

## REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15

### LIFE ON LAND

2024



## Foreword

At Azerbaijan Technical University, we recognize the critical importance of fostering sustainable development and protecting natural ecosystems. As part of our commitment to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), we actively engage in promoting environmental stewardship through research, education, and community outreach. While we acknowledge areas where progress is needed, we continuously strive to improve our policies and practices for the sustainable management of land, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Our initiatives aim to create an environment where students, faculty, and the community work together toward a more sustainable future.

## Introduction

Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) has been at the forefront of research and education in sustainable land management and conservation. While the university does not directly manage ecosystems, it plays a significant role in raising awareness, advancing research, and offering educational programs on environmental protection. From integrating sustainability into the curriculum to promoting local biodiversity, AzTU supports a wide array of initiatives to enhance practical knowledge and foster a culture of sustainability. These efforts reflect our dedication to advancing SDG 15 and ensuring the responsible use of natural resources in collaboration with local and international partners.

## References

[National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

[AzTU Sustainability](#)

[AzTU SDG 15 Report / November 2023](#)

## SDG 15 Keywords - Life on land

Afforestation	Extinct	Land use and sustainability	Strategic plan for biodiversity
Agriculture	Extinct species	Manage forests	Terrestrial ecosystems
Animals	Extinction	Managed forests	Threatened species
Arable land	Forest	Micro - organisms	Tree
Bees	Forest management	Permaculture	Tree species
Biodiversity	Forests	Plants	Wetlands
Biodiversity loss	Genetic resources	Poaching	
Conservation	Illegal wildlife products	Poverty	
Deforestation	Illicit trafficking	Protected fauna	
Desertification	Indigenous	Protected flora	
Drought	Indigenous populations	Protected species	
Drylands	Invasive alien species	Reforestation	
Ecosystem	Land conservation	Soil	
Ecosystem restoration	Land degradation	Soil degradation	
Ecosystems	Land loss	Species	

## SDG 15 TARGETS

- **Sustainable Management of Ecosystems.** Promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems through research and education on conservation and biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity Conservation.** Protect and conserve biodiversity by raising awareness, offering educational programs, and engaging in public outreach.
- **Sustainable Land Management.** Encourage sustainable land use practices, particularly in agriculture and tourism, through community outreach and training programs.
- **Restoration of Ecosystems.** Plan for future policies and initiatives aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems, including forests, drylands, and other threatened habitats.
- **Carbon Neutrality and Environmental Protection.** Work towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and integrate sustainability principles into campus development and daily operations.
- **Public Engagement in Conservation.** Collaborate with local communities and organizations to promote conservation efforts and raise public awareness about ecosystem protection.
- **Sustainable Campus Development.** Incorporate sustainability into campus planning, ensuring that biodiversity and environmental concerns are considered in any future development projects.

## Statistics and Their Indicators

### 1. Research and Education

- **Number of research programs** focused on threatened ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, which help generate solutions to environmental challenges.
- **Incorporation of environmental topics** in the curriculum, measured by the number of courses, seminars, and conferences on ecology, sustainability, and biodiversity conservation.

### 2. Community Outreach

- **Educational programs for local and national communities** on sustainable land management in agriculture and tourism. The availability of free master classes, seminars, and certification courses serves as an indicator of outreach success.
- **Public awareness activities** such as seminars and conferences organized to inform the community about ecosystem protection and sustainable land use.

### 3. Sustainability Practices on Campus

- **Campus development and biodiversity inclusion:** The university ensures biodiversity is considered in any campus planning or development processes, with sustainability and environmental assessments guiding construction activities.
- **Water quality and waste management policies,** reflected in adherence to national standards for water discharge and hazardous waste disposal, contributing to ecosystem and public health protection.

### 4. Collaborations and Partnerships

- **Partnerships with local communities and organizations:** The number of collaborative initiatives aimed at protecting shared land ecosystems demonstrates AzTU's engagement in broader conservation efforts.

#### SDG 15's Positive Impact on other SDGs

**SDG 13 (Climate Action):** AzTU's focus on ecosystem conservation and sustainable land management contributes to climate resilience. By promoting sustainable campus development and working towards carbon neutrality by 2030, the university helps mitigate climate change. Sustainable forestry and ecosystem protection are key strategies for carbon sequestration, which supports global climate action efforts.

**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** AzTU's implementation of water quality standards and water discharge regulations directly supports SDG 6. Ensuring that water discharges uphold ecosystem and wildlife protection helps maintain clean water resources, which are vital for both human health and the environment.

**SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production):** Through waste management policies, especially regarding hazardous materials and plastic waste, AzTU contributes to SDG 12. By promoting the recycling of plastic waste and ensuring proper disposal of hazardous substances, the university encourages responsible consumption and production practices, reducing environmental harm.

## Current situation

**Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Land:** AzTU actively promotes the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems through various research initiatives. Environmental engineers and experts conduct detailed studies on ecosystem conservation, offering solutions to environmental issues. In addition to research, the university integrates topics on ecology and sustainability into its curriculum, ensuring that students are well-informed and equipped to address ecological challenges. Public awareness initiatives, such as seminars and conferences, also play a vital role in promoting these values within the wider community.



**Support for Ecosystem Biodiversity:** While AzTU does not directly manage threatened ecosystems, it significantly contributes to biodiversity conservation through education and research. The university offers courses and seminars focused on environmental science, sustainable development, and biodiversity. Additionally, it collaborates with local and international organizations to foster knowledge exchange and



practical efforts toward environmental protection. These partnerships, along with sustainable development projects on campus, create an environmentally conscious academic culture.



**Educational Programs for Ecosystems:** AzTU is committed to educating both local and national communities on the importance of ecosystems, particularly wild flora and fauna. Through its School of Lifelong Learning, the university offers programs aimed at enhancing public knowledge of ecosystems, ensuring the scientific expertise developed within the university is transferred to industry and society. These initiatives help communities better understand ecosystem dynamics and contribute to sustainable development efforts.



**Sustainable Land Management for Agriculture and Tourism:** AzTU provides targeted education on sustainable land management, particularly for agriculture and tourism, through its Faculty of Chemical Technology, Processing, and Ecology. The university offers free master classes, courses, and seminars, with opportunities for paid certification if required. These programs aim to raise awareness about the need for sustainable land use, supporting local and national communities in adopting eco-friendly agricultural and tourism practices.



**Challenges and Future Plans:** While AzTU does not currently have specific policies on several key environmental issues, such as sustainable food production, protection of terrestrial ecosystems, or plastic waste management, it recognizes the importance of these areas. The university is actively researching and planning to develop policies on ecosystem conservation, alien species management, and waste reduction. It has already taken steps to comply with water quality standards and hazardous waste disposal regulations, aligning itself with national laws. These efforts reflect AzTU's growing commitment to environmental sustainability, with ambitious goals like achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.





## Future goals

- **Development of Ecosystem Management Policies**

AzTU plans to establish comprehensive policies for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, with a focus on forests, mountains, and drylands.

- **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Policies**

Future initiatives will focus on the creation of sustainable food production and farming policies on campus, contributing to both SDG 15 and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

- **Carbon Neutrality and Green Campus Initiatives**

The university is working toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, with specific goals to integrate energy efficiency, green building practices, and waste reduction strategies across campus.

- **Policy on Alien Species Control**

AzTU aims to develop a formal policy to address the impact of alien species on campus and ensure the protection of native biodiversity in its ecosystem.

- **Enhanced Public Engagement and Community Partnerships**

Strengthening collaborations with local and international organizations to foster deeper public engagement and practical involvement in conservation efforts is a key future goal for the university.

- **Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs**

AzTU plans to implement formal policies for plastic waste reduction, alongside expanded recycling programs, ensuring more sustainable campus operations.

## Conclusion

Azerbaijan Technical University is dedicated to advancing environmental sustainability through education, research, and community outreach. While the university has made notable progress in contributing to SDG 15, there are clear opportunities for growth in formalizing policies and expanding initiatives in ecosystem management and sustainable practices. With future goals aimed at carbon neutrality, enhanced biodiversity protection, and deeper community engagement, AzTU is poised to play a significant role in promoting sustainable development at both local and national levels.