

BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY



REPORT ON SDG 15

LIFE ON LAND



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ABSTRACT

The university's commitment to supporting Sustainable Development Goal 15, focusing on Life on Land, is evident through a range of initiatives and policies. The university actively promotes education and awareness on land ecosystem conservation and sustainable land utilization. It hosts events, offers educational programs on flora and fauna, and provides outreach on sustainable land management.

The institution has established policies to ensure sustainable food sourcing on campus, reducing plastic waste, and promoting clean water standards. Furthermore, the university actively engages with local communities and collaborates with external organizations on projects related to land ecosystem protection and sustainable development.

The university's actions extend to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including forests, mountains, and drylands. The institution also prioritizes the protection of IUCN Red Listed and national conservation list species.

While the campus takes proactive steps to minimize its impact on land ecosystems, it does not have a specific policy for managing alien species. Nevertheless, it has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and carbon footprint reduction.

In summary, the university's efforts reflect a strong dedication to the conservation and sustainable use of land ecosystems, aligning with the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 15.

USED DATA

Interdisciplinary policies of BSU:

1. Accommodation Policy
2. Climate Action Policy
3. Sustainable Investment Policy
4. Sustainable Procurement Policy

Legislative acts

1. [United Nations Development Program](#)
2. [Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development"](#)

SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND

CURRENT SITUATION

Baku State University (BSU) has hosted a presentation of the project "Promotion of the Global Forest Viewing Platform in the Caucasus Region". The project is implemented by the Azerbaijan branch of the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) with the support of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

The event was attended by Acting Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Professor Meksed Gojamanov, Director of the Azerbaijan branch of the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus Yashar Kerimov, faculty members and students.

Our university has policies to convince that products on campus are sustainably farmed. According to the agreements made with the corporations or the crops used for food on campus, should be preferred from the products grown with sustainable agriculture methods. This creates policies that cover the companies from which services are purchased and other participants in the supply chain, as well as supporting sustainable agriculture.

Department for Biodiversity Conservation and Development of Specially Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic held a Workshop at Baku State University. Deputy Head of the Department Rashad Allahverdiyev, officials Nigar Yusifli and Farida Karimova made presentations on the protection of biological diversity. It was noted that currently there are 10 national parks, 10 nature reserves and 24 state nature reserves in the country. They occupy 10.3% of the country's territory.

Elective course: ATMF-B04 Flora of Azerbaijan

Elective course: ATMF-B05 Fauna of Azerbaijan

Goals and objectives: determination the complex influence of evolutionary factors and environmental factors in the formation of the structure of the wild fauna and flora.

- acquaintance of students with species composition of fauna and flora ;
- training the students about the role of climate, terrain and other biogeographic barriers in the distribution of fauna and flora across landscapes;

- mastering the fauna and flora conservation that is the main condition for the sustainable development of biodiversity

University offers educational programme /outreach for local or national communities on sustainable management of land for agriculture and tourism as well. PhD student of the Department of Economic-Political Geography and Tourism of Foreign Countries Kerim Huseynzade made a presentation on outdoor tourism activities. Kerim Huseynzade, while emphasizing the relevance of outdoor tourism, stated that the corona pandemic, digitization, and health are causing ever more people to spend their leisure time outdoors.

Most of the teachers of the botany and zoology departments of the Biology school (Taghiyev Abulfaz, Humbatova Sevinj, Hajiyevev Rauf, Musayev Aftandil, Mammadov Anar, Mammadov Chingiz, Najafov Janbakhish, et al.) have a good experience of field work and they are co-authors of the Red Book of Azerbaijan. Currently, work is underway on the third edition, which will be published in 2023 and the authors were trained on the correct use of IUCN categories and criteria.

Monitoring in the habitat should be organized every year, raising awareness among the local population in the areas where the species is spread, etc. Students should also be involved in this propaganda work.

Furthermore, the completion of a five-story Educational-practical and recreational center in Guba region of Azerbaijan (distance - about 165 km from Baku), capable of serving about 400 individuals (separate rooms with own showers and toilets), has laid a solid foundation for fostering the scientific-practical creativity of both teachers and students and for their recreation and relaxation, especially during the summer period. Additionally, a portion of the faculty and staff families have chosen to reside on campus. This Center has furnished rooms, a large canteen with all facilities, sportive areas, stadiums, big modern conference room, some educational rooms, hundreds of fruit trees in the large territory - harvest is usually delivered to university staff, river, and forest nearby. The University provides its own buses and rented vehicles for students and staff to travel to the Center.

Advisors to the Rector of Baku State University (BSU), Khalid Bayramli, Khumar Mamedbagirova, and Shabnam Safarov, visited Istanbul Technical University. During the visit, the parties discussed matters related to the implementation of joint projects and the development the dual-degree programs. Subsequently, the BSU delegation toured the Istanbul Technical University Museum of History and tis Technological

Center. Both parties also explored the possibility of establishing a similar Technological Center at BSU.

Sustainable Procurement and Collaboration: BSU's involvement in sustainable procurement encompasses not just its campus activities but also extends to collaborative endeavors with federal and international entities, alongside nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The dedication to sustainable practices at BSU is demonstrated through the active participation of its employees, including the chair of hydrometeorology, in various projects carried out by esteemed organizations such as the UN Development Program, the TACIS Program of the European Commission, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Melioration and Water Industry Open Joint-Stock Company. These collaborative efforts exemplify our commitment to promoting sustainability within and outside the realm of academia.

Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) Short-Term (By 2025):

- Objective 1: Achieve a 20% reduction in water consumption relative to the baseline level by the year 2025.
- Objective 2: Implement a comprehensive schedule of at least two annual water conservation seminars and four workshops by the year 2025.

The university has a policy on reducing plastic waste on campus.

- a. It is forbidden to use any plastic bottle in canteens that are locating in different buildings.
- b. BSU signs service agreement with catering companies that are operating in line with SDGs.
- c. BSU consider SDGs as a selection criterion while procurement.
- d. Recycle bins for both plastic and paper waste were placed in the buildings.

According to Sustainable Investment Policy, Action 4: Investing in projects that demonstrate strong environmental stewardship, promote sustainability, and actively work to reduce carbon footprint: Continuing to allocate funds to projects that demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and reducing carbon footprint.

KEY FINDINGS

These key findings reflect the university's dedication to sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of land ecosystems, demonstrating a commitment to the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 15.

The key findings of the report on Baku State University's initiatives related to Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land) can be summarized as follows:

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| Project Collaboration | BSU actively collaborates with organizations such as the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to promote forest conservation and biodiversity protection. The "Promotion of the Global Forest Viewing Platform in the Caucasus Region" project is a significant example of such collaboration. |
| Sustainable Food Sourcing | The university has established policies to ensure that products on campus are sustainably farmed. These policies involve agreements with corporations and suppliers to prioritize products grown using sustainable agriculture methods. |
| Biodiversity Conservation | BSU's involvement in workshops and initiatives related to biodiversity conservation is notable. The Department for Biodiversity Conservation and Development of Specially Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources holds workshops at the university, raising awareness about the significance of protecting biological diversity. |
| Educational Programs | The university offers educational programs on ecosystems, focusing on the flora and fauna of Azerbaijan. These programs aim to educate students about biodiversity and its conservation, aligning with the goals of Sustainable Development Goal 15. |
| Terrestrial Ecosystem Preservation | BSU has a policy in place to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems |

associated with the university, particularly forests, mountains, and drylands.

**IUCN Red Listed
Species Protection**

Many faculty members are involved in the preparation of the Red Book of Azerbaijan, with work underway on the third edition. The authors have been trained on the correct use of IUCN categories and criteria, and monitoring is conducted to protect these species.

**Community
Engagement**

The completion of an educational-practical and recreational center in the Guba region has provided a foundation for fostering scientific-practical creativity among teachers and students. It offers an opportunity for recreation, particularly during the summer period, while a portion of the faculty and staff families choose to reside on campus.

**Collaboration and
Sustainable
Procurement**

BSU actively collaborates with a range of organizations, including the UN Development Program, the TACIS Program of the European Commission, and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. These collaborations demonstrate the university's commitment to sustainability.

**Plastic Waste
Reduction**

The university has implemented a policy to reduce plastic waste on campus by banning the use of plastic bottles in canteens and providing recycling bins for plastic and paper waste.

Water Conservation

BSU has set specific objectives for water conservation, including a 20% reduction in water consumption relative to the baseline level by 2025 and the implementation of water conservation seminars and workshops

FUTURE GOALS

Baku State University (BSU) has already taken significant steps towards promoting sustainability and biodiversity conservation in line with Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land). To further enhance their efforts, the university can consider the following future goals:



By setting and pursuing these future goals, BSU can further strengthen its position as a leader in promoting sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of land ecosystems, making a positive impact on the local and global environment.