education, combating discrimination, promoting well-being, preserving cultural identity, and fostering participation and empowerment, the project creates an environment where human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled for all members of the community.

In conclusion, the Community Center for Art and Science's dedication to human rights is evident through its commitment to education, inclusivity, well-being, cultural preservation, and empowerment. By upholding and promoting these principles, the project contributes to creating a society where every individual, especially women and children, can enjoy their inherent human rights, realize their full potential, and actively participate in shaping a just, equitable, and sustainable future.

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Submitting UN sustainable development goals

The project described aligns with several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Here are some of the goals that the project supports:

1. Goal 1: No Poverty: By empowering local women through entrepreneurial development and income generation, the project contributes to poverty reduction and economic empowerment within the community.
2. Goal 4: Quality Education: Through educational workshops and skill-building activities, the project provides quality education and training opportunities to local women and children, equipping them with knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth.

3. Goal 5: Gender Equality: The project focuses on empowering local women, promoting gender equality, and recognizing the essential role of women in environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, and cultural preservation.
4. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: By fostering entrepreneurial skills and supporting the creation of natural products for sale, the project promotes decent work and economic growth within the community, contributing to sustainable livelihoods.
5. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: The project's emphasis on using sustainable and locally sourced materials aligns with promoting responsible consumption and production practices, reducing environmental impact, and preserving natural resources.
6. Goal 13: Climate Action: Through workshops on sustainable practices and the utilization of natural resources, the project supports climate action by raising awareness and promoting environmentally friendly alternatives.
7. Goal 15: Life on Land: By emphasizing the sustainable use of rainforest resources and promoting environmental stewardship, the project contributes to the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, supporting the goal of life on land.
8. Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals: The project can collaborate with local businesses, institutions, and organizations to create partnerships that facilitate market access, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization, fostering synergistic efforts towards achieving sustainable development.

While the specific goals addressed may vary based on the project's implementation and focus, it is evident that the project aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals. By empowering women, promoting education, sustainable practices, and economic growth, and fostering partnerships, the project actively contributes to the broader agenda of sustainable development outlined by the United Nations.

This project has the potential to positively affect eco-tourism in the community by promoting sustainable practices, preserving the natural environment, and offering unique cultural experiences to visitors. Here's how the project can contribute to eco-tourism:

1. Conservation and Environmental Stewardship: By emphasizing sustainable practices and responsible use of natural resources, the project demonstrates a commitment to environmental conservation. This approach helps preserve the biodiversity and integrity of the local ecosystems, creating an attractive and pristine environment for eco-tourists who value nature and sustainability.
2. Cultural Preservation and Authentic Experiences: The project's focus on rescuing ancestral cultures and traditions provides a unique opportunity for eco-tourists

to engage with the local community and experience their rich cultural heritage. Through workshops, visitors can learn about traditional practices, participate in cultural activities, and interact with community members, fostering an authentic and immersive travel experience.

3. **Educational Opportunities:** The project's workshops and activities offer educational opportunities for eco-tourists to learn about the rainforest ecosystem, traditional knowledge, and sustainable practices. Eco-tourists can gain insights into the importance of biodiversity, environmental conservation, and the interplay between culture and nature. This educational aspect enhances the overall eco-tourism experience and promotes a deeper appreciation for the natural and cultural assets of the community.
4. **Local Economic Development:** Eco-tourism has the potential to generate income and economic opportunities for the community. By engaging in sustainable entrepreneurship, the project empowers local women and promotes the creation of natural products that can be sold to eco-tourists. This contributes to the local economy, diversifies income sources, and encourages entrepreneurship linked to eco-tourism.
5. **Community Involvement and Empowerment:** The project actively involves the local community in various aspects, including workshops, cultural activities, and tourism initiatives. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and pride among community members, as they become ambassadors for their culture and environment. As the community takes an active role in eco-tourism, they become invested in its success and are motivated to protect their natural and cultural assets.
6. **Sustainable Tourism Practices:** The project promotes sustainable tourism practices, such as minimizing waste, conserving water and energy, and supporting local businesses and services. By implementing eco-friendly practices, the project sets an example for responsible tourism and encourages eco-tourists to adopt sustainable behaviors during their visit.
7. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The project can collaborate with local tourism agencies, conservation organizations, and government bodies to develop eco-tourism strategies, create marketing initiatives, and ensure the long-term sustainability of eco-tourism efforts. These partnerships can help attract a wider audience of eco-conscious travelers, boost visibility, and open doors for investment in eco-tourism infrastructure and services.

Through its focus on sustainable practices, cultural preservation, education, economic development, and collaboration, the project creates a favorable environment for eco-tourism in the community. It offers a unique and authentic experience that appeals to eco-conscious travelers seeking to connect with nature, immerse themselves in local

cultures, and contribute to positive social and environmental impacts. By embracing eco-tourism, the community can derive economic benefits while safeguarding their natural and cultural heritage for future generations.