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**ECO-BUILDING: AN INNOVATION FOR
BUILDING COST REDUCTION**

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1. Description of the project:

As part of my professional experience among others, I am participating in the development of an **eco-building project aim at promoting sustainable and affordable housing solutions**. The project focus on integrating environmentally friendly construction techniques, particularly the use of **locally sourced materials such as stabilized earth blocks**, in order to reduce construction costs and minimize environmental impact.

This experience allow me to acquire some **technical competencies** in sustainable construction and innovative building practices, **but most importantly to develop managerial skills in** project management and coordination.

The eco-building project aim to develop residential housing units using **sustainable architectural design and innovative construction techniques**, emphasizing on:

- Natural ventilation
- Efficient use of natural lighting
- Use of stabilized earth blocks for walls
- Reduction of energy consumption
- Integration of environmentally friendly construction practices

The project also aim to design and construct **energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable housing units** that would be accessible to middle- and low-income populations, through:

- The promotion of the use of local and eco-friendly building materials
- The reduction of the carbon footprint of construction activities
- The Lowering of overall construction costs
- The Improvement of thermal comfort and energy efficiency in buildings
- The demonstration of the feasibility of sustainable housing solutions in developing urban environments

2. Project Length (Still ongoing)

The project started in 2024 with feasibility studies which is now completed, then started the land preparation with some excavation works and land sanitation. As one of the project promoter, I started working on the project right from day one in 2024 and I am currently working on the project still.

3. My Role and responsibilities in the project.

My role in the project is that of Project Manager and my responsibilities include planning, coordinating, and supervising the entire process, right from phase one which is the studies up to construction process. Ensuring that objectives are achieved in terms of quality, cost efficiency, sustainability, and delivery time. It's a real experience in leadership of multidisciplinary teams

4. Knowledge and concepts I'm developing and applying in the project:

I am responsible for overseeing and coordinating all phases of the project, from planning and resource management to construction supervision and final delivery. This falls on **STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

This role requires a combination of technical expertise, strategic planning, and leadership skills to ensure the successful execution of the project.

5. Relation of this project to my major at AIU.

This eco-building project in which I am serving as **Project Manager** is closely aligned with the principles and concepts studied in one of my major, **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management**. The project illustrates how entrepreneurial thinking and innovative practices can be applied to address real-world challenges in the construction and real estate sector.

From the view that one of the key aspects of entrepreneurship is the identification of opportunities in the market. In this case, the project responds to a critical social and economic problem, which is the shortage of affordable housing for low- and middle-income populations. By recognizing this gap in the housing market, the project aims to develop a cost-efficient and sustainable housing model capable of meeting growing urban demand.

Innovation management is also a key component of the project. The initiative introduce innovative construction techniques, particularly the use of stabilized earth blocks and locally available materials, which significantly reduces construction costs while improving environmental sustainability. This approach represents process innovation, as it transforms the way housing can be constructed using fewer resources and lower energy consumption.

In addition, the project demonstrates business model innovation by exploring affordable housing strategies, such as cost optimization, scalable construction methods, and the potential for flexible financing models that could make housing more accessible to lower-income households.

From a managerial perspective, my role as Project Manager allows me to apply entrepreneurial leadership skills such as strategic planning, coordination of multidisciplinary teams, resource

management, and problem-solving in a dynamic construction environment. These responsibilities require the ability to transform an innovative idea into a practical and operational project, WHICH IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Furthermore, the project creates social and economic value, which is another important objective of entrepreneurial activity. By promoting sustainable construction techniques and local material sourcing, the project supports local economic development, generates employment opportunities, and contributes to environmentally responsible infrastructure development.

Participating in this eco-building project as Project Manager has a significant impact on my professional vision and future career objectives. This experience allows me to see how innovative ideas in the construction sector can be transformed into practical solutions that create both economic and social value. Through the implementation of sustainable construction techniques and the use of locally available materials, I realize the strong potential for developing affordable and environmentally responsible housing solutions in rapidly growing urban areas.

This project reinforces my ambition to pursue a career in real estate development and construction entrepreneurship, where I can combine technical expertise with innovative management practices to address the increasing demand for housing. My academic journey in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management at AIU will provide me with the necessary tools to identify opportunities, develop strategic business models, and lead complex projects in dynamic markets.

In the future, I aim to reinforce and restructure my BUILD TOGETHER Company to focus on sustainable real estate development, particularly projects that integrate cost-efficient construction techniques and innovative financing mechanisms to make housing more accessible. By leveraging entrepreneurial thinking and modern project management approaches, I hope to contribute to the development of infrastructure that supports urban growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Ultimately, this experience confirms my belief that entrepreneurship and innovation can play a crucial role in transforming the construction industry and creating long-term solutions to the housing challenges faced by many developing countries, such as Cameroon

6. How can the knowledge and experience gained in my project be used to further human rights and the 17 Goals for a Sustainable World by the United Nations?

The eco-building project in which I am participating provides valuable practical experience that can contribute to the promotion of human rights and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project focuses on affordable, environmentally sustainable housing solutions, therefore directly supports several international development priorities related to social welfare, environmental protection, and economic inclusion.

- **The project promote the right to adequate housing.**

Housing is recognized as a **fundamental human right** under international human rights frameworks, including the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25)** and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. Through the development of affordable housing using cost-efficient and locally available materials, the project contributes to improving access to safe and adequate housing for low-income populations.

By applying the knowledge gained in this project, I can help design and implement housing solutions that are more accessible to disadvantaged communities, thereby contributing to the realization of the **right to decent living conditions**.

- **The project Support Sustainable Development through Sustainable Cities and Communities.**

One of the most direct connections between my project and the UN Sustainable Development Goals is SDG 11, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Include a bibliography of any references that would support this report. This is not required but it helps us document your experience.

The eco-building approach used in the project promotes:

- Affordable housing development
- Sustainable urban expansion
- Environmentally responsible construction practices
- Improved living conditions for urban populations

By continuing to develop innovative housing models based on local materials and efficient construction methods, I can contribute to creating more sustainable and resilient urban environments.

- **The project contribute to Sustainable Development through Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**

The project demonstrates how innovation in the construction sector can improve infrastructure development. The use of stabilized earth blocks and locally sourced materials represents a form of **technological and process innovation** that reduces costs and environmental impact.

Applying this knowledge in future projects can support the development of **modern, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure**, which is a key objective of SDG 9.

- **The project support sustainable Development through Decent Work and Economic Growth**

My eco-building Construction projects generate **employment opportunities for local workers**, including engineers, technicians, skilled laborers, and suppliers.

While promoting the use of local materials and local labor, our project stimulate economic activity and contribute to **inclusive economic growth**. This aligns with **SDG 8**, which promotes decent work and sustainable economic development.

- **The project contribute to Environmental Sustainability**

The project also contributes to environmental sustainability by encouraging:

- Efficient use of natural resources
- Reduction of construction waste
- Lower carbon emissions through reduced cement usage
- Environmentally friendly building materials

These practices falls on **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** by promoting more sustainable construction practices that reduce environmental impact.

- **The project support Social Inclusion and Community Development**

Affordable housing projects have the potential to improve social stability and reduce inequality. Our project contribute to developing housing solutions that are financially affordable and accessible to low-income families, therefore help to reducing urban poverty and improve social inclusion.

This falls on **SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities**, by ensuring that more people have access to essential infrastructure and services.

From above demonstration, it's quite obvious that beyond its immediate local impact, the project aligns strongly with several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It contributes to **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** by promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)** through the introduction of innovative construction processes, and **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** by supporting local employment and economic activity in the construction sector. Additionally, by reducing the environmental footprint of building materials and encouraging responsible resource use, the project supports **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

From a professional perspective, this experience strengthens my commitment to applying the principles of **entrepreneurship and innovation management** to real-world challenges. It demonstrates how entrepreneurial thinking can transform innovative ideas into scalable solutions that generate both economic and social value. By combining sustainable construction techniques

with effective project management and strategic planning, it is possible to create infrastructure projects that contribute to long-term community development.

Looking ahead, my goal is to carry out this project to its final phase and after this continue developing and managing projects that integrate **innovation, sustainability, and social impact** within the construction and real estate sector. By promoting affordable housing initiatives and sustainable building practices, I aim to contribute to the development of resilient cities and improve living conditions for underserved and underprivileged populations.

Ultimately, this project illustrates how **local innovation in the construction sector can contribute to global sustainable development efforts**, reinforcing the important role that responsible entrepreneurship can play in building a more equitable and sustainable future.