

14.5.3 - Does your university as a body develop and support programs and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) actively develops and supports programs, initiatives, and student-led activities that promote the sustainable use and protection of aquatic ecosystems, with a particular focus on the Caspian Sea basin, river networks, and water conservation systems. These programs combine scientific research, public awareness, and technological innovation to enhance aquatic stewardship at both campus and community levels.

1. “Clean Caspian” Environmental Campaign

- An annual community-driven program led by ASOIU’s Green Campus Leaders and SDG Learncast teams.
- Focuses on shoreline cleanup, plastic waste reduction, and water pollution awareness.
- Over 250 students and faculty members participated in the 2024–2025 activities near Bibi-Heybat and Pirallahi coastlines.
- Data collected from these cleanups is used to monitor litter composition and propose waste minimization measures.



2. SDG Learncast – “Water for Life” Educational Series

- A part of ASOIU’s sustainability education platform that integrates SDG 6 (Clean Water) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) themes.
- Includes interactive lectures, podcasts, and student research presentations on topics such as water ecosystem balance, microplastic pollution, and wastewater reuse technologies.



3. “Blue Campus” Water Stewardship Incentive

- Internal incentive program under the Green Transformation Strategy of ASOIU.
- Encourages the use of water-saving systems (aerators, reuse tanks) in laboratories and cafeterias.
- Awards an annual “Aqua Responsibility Certificate” to departments reducing their water consumption footprint by at least 15% through conservation measures.
- Supported by ASOIU’s Energy & Water Management Office.

4. Partnerships for Aquatic Stewardship

ASOIU collaborates with:

- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan – for joint monitoring and coastal pollution control.
- Caspian Environmental Program (CEP) – for awareness campaigns and pollution source tracking.
- Local NGOs and schools – to host youth workshops on marine ecosystem protection and water sustainability innovation challenges.

Conclusion

ASOIU integrates aquatic ecosystem stewardship into its education, research, and community engagement strategies. Through awareness campaigns, academic research, technological innovation, and incentive-based sustainability programs, the university cultivates a responsible and data-driven culture of aquatic protection — contributing directly to SDG 14.5.3 and the long-term health of marine and freshwater systems in Azerbaijan.