

14.5.4 - Does your university as a body collaborate with the local community, e.g., through partnerships, in efforts to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) demonstrates a strong institutional commitment to the protection and sustainable management of shared aquatic ecosystems through partnerships with local, national, and international stakeholders. The university actively collaborates with the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency (ADSEA) to promote responsible water management and strengthen community-based stewardship of aquatic resources. ASOIU hosted a partnership meeting with ADSEA focused on joint initiatives for the efficient use of water resources, sustainable ecosystem management, and the training of highly qualified specialists in hydro-engineering and water management fields.



In 2024, ASOIU co-organized an international scientific conference on the Caspian Sea Basin's transition period together with other regional partners. The conference brought together scientists, policymakers, and industry representatives to address environmental protection, sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources, and ecosystem resilience in the Caspian Sea region, one of the world's most sensitive and strategically important aquatic ecosystems. Through these joint events, ASOIU not only contributes to academic dialogue but also strengthens transboundary cooperation for maintaining marine and coastal ecosystems shared among Caspian countries.



Additionally, ASOIU supports capacity building and community-oriented education in water resource management through its long-term cooperation with the State Water Resources Agency. This collaboration includes scholarship programs, joint research initiatives, and professional development activities that prepare future specialists to tackle environmental challenges related to water and aquatic systems. These initiatives reflect ASOIU's holistic approach — combining education, research, and community partnership — to preserve aquatic ecosystems and contribute to the sustainable development of Azerbaijan's water sector.

Through these comprehensive partnerships, ASOIU serves as a proactive institutional actor in promoting local engagement, scientific research, and professional training for the sustainable management of shared aquatic ecosystems. The university's efforts align with national environmental priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14 – Life Below Water, reinforcing ASOIU's role as a key contributor to aquatic ecosystem conservation in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region.