



International
Study
Programs



On-the-ground Sustainable Development Consulting Project Sample Itinerary

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Sustainable Development Consulting Projects

Our Sustainable Development Consulting Projects are more than a service; they're an academic format that connects university students, NGOs, social enterprises, and forward-thinking corporations on a shared journey toward sustainable development. This dynamic methodology amplifies the impact of experiential learning by aligning four crucial pillars:

Empowering Student Development

Students gain a transformative learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. They cultivate practical consulting skills, critical problem-solving abilities, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Our hands-on engagements equip them with resume-worthy experience, fostering personal growth and a profound connection to real-world challenges.

Elevating Organizational Solutions

NGOs, social enterprises, and corporations seeking solutions discover a transformative avenue to address complex issues. By leveraging students' fresh perspectives, creativity, and analytical acumen, these organizations unlock innovative solutions that align with their social and environmental goals. The cross-pollination of ideas catalyzes impactful change and brings forth novel approaches to long-standing challenges.

Facilitating Faculty Excellence

Recognizing the importance of a seamless learning journey, our program supports the lead faculty by providing a structured, tried-and-tested consulting engagement framework. This relieves the burden of logistical intricacies, enabling faculty members to focus on guiding their students' growth and ensuring a rewarding educational experience.

Catalyzing Collaborative Impact

At the heart of each project lies the collective effort towards positive social and environmental impact. By bridging the expertise of students, the needs of organizations, and the guidance of faculty, a powerful synergy emerges. This collaboration amplifies efforts, driving tangible change, fostering sustainable development, and nurturing a generation of socially and environmentally conscious leaders.

Through this ethos, our Sustainable Development Consulting Projects become a conduit of positive change, fostering collaboration, growth, and a shared commitment to sustainable development goals. It's not just about consulting; it's about collectively building a better future through experiential learning and collaborative innovation.

Example Companies & Possible Challenges



FRESH LIFE PRODUCE

Destination: Cape Town, South Africa

Company/Organization: Fresh Life Produce

Website: <https://freshlifeproduce.co.za/>

Industry/Sector: Agriculture

Company/Organization Description: Fresh Life Produce is a pioneering company based in South Africa dedicated to transforming the way we think about food production. They champion decentralized and sustainable agriculture through their groundbreaking system, the African Grower. With a mission to disrupt the fresh food production market, Fresh Life Produce believes in the power of collective, resource-efficient farming. Their innovative approach aligns with global sustainability goals, making fresh and healthy food accessible while reducing environmental impact. Through manufacturing and distribution of the African Grower, they are committed to shaping a future where small-scale producers collectively address food production challenges.

Project Title: Sustainable Food Production Disruption

Challenge: Fresh Life Produce is determined to revolutionize the fresh food production market with their innovative growing system, the African Grower. The challenge for the project team is to explore and recommend strategies to disrupt the traditional thinking that large-scale producers are the only solution for feeding households and cities. This involves evaluating the African Grower's potential impact, market viability, and sustainability benefits. Additionally, the team should propose effective manufacturing and distribution strategies to bring this system to a wider audience. The goal is to showcase that sustainable, decentralized food production can be a game-changer in addressing the growing food production challenge.

Alignment with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Potential Project Deliverables

- Live presentation to the Host Organization reps
- Written in-depth report to the Host Organization reps
- Reflection paper focusing on events that have taught something new, reinforced beliefs, or contradicted assumptions.



Destination: Cape Town, South Africa

Company/Organization: CapeNature

Website: <https://www.capenature.co.za/>

Industry: Environmental Protection

Company/Organization Description: CapeNature is a South African governmental organization entrusted with the preservation of Western Cape Province's natural heritage. Their mission revolves around conserving wilderness areas and public nature reserves, fostering biodiversity, and promoting sustainable land use. With a focus on maintaining the delicate balance between environmental protection and economic growth, CapeNature plays a crucial role in preserving unique ecosystems while facilitating responsible tourism and revenue generation. Their initiatives not only safeguard the region's biodiversity but also contribute to the well-being of local communities and align with global sustainability goals, making them a vital force in sustainable land management and conservation in South Africa.

Project Title: Sustainable Tourism and Revenue Generation

Challenge: CapeNature, responsible for preserving Western Cape's natural treasures, seeks business-minded solutions to sustainably manage wilderness areas and generate revenue. The challenge for the project team, comprising business students, is to devise strategies that balance biodiversity conservation with economic viability. This entails exploring ecotourism opportunities, crafting business models for sustainable park management, and enhancing visitor experiences. The team should focus on revenue-generating initiatives, such as guided tours, eco-accommodations, and partnerships with local businesses. By promoting responsible tourism, CapeNature can contribute to biodiversity preservation while fostering economic growth in the region.

Alignment with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Potential Project Deliverables

- Live presentation to the Host Organization reps
- Written in-depth report to the Host Organization reps
- Reflection paper focusing on events that have taught something new, reinforced beliefs, or contradicted assumptions.



Destination: Cape Town, South Africa

Company/Organization: Khayelitsha Cookies

Website: <https://kcco.co.za/>

Industry/Sector: Food Manufacturing

Company/Organization Description: Khayelitsha Cookies is a socially conscious company located in South Africa. Their mission is to produce and supply high-quality, hand-baked cookies to clients both locally and internationally. Beyond delicious treats, their core focus is on creating meaningful job opportunities for previously unemployed women from informal settlements in the greater Cape Town region. By empowering and upskilling these women, Khayelitsha Cookies enables them to financially support at least five dependents daily. With a commitment to superior quality, customer service, and competitive pricing, Khayelitsha Cookies not only satisfies your taste buds but also contributes to economic empowerment and social impact.

Project Title: Sustainable Job Creation

Challenge: Khayelitsha Cookies is on a mission to create meaningful jobs and empower unemployed women from informal settlements in South Africa through cookie production. The challenge for the project team is to assess and recommend strategies for scaling this impactful model. This includes evaluating the sustainability of the job creation process, identifying growth opportunities, and enhancing the organization's reach, both domestically and internationally. The team should also explore avenues for improving production efficiency and customer service. The goal is to further empower women from marginalized communities by expanding job opportunities and positively impacting their lives.

Alignment with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Potential Project Deliverables

- Live presentation to the Host Organization reps
- Written in-depth report to the Host Organization reps
- Reflection paper focusing on events that have taught something new, reinforced beliefs, or contradicted assumptions.



Destination: Cape Town, South Africa

Company/Organization: Shout-It-Now

Website: <https://shoutitnow.org/>

Industry/Sector: Healthcare

Company/Organization Description: Shout-it-Now is a dynamic organization dedicated to youth-focused health services and support in South Africa. With a client-centric approach, they offer essential services in sexual and reproductive health and assistance for survivors of gender-based violence. Using innovative technology and behavior change strategies, they engage youth and their parents/guardians through mobile clinics and virtual platforms, creating demand for crucial health services. Shout-it-Now collaborates with ecosystem partners to connect youth with comprehensive support. Their mission revolves around empowering and enhancing the well-being of young individuals, addressing pressing health issues while fostering a supportive community environment.

Project Title: Youth Health Engagement

Challenge: Shout-it-Now offers client-centric, youth-focused health services with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and support for survivors of gender-based violence. The challenge for the project team is to devise innovative strategies to engage and empower youth and their parents/guardians to create demand for these critical health and well-being services. This includes exploring technology-driven approaches to increase reach and impact. Additionally, the team should identify opportunities for partnerships and ecosystem collaboration to connect youth with relevant services beyond the organization's offerings. The goal is to enhance the reach and effectiveness of youth-focused health services, ensuring they meet the unique needs of the target demographic.

Alignment with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Potential Project Deliverables

- Live presentation to the Host Organization reps
- Written in-depth report to the Host Organization reps
- Reflection paper focusing on events that have taught something new, reinforced beliefs, or contradicted assumptions.

On-the-ground SDG Consulting Sample Itinerary

| On-the-ground SDG Consulting Sample Itinerary | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| day 1 welcome to South Africa | | |
| | arrive in Cape Town meet ISP Program Manager at the airport | air |
| early afternoon | transfer to hotel, check-in | bus transfer |
| | meet in hotel conference room | hotel conference room |
| late afternoon | orientation talk: orientation talk by ISP Program Manager and university faculty Get familiar with the upcoming schedule and activities, uncover the secret ingredients for a successful trip, and learn some useful tips from where to find the best exchange rates to what's happening in the city. | hotel conference room |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for welcome dinner | bus transfer |
| evening | welcome dinner at the V&A Waterfront Experience a captivating Cape Town welcome dinner, where cultural immersion meets camaraderie against the majestic backdrop of Table Mountain. Engage with fellow participants while savoring a delightful journey through South African flavors, with locally sourced ingredients enhancing the sustainability theme. From savory bobotie to delectable malva pudding, relish authentic cuisine as you forge connections that will color your study abroad adventure. This evening blends tastes, stories, and shared experiences, providing the perfect launch into Cape Town's vibrant culture and the week of exciting exploration ahead. | restaurant |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 2 | | building a strong foundation |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel conference room | hotel conference room |
| morning | <p>presentation: Cape Town economic insight: exploring opportunities and solutions in sustainable development <i>e.g. Wesgro - The Official Trade and Investment Promotion Agency for the Western Cape Province</i></p> <p>Embark on an enlightening visit with the Western Cape's Trade and Investment Agency, exploring Cape Town and the Western Cape's sustainability initiatives. This transformative encounter delves into the region's economic and cultural dynamics, emphasizing sustainability efforts. Gain insights into key industries, partnerships, and investment prospects vital for innovative problem-solving. Learn how the agency promotes innovation and collaboration to foster a dynamic business environment aligned with sustainability goals. Engage in discussions on local business culture and global integration, equipping you with a strategic edge to tackle real-world challenges. This meeting lays the foundation for devising impactful solutions that resonate within the thriving and sustainable markets of the Western Cape.</p> <p>presentation, discussion</p> | |
| | lunch: own arrangements | |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for hosting companies | own arrangements |
| afternoon | <p>consulting project: project introductions</p> <p>During the project introduction, the project team will establish open lines of communication with the client and immerse themselves in understanding the client's unique challenges and goals. They will define the scope of the project, align expectations, and establish rapport with the client, ensuring a solid foundation for the engagement.</p> | |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 3 getting to know 'the rainbow nation' | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for guided tour | bus full day |
| morning | <p>cultural event: guided tour of Cape Town Embark on a captivating morning guided tour of Cape Town, immersing yourself in the city's diverse tapestry. Led by knowledgeable guides, navigate through historic neighborhoods, vibrant markets, and cultural landmarks. Discover the rich history and modern charm of Cape Town as you stroll through bustling streets, absorbing the essence of this captivating city. Engage with local communities, learn about their traditions, and gain insights into their way of life. From iconic architecture to hidden gems, this guided tour offers an authentic glimpse into the heart and soul of Cape Town. As the sun rises over this dynamic city, embrace the opportunity to explore before an afternoon ascent to the majestic Table Mountain awaits.</p> | walk |
| | group lunch | restaurant |
| afternoon | <p>cultural event: Table Mountain National Park Ascend to new heights with a Table Mountain adventure in the afternoon. Brace yourself for a breathtaking cable car journey to the summit, where panoramic vistas of Cape Town and its surroundings await. Marvel at the vast expanse of ocean, cityscapes, and landscapes that stretch before you, offering a perspective like no other. Engage in guided insights into the mountain's unique ecosystem and the role it plays in Cape Town's identity. Capture unforgettable photos against the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, Robben Island, and the Twelve Apostles mountain range. This iconic experience provides an awe-inspiring conclusion to your day, allowing you to connect with Cape Town from an elevated perspective before the sun sets on your captivating journey.</p> | walk/cable car |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 4 wild at heart | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for safari (approx. 2 hours) | bus transfer |
| all-day event | <p>cultural event: Big 5 safari Embark on an exhilarating Big 5 Safari at Aquila Game Reserve in South Africa. Set against a backdrop of untamed landscapes, this immersive experience promises encounters with Africa's iconic wildlife: the majestic lion, regal elephant, elusive leopard, stately buffalo, and agile rhinoceros. Traverse the wilderness alongside expert guides, who offer captivating insights into the animals' behaviors and the delicate ecosystem that sustains them. As you venture through the reserve's diverse habitats, witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat, fostering a profound connection with the animal kingdom. Beyond the thrill of the safari, gain firsthand knowledge about the reserve's conservation initiatives, understanding the critical efforts to protect these species for future generations. This safari at Aquila Game Reserve transcends a mere wildlife adventure; it's an immersive journey into the heart of nature's wonders and the vital role of conservation in preserving South Africa's biodiversity.</p> | 4x4 game viewers |
| | <p>group lunch Indulge in a delightful midday interlude amidst the untamed beauty of the African wilderness. Our safari lunch experience offers a moment of respite, surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature. Savor a delectable spread of culinary delights, thoughtfully prepared to complement your safari adventure. As you enjoy your meal in the heart of the savannah, let the surroundings envelop you, immersing you in the serenity of the landscape. This lunch is more than a meal—it's a pause in time, a chance to reflect on the awe-inspiring encounters of the morning's safari, and a prelude to the captivating discoveries that await you in the remainder of the day's adventure.</p> | restaurant |
| late afternoon | return to Cape Town (approx. 2 hours) | bus transfer |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 5 | | research day |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for hosting companies | own arrangements |
| all-day event | <p>consulting project: research day</p> <p>Throughout a dedicated day, students will embark on a dynamic journey of exploration, closely collaborating with host company representatives. Their focus will be directed towards comprehensively dissecting the real-world challenge presented by the partnering company. Through meticulous research and valuable interactions, students will unravel the challenge's intricacies, gaining valuable insights that will serve as the bedrock for innovative solutions. A commitment to data gathering, literature review, and interviews will equip them with a robust knowledge foundation. This wealth of information fosters a profound grasp of the challenge, inspiring creative and effective strategies. The day's efforts set the tone, culminating in a concluding meeting to debrief accomplishments and pave the way for insightful recommendations that precisely address the company's challenge.</p> | |
| | lunch: own arrangements | |
| late afternoon | return to hotel | own arrangements |
| evening | <p>class session: optional group work</p> <p>Seize the moment to engage in a debriefing session with your team, allowing for a comprehensive review of the day's progress and addressing any pressing matters intricately tied to the consulting challenge.</p> | hotel conference rooms |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 6 analysis day | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for hosting companies | own arrangements |
| all-day event | consulting project: analysis day Embarking on a new day, students transition into an immersive analysis phase, working in tandem with host company representatives. Building upon the robust research from the prior day, participants meticulously dissect and scrutinize gathered data. Collaborative discussions and analytical tools provide insights into patterns, trends, and underlying dynamics. Through this rigorous process, students distill raw information into meaningful insights, revealing potential avenues for addressing the challenge. The day is marked by critical thinking, collaborative evaluation, and the refinement of perspectives. The culmination involves synthesizing findings into a cohesive framework, serving as a stepping stone towards innovative solutions. | |
| | lunch: own arrangements | |
| late afternoon | return to hotel | own arrangements |
| evening | class session: optional group work Seize the moment to engage in a debriefing session with your team, allowing for a comprehensive review of the day's progress and addressing any pressing matters intricately tied to the consulting challenge. | hotel conference rooms |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 7 solutions day | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel lobby, depart for hosting companies | own arrangements |
| all-day event | <p>consulting project: solutions day Transitioning into a new day, participants step into the innovative heart of the engagement, collaborating closely with host company representatives. Leveraging the insights gained from previous research and analysis, the day is dedicated to crafting inventive solutions to the challenge at hand. Through collective brainstorming, structured discussions, and strategic planning, students weave a tapestry of creative recommendations. Guided by their comprehensive understanding of the challenge's nuances, participants devise actionable strategies that align with the company's objectives. Each idea is meticulously evaluated, refined, and infused with the essence of collaboration. The culmination of this phase results in a collection of well-crafted solutions, poised to address the challenge with precision and impact.</p> | |
| | lunch: own arrangements | |
| late afternoon | return to hotel | own arrangements |
| evening | <p>class session: optional group work Seize the moment to engage in a debriefing session with your team, allowing for a comprehensive review of the day's progress and addressing any pressing matters intricately tied to the consulting challenge.</p> | hotel conference rooms |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |

| day 8 | | final review and presentation preparation day |
|---------------|--|---|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel conference rooms | hotel conference rooms |
| all-day event | <p>consulting project: final review and presentation preparation day Participants dedicate a day to comprehensive review, presentation preparation, and mock pitching. Not involving direct collaboration with company representatives, this pivotal day hones their efforts. Leveraging insights from research, analysis, and solution crafting, participants meticulously refine recommendations, ensuring cohesion and alignment. They prepare engaging narratives, visuals, and persuasive arguments, distilling complex information into clear messages. Through mock pitching, they sharpen presentation skills, fine-tune delivery, and anticipate questions. This culmination integrates research, innovation, and communication finesse, paving the way for an impactful real-world presentation. It's a day where dedication converges into a compelling showcase of insights and solutions, poised for the final presentation with heightened confidence.</p> | hotel conference rooms |
| | lunch: own arrangements | |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 9 | | final presentations day |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| | meet in hotel conference room | |
| morning | <p>consulting project: final presentation <i>e.g. Fresh Life Produce</i></p> <p>Team 1 showcases solutions to company reps, fostering dialogue. Audience questions, including fellow students, enrich the collaborative exchange, enhancing solution depth and impact.</p> | hotel conference room |
| | break | |
| late morning | <p>consulting project: final presentation <i>e.g. CapeNature</i></p> <p>Team 2 showcases solutions to company reps, fostering dialogue. Audience questions, including fellow students, enrich the collaborative exchange, enhancing solution depth and impact.</p> | hotel conference room |
| | group lunch | hotel restaurant |
| afternoon | <p>consulting project: final presentation <i>e.g. Khayelitsha Cookies</i></p> <p>Team 3 showcases solutions to company reps, fostering dialogue. Audience questions, including fellow students, enrich the collaborative exchange, enhancing solution depth and impact.</p> | hotel conference room |
| | break | |
| late afternoon | <p>consulting project: final presentation <i>e.g. Shout-it-Now</i></p> <p>Team 4 showcases solutions to company reps, fostering dialogue. Audience questions, including fellow students, enrich the collaborative exchange, enhancing solution depth and impact.</p> | hotel conference room |
| early evening | <p>networking dinner with host company representatives</p> <p>Celebrate the culmination of an inspiring day of presentations with a buffet dinner and networking event alongside host company representatives. As the sun sets on a day of insightful showcases, gather together and engage in meaningful conversations, forging connections. Amidst a convivial atmosphere, discuss insights, exchange perspectives, and explore potential collaborations. This event offers a perfect blend of professional camaraderie and shared aspirations, underscoring the rewarding synergy between academia and industry.</p> | hotel restaurant |
| | rest of the day at leisure | |



| day 10 farewell South Africa | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | breakfast | hotel |
| morning | check out, meet in hotel lobby, depart for airport | bus transfer |
| | depart Cape Town | air |

Roles & Responsibilities

ISP:

- Align expectations with lead faculty on preferred types of companies, deliverables, project timeline, etc.
- Source and confirm companies according to university/faculty preferences.
- Design project scope based on faculty preferences, host company needs and aligned expectations from all parties.
- Coordinate the cooperation between students and companies and troubleshoot where necessary.
- Ensure all necessary documents are completed and delivered to the appropriate parties such as project brief form, work plan, evaluation forms, etc.

LEAD FACULTY:

- Align expectations with Program Manager on preferred types of companies, deliverables, project timeline, etc.
- Discuss challenges and project scope with host company representatives and select projects.
- Provide instruction and mentorship to students where needed and track their work.
- Attend final presentations and evaluate deliverables.

STUDENTS:

- Agree with host company representatives on the best communication platforms and frequency of communication.
- Arrange and attend regular meetings with host company representatives, bearing in mind time zone, working hours, etc.
- Complete work on the projects and present both the lead faculty and the host company with agreed-upon deliverables.

HOST ORGANIZATIONS:

- Set the company challenge and complete the project brief form.
- Discuss the challenge and project scope with the lead faculty.
- Attend regular update meetings with the students and provide feedback/answer any questions they may have.
- Attend final presentations and evaluate all of the agreed-upon deliverables.
- Complete student evaluation form.



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