

**AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND INDUSTRY
UNIVERSITY**

SDG – 15 REPORT



Sustainable Development Goal 15—*Life on Land*—aims to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. In Azerbaijan, with its diverse landscapes ranging from forests to semi-deserts, the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ensuring environmental sustainability. Higher education institutions like ASOIU play a pivotal role in advancing these objectives through education, research, and community engagement.

1. ASOIU's Commitment to SDG 15

ASOIU has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability through the development and implementation of its Sustainability Plan 2023–2030. This comprehensive plan, formulated in collaboration with faculty, staff, administration, and students, outlines the university's dedication to translating vision into tangible actions that promote environmental stewardship, economic stability, and social equity. The plan emphasizes initiatives both within the campus and in the broader community, aiming to contribute to a more sustainable and just world.

In alignment with this commitment, ASOIU signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. This memorandum focuses on collaboration in environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and related activities within the framework of the "Green World Solidarity Year" and preparations for the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Key areas of cooperation include joint tree-planting initiatives and engagement in the “Green World Ambassadors” program.



2. Educational Activities Related to SDG 15

ASOIU integrates sustainability into its academic curriculum by offering courses and modules that address environmental science, sustainable land management, and related topics. The university also supports student-led initiatives, such as the Eco Club, which engages students in various activities including waste reduction campaigns, tree-planting events, and energy-saving projects. These efforts aim to instill a culture of environmental responsibility among students.



In November 2024, an open lecture on "Waste Management" was delivered by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources at ASOIU. The lecture covered national priorities for socio-economic development and initiatives in waste management, providing students with valuable insights into environmental protection strategies.



3. Research Supporting Biodiversity and Land Ecosystems

ASOIU actively promotes research focused on environmental sustainability. One notable project involves the development of methods for cleaning oil spills using dispersant reagents, directly addressing environmental challenges and contributing to global efforts in mitigating the impact of oil spills on terrestrial and marine ecosystems.



4. Campus Sustainability and Green Infrastructure

In February 2024, as part of the "Green World Solidarity Year," ASOIU organized a book exhibition at the AzII e-Book House. The exhibition featured publications focusing on environmental improvement, restoration and enhancement of greenery, efficient utilization of water resources, and sustainable energy sources, reflecting the university's commitment to environmental awareness and education. Here you can check: https://asoiu.edu.az/single_news/2473



5. Community Outreach and Awareness Campaigns

ASOIU actively participates in community-based environmental initiatives. On September 24, 2024, faculty members and students from ASOIU joined the "Protect the Caspian" campaign. During this event, approximately two hectares of land on the Caspian coastline were cleaned of solid household and other types of waste, emphasizing the collective responsibility in preserving natural habitats. Here you can check: <https://www.ufaz.az/en/news/asoiu-and-ufaz-teama-joined-the-protect-the-caspian-campaign/>



Additionally, in November 2024, UFAZ hosted a Climate Change Art Exhibition supported by the UFAZ Ecology Club. The exhibition aimed to highlight the urgency of taking immediate action against climate change and demonstrated Azerbaijan's commitment to combating climate change ahead of the COP29 conference. Here you can check: <https://www.ufaz.az/en/news/climate-change-art-exhibition-was-held-at-ufaz/>



7. Challenges and Future Plans

While ASOIU has made significant strides in promoting sustainability, challenges such as integrating comprehensive sustainability practices across all departments and securing funding for large-scale projects remain. To address these challenges, the university plans to establish a "Green University" project, as initiated by the formation of a COP29 Working Group. This project aims to further embed sustainability into the university's operations and culture, aligning with national and global environmental objectives.

8. Conclusion

ASOIU's multifaceted approach to supporting SDG 15 reflects its dedication to environmental stewardship through education, research, campus initiatives, and community engagement. By fostering a culture of sustainability, the university contributes to the preservation and enhancement of terrestrial ecosystems, aligning with both national priorities and global sustainability goals.