



Image: The Women of Influence team plus UEA students after a workshop on culture and identity through craft and design (3 February 2023, UEA)

SDG Accord Case Study

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary:

[Women of Influence | Mujeres Que Influyen \(women-of-influence.co.uk\)](https://women-of-influence.co.uk) – a partnership project between UEA, PUCP, ONAMIAP and OMIAASEC, supported with funding through the British Academy's GCRF scheme (2020-2023) - highlights the importance for Indigenous women to participate actively and be supported with the tools to exercise influence in their communities. Working alongside a group of young Indigenous women in the Peruvian Amazon region of Junín, this project has sought to understand and make visible the work that these women have undertaken as community members and future leaders. Through participatory work, we are working to support their ambitions, expand further their networks, enhance their visibility and probe their spheres of influence in the context of environment, social, cultural and political risk.

The Women of Influence project addresses the following SDGs: Achieving gender equality (5) and reducing inequalities (10), by empowering the young female activist leaders of Junin's Ashaninka communities (members of OMIAASEC and ONAMIAP) Also, through the co-creation of short films, a website, community screenings, film festival selections and a manifesto, we

SDG Accord Case Study

have also worked to address SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land) through making visible the concerns of the young women to mobilise ancestral knowledge and apply new skills to issues such as water and food security, climate justice and discrimination. We have worked in partnership with the young women, and more broadly with the organisations they represent (OMIASEC and ONAMIAP) to codesign and deliver the range of activities, this also addressing SDG goal 17. The manifesto in particular, composed by the young women, articulates very effectively their desire for justice, and for OMIASEC and ONAMIAP) to be respected by the state as strong and meaningful institutions.

The project has also involved working with UEA's SAAM project (students translating documents and providing film subtitles), as well as with expert input from the young women of the Peruvian audiovisual collective [EmpoderArte Cine \(empoderarte-cine.com\)](http://empoderarte-cine.com) for the creation of the short films and the website.

The films may be accessed here: [Films — Women of Influence | Mujeres Que Influyen \(women-of-influence.co.uk\)](http://women-of-influence.co.uk)

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1. Improvement to the capacity of our collaborative research and the possibility of contributing an Impact Case Study to Area Studies for the next Research Excellence Framework submission (2027/8).*
- 2. Developing understanding of young female indigenous rights, conditions of living, and capacity for new forms of effective leadership.*
- 3. Contribution to UEA interdisciplinary themes: ClimateUEA and CreativeUEA*

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1. Ongoing budget/funding and accessing that funding in flexible ways such that all partners are recompensed for their work and contributions. We have worked closely with UEA's finance team to achieve this responsibly and ethically.*
- 2. Maintaining contact – the young women are very busy. We have a WhatsApp group for regular informal contact and ensure that meetings take account of access to digital platforms, ie we've done our best to connect with the partners in accordance with what works best for them. Despite working throughout the pandemic, we also managed to complete two periods of fieldwork in Peru, ensuring the young women knew we were determined to visit and understand their communities. We also brought the women together through workshops in their region, and facilitated a week long visit to the UK for two of them during which several dissemination and awareness-raising activities were carried out, involving academics, activists, artists, students, teachers, NGOs, press and parliamentarians.*

SDG Accord Case Study

Outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

This project has been a highly motivating collaboration between all partners, taking place throughout the pandemic and using audiovisual tools to connect, share and learn from each other. We hope to have made small contribution towards highlighting the importance and capacity of young indigenous leaders who can effect positive change in terms of climate action and justice and whose approach to leadership and community participation should be acknowledged as a powerful alternative to more traditional structures.