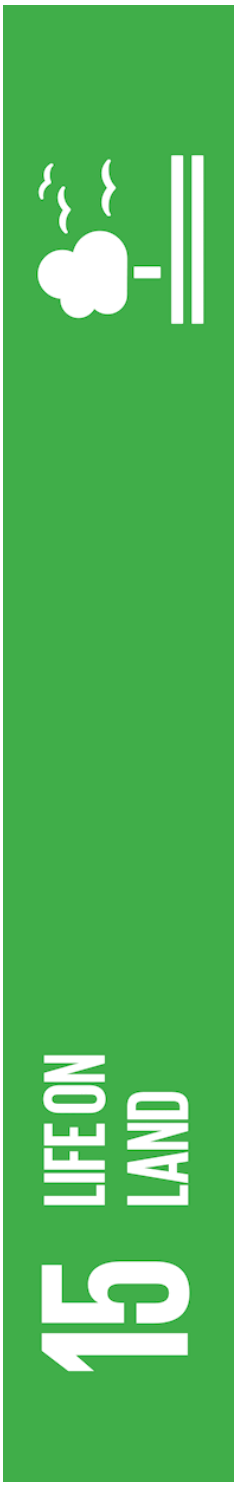
Azerbaijan TECHNICAL University



Report on Sustainable Development Goal 15

Life on Land

2025



Foreword

Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) recognizes the urgent need to promote sustainable development and protect terrestrial ecosystems. In line with its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), the university actively advances environmental stewardship through research, education, and community engagement. While challenges remain, AzTU continually enhances its policies and practices for sustainable land use, ecosystem preservation, and biodiversity protection. AzTU's initiatives foster collaboration among students, faculty, and the wider community, creating a shared commitment to building a more sustainable and resilient future.

Introduction

AzTU is committed to research, education, and awareness-raising in sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation. Although the university does not directly manage natural ecosystems, it plays a critical role in promoting environmental protection through curricula, research projects, and public outreach programs. From integrating sustainability into academic programs to supporting local biodiversity initiatives, AzTU's efforts strengthen practical knowledge and cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility. These initiatives reflect the university's ongoing dedication to SDG 15 and its commitment to collaborating with local and international partners for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources.

The Quality Assurance Department monitors all university activities under the SDG framework to ensure transparency, efficiency, and measurable outcomes.

References

National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan AzTU Sustainability

AzTU SDG 15 Report / November 2023

AzTU SDG 15 Report 2024

Ecological thinking begins at school – Green Mission project

Training on plastic pollution awareness and bioplastic production

A workshop on AI in precision agriculture

Delegation to Malaysia's leading universities

Conference on sustainability held in Türkiye

SDG 15 keywords - Life on land			
Life on Land	Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation	Biodiversity Conservation	Sustainable Land Management
Sustainable Land Use	Ecosystem Preservation	Ecosystem Restoration	Land Degradation Prevention
Soil Conservation	Soil Rehabilitation	Forest Conservation	Urban Forestry
Reforestation	Tree Planting Initiatives	Terrestrial Biodiversity	Natural Resource Management
Environmental Protection	Environmental Sustainability	Green Mission Initiative	Green Campus Development
Campus Greening	Sustainable Campus Development	Waste Reduction	Waste Recycling
Zero-Waste Management	Smart Waste-Sorting Systems	Environmental Monitoring	Environmental Education
Biodiversity Awareness	Sustainable Agriculture	Precision Agriculture	Green Technologies
Bioplastic Production	Pollution Control	Carbon Neutrality	Climate-Resilient Ecosystems
Environmental Research and Innovation	Community-Based Conservation	International Environmental Partnerships	Student Engagement in Sustainability

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 2035 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

Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Source / Notes
Percentage of campus area covered by greenery	21%	24%	27%	AzTU internal records, 2025
Number of trees planted under "Green Mission"	480	710	950	AzTU internal records, 2025
Academic courses linked to environmental sustainability	6	8	11	AzTU internal records, 2025
Number of environmental workshops/seminars held	5	9	13	AzTU internal records, 2025
Waste recycled from total solid waste generated	22%	28%	36%	AzTU internal records, 2025
Active partnerships with ecological organizations	4	7	10	AzTU internal records, 2025
Students participating in sustainability activities	320	560	880	AzTU internal records, 2025

SDG 15's Positive Impact on Other SDGs

SDG 1 – No Poverty:

Healthy land ecosystems provide essential resources—such as fertile soil, timber, and medicinal plants—that support rural livelihoods. Protecting forests and restoring degraded land creates sustainable income opportunities, especially for communities that depend on agriculture and forest-based activities. Therefore, SDG 15 contributes directly to poverty reduction and economic stability.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger:

SDG 15 strengthens food security by promoting soil health, protecting agricultural biodiversity, and preventing land degradation. Healthy ecosystems support stable crop yields and resilient food systems. Conserving genetic plant diversity ensures future access to diverse, nutritious, and climate-resilient crops, reducing the risk of hunger and malnutrition.

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:

Forests and natural land ecosystems play a critical role in regulating water cycles and maintaining clean freshwater supplies. By preventing soil erosion, reducing pollution, and conserving watersheds, SDG 15 improves water quality and ensures reliable access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, and irrigation.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:

Sustainable forestry and land management create employment opportunities in agriculture, ecotourism, conservation, and restoration projects. By promoting responsible use of natural resources, SDG 15 supports long-term economic productivity and growth, especially in rural and developing regions.

SDG 13 – Climate Action:

Land ecosystems, particularly forests, act as major carbon sinks that absorb and store atmospheric carbon dioxide. Protecting and restoring forests helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthens global climate mitigation efforts. SDG 15 also enhances resilience to climate impacts such as droughts, floods, and desertification.

Current situation

1. Expansion of Green Mission and Biodiversity Awareness Projects

AzTU broadened its "Green Mission" environmental initiative, engaging students in waste-reduction and reforestation campaigns. The University organized seminars and awareness sessions on sustainable land management and soil conservation, linking these with national biodiversity goals.

Source: Ecological thinking begins at school – Green Mission project

2. Collaboration with International Environmental Institutions

Partnerships with international universities—including Malaysia, Türkiye, and Germany—helped integrate best practices in sustainable agriculture, land restoration, and pollution control.

Source: Delegation visits to leading universities in Malaysia; Conference on environmental and sustainability research in Türkiye

3. **Educational Integration and Research Development**

Environmental education was strengthened through new elective modules focusing on green technologies and sustainable land systems. Students also participated in innovation-driven competitions emphasizing eco-friendly solutions.

Source: Training on bioplastic production and plastic pollution awareness; A workshop within the framework of AI in precision agriculture

4. **Campus Greening and Waste Management Initiatives**

AzTU continued its zero-waste efforts through tree-planting activities, smart waste-sorting systems, and energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades. A new environmental monitoring system was introduced to track waste generation and green cover expansion.

Future goals

- **Expand Urban Forestry Programs:** Introduce community-based reforestation projects around Baku to strengthen biodiversity corridors and combat urban heat.
- **Launch a "Green Laboratory" Initiative:** Establish interdisciplinary research spaces for soil rehabilitation, green energy storage, and pollution mitigation studies.
- **Enhance Environmental Curriculum Integration:** Introduce SDG-aligned content in all engineering programs by 2026.
- **Develop Regional Partnerships:** Collaborate with local municipalities and the Ministry of Ecology to implement smart land-use and monitoring technologies.
- **Increase Student Engagement:** Incentivize sustainability leadership awards to encourage student-driven eco-projects.

Conclusion

Azerbaijan Technical University's 2025 activities under SDG 15 demonstrate consistent progress toward environmental stewardship, biodiversity protection, and sustainable land use. The University's interdisciplinary approach—integrating education, innovation, and partnership—reinforces its commitment to developing a greener, more resilient academic environment. By scaling its "Green Mission" and expanding sustainability research, AzTU continues to contribute to the national and global agenda for protecting life on land.