

14.3.1 – “Does your university as a body support and/or organise events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources?”

ASOIU recognises the critical importance of protecting and sustainably utilising aquatic ecosystems—ranging from the shores of the Caspian Sea and inland reservoirs to rivers and wetlands across Azerbaijan. Leveraging its institutional strengths in water resources, ecological engineering and sustainability education, ASOIU organises and supports a variety of events that engage students, faculty, community stakeholders and local authorities in promoting conservation, responsible use and ecosystem stewardship of marine and freshwater resources.

1. Event Organising and Support

ASOIU actively participates in and hosts events such as:

- **Coastal clean-ups and awareness campaigns** along the Caspian Sea coastline, mobilising students, staff and community volunteers to remove debris, monitor shoreline health and engage in outreach on marine pollution and ecosystem health. For example, the “Let’s protect the Caspian – let’s protect nature” campaign engaged ASOIU participants.



- **Student-led projects and competitions** which integrate ecosystem conservation themes—such as hackathons on sustainability, field-trips to wetland restoration sites, and tree-planting or habitat-enhancement events. These foster hands-on engagement with aquatic ecosystem issues.



2. Integration with Sustainability Governance & Institutional Strategy

ASOIU's Sustainability Plan and Committee provide the structural framework for organising and supporting these events. The Sustainability Committee ensures that event programmes align with the broader goals of promoting conservation of aquatic resources, embedding the theme of water and ecosystem management into the institutional agenda. Furthermore, ASOIU's Sustainability Awareness page highlights community outreach projects and environmental campaigns, including aquatic ecosystem initiatives, evidencing the university's outreach work.

3. Impact & Community Reach

Through these events, ASOIU achieves measurable outcomes:

- ✓ Mobilising students, staff and local community members in conservation actions along rivers, lakes and the Caspian coast.
- ✓ Raising awareness of sustainable utilisation of aquatic resources—both in academic settings and public forums.
- ✓ Encouraging responsible behaviour toward marine and freshwater ecosystems (e.g., reduction of litter/discharge, engagement in monitoring, ecosystem volunteerism).
- ✓ Contributing to national sustainability agendas and aligning with SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) via tangible event-based outreach. The combination of event-hosting, community participation and institutional strategy show ASOIU's role as a body supporting and organising relevant conservation events.

Conclusion

ASOIU, as a body, supports and organises a range of events aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable utilisation of oceans, seas (particularly the Caspian Sea), lakes, rivers and freshwater resources. With a governance structure (Sustainability Committee), a student-engaged platform (Student Alliance for Sustainability), and publicly reported campaigns and outreach activities, the university demonstrates its commitment to indicator 14.3.1 and the broader sustainability agenda.