

ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

Six Areas. Real Work. Open Now

The Lake Malawi Living Lab is a working system in active development. The areas below are where university partners — from Africa, Europe and beyond — can contribute meaningfully, right now.

AI & DECISION SYSTEMS

01 Intelligence tools for ecology and livelihood.

We are building a low-bandwidth AI platform that integrates ecological and economic data across the Living Lab and the African Collaborative — enabling real-time scenario modeling and decision support in low-resource field conditions. Students and researchers can contribute to optimization models, dashboard design and the broader AI architecture. The result is infrastructure that will shape how a new development model operates across Africa.

ENTERPRISE & MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

02 Making regenerative enterprise investable.

The PD SME Capital Exchange™ is the platform connecting African regenerative businesses to capital, markets and technical support — and it is being built now. Contributors can work on investment-readiness frameworks, QR-linked traceability systems and SME capability platforms. This is financial and market innovation with direct ecological and social consequences.

ECOLOGICAL & PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

03 Linking ecosystem health to productive activity.

Lake Malawi holds more freshwater fish species than any other lake on earth — and it is under reversible pressure. Work here spans sustainable fisheries modeling, circular aquaculture feed systems using local organic inputs, and climate-livelihood scenario simulators. Students work across biology, economics and systems design on tools that communities and policymakers will actually use.

GOVERNANCE & COORDINATION SYSTEMS

04 **Community ownership, built into the architecture.**

The Living Lab only works if the communities at its center own it – their data, their decisions, their future. Active development includes consent-based data governance frameworks, a lightweight field coordination platform designed for low-connectivity environments, and stakeholder mapping tools. Contributors engage with questions about ethics, power and technology that matter far beyond Lake Malawi.

KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING SYSTEMS

05 **Real-time learning across a continent.**

The African Collaborative for Positive Development™ is designed to make every insight from Lake Malawi available to practitioners across Africa as it happens – not years later. Contributors can work on the knowledge graph mapping relationships across the Collaborative, AI-supported learning systems, and the interactive interfaces that make complex cross-country data navigable. This is cross-continental infrastructure being designed right now.

EU-ALIGNED SUPPLY CHAINS & REGULATORY INNOVATION

06 **Compliance as competitive advantage.**

Emerging European regulations – deforestation-free sourcing, supply chain due diligence – are reshaping what global buyers can source and how. The Living Lab is building compliance in from day one, not retrofitting it under pressure. Contributors can work on traceability systems, governance models and production approaches that meet EU requirements while strengthening community ownership. For European university partners, this is a direct and practically grounded research agenda.

