MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY

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Report

15 LIFE ON LAND

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GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE SDG

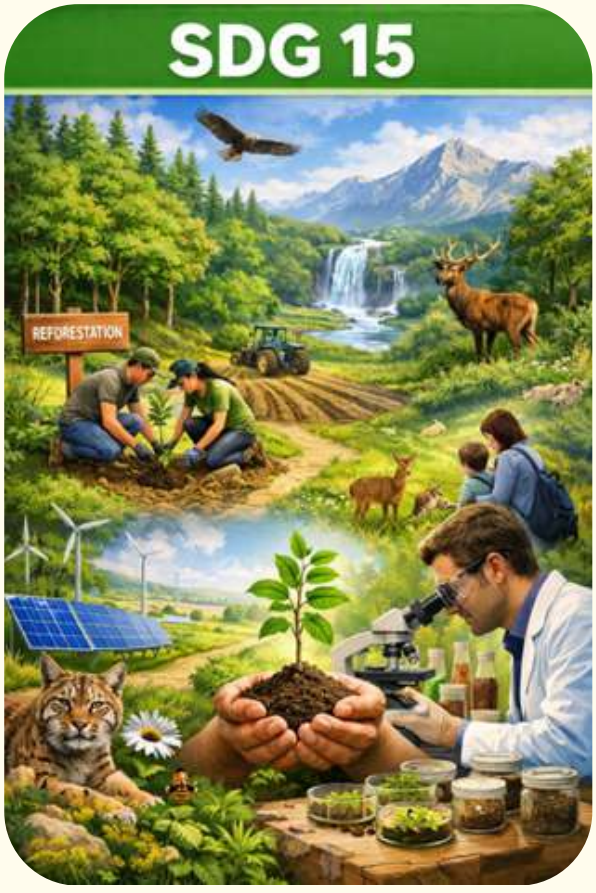
One of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, SDG 15 – "Life on Land", aims to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. This goal focuses on combating deforestation, preventing land degradation, halting biodiversity loss, and ensuring the sustainable management of forests, soils, and wildlife resources. It also emphasizes the application of science-based and integrated approaches to strengthen ecosystem resilience and maintain ecological balance.

Terrestrial ecosystems play a fundamental role in sustaining life on Earth. Forests, grasslands, and other land-based ecosystems regulate the climate, store carbon, preserve soil fertility, and support a vast diversity of plant and animal species. They also provide essential resources such as food, raw materials, and medicinal products, while supporting the livelihoods of billions of people worldwide.

However, in recent decades, land ecosystems have been increasingly threatened by deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, illegal logging, urban expansion, and climate change. These pressures have led to habitat destruction, species extinction, and the disruption of ecological balance. In particular, unsustainable land use practices and the loss of biodiversity have significantly weakened ecosystem resilience. Therefore, SDG 15 represents a global priority that is environmental, economic, and social in its scope and impact.

Mingachevir State University places strong emphasis on integrating sustainable development principles into its institutional activities and promoting environmental responsibility. The university prioritizes raising ecological awareness among students and strengthening their knowledge and skills related to land protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management within the educational process.

SDG-related topics are incorporated into relevant academic programs, particularly in environmental sciences, engineering, and agricultural studies, enabling students to adopt sustainable approaches to land use and ecosystem management. In addition, through scientific research, laboratory work, and community-based initiatives, the university conducts studies related to biodiversity conservation, land use efficiency, and environmental protection. The active participation of students and academic staff in tree-planting campaigns, environmental projects, and awareness-raising activities further enhances the university's practical contribution in this field.



The main purpose of this report is to systematically present and analyze the activities carried out by Mingachevir State University in the framework of SDG 15 – "Life on Land." The report covers the university's teaching activities, scientific research, governance practices, and public initiatives, assessing the current situation in the field of terrestrial ecosystem sustainability.

POLICY AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Mingachevir State University (MSU) has adopted sustainable development principles at the institutional level and has approved a number of official policy documents that directly support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 15 – "Life on Land." The university's Sustainable Development Policy, Environmental Policy, Waste Management and Recycling Policy, Climate Change Mitigation Policy, Energy Efficiency and Green Infrastructure Policy, Zero Emission Policy, and Clean Water Policy define environmental protection, sustainable land use, forest conservation, and biodiversity preservation as key institutional priorities.

Mingachevir State University (MSU) has established a comprehensive and integrated environmental governance framework through a set of institutional policies that directly support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 – "Sustainable Cities and Communities" and SDG 15 – "Life on Land." These policy documents not only define the university's environmental priorities but also ensure that sustainability principles are embedded across all operational, academic, and strategic dimensions of the institution.

The **Environmental Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Environmental-Policy.pdf) serves as a foundational document guiding the university's efforts to reduce its overall environmental impact. It emphasizes minimizing the institutional carbon footprint, improving waste management systems, and developing a comprehensive "green campus" model.

Complementing this, the **Sustainable Development Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Sustainable-Development-Policy.pdf) ensures the systematic integration of sustainability principles into all university functions, including teaching, research, governance, and community engagement. By promoting ecological balance, efficient resource utilization, and social responsibility, this policy creates a structured institutional framework aligned with global sustainability standards and the SDGs.

In the area of urban sustainability, the **Waste Management and Recycling Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Waste-Management-And-Recycling-Policy.pdf) plays a critical role in supporting SDG 11. The policy promotes waste reduction, proper segregation, recycling practices, and efficient resource use within the campus. It encourages environmentally responsible behavior among students and staff while reducing dependency on landfills.

Similarly, the **Climate Change Mitigation Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Climate-Change-Mitigation-Policy.pdf) strengthens the university's contribution to SDG 11 by promoting strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing urban resilience. The policy focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable transportation systems. It also supports climate-responsive urban planning and infrastructure development, helping to mitigate climate-related risks and improve the sustainability of urban environments.

The **Energy Efficiency and Green Infrastructure Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Energy-Efficieny-and-Green-Infrastructure-Policy.pdf) further reinforces these efforts by promoting energy-efficient systems and environmentally sustainable infrastructure. It encourages the adoption of green building practices, increased use of renewable energy, and the development of smart and sustainable facilities. This policy contributes to reducing environmental impact while enhancing functionality, comfort, and resilience within the university campus and beyond.

In addition, the **Zero Emission Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Zero-Emission-Policy.pdf) reflects the university's commitment to achieving long-term climate neutrality. It aims to significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate greenhouse gas emissions associated with campus operations. By promoting clean energy, sustainable mobility, and low-emission technologies, the policy contributes to improved air quality, reduced pollution, and the creation of healthier urban environments in alignment with SDG 11.

The **Clean Water Policy** (https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Clean-Water-Policy.pdf) aligns closely with SDG 6 – "Clean Water and Sanitation" and SDG 14 – "Life Below Water." It addresses the sustainable management and protection of water resources, efficient water use, wastewater treatment, and the prevention of water pollution. Through this policy, the university demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding aquatic ecosystems and ensuring long-term water sustainability.

Collectively, these seven policy documents form a coherent and robust institutional framework that supports MSU's contribution to SDG 15 – "Life on Land." They strengthen environmental governance, promote sustainable land use, and support biodiversity conservation while addressing key environmental challenges at both local and global levels.

This policy framework is further reinforced by the university's strategic vision outlined in the "MSU 2030: Development Strategy." The strategy identifies sustainable development as a core institutional priority and aims to align education, research, and governance processes with global sustainability challenges. It ensures the integration of the SDGs across all university activities and emphasizes long-term environmental responsibility. Several strategic directions within the MSU 2030 Strategy are directly linked to SDG 15. These include strengthening environmental sustainability through the development of a "green university" model, promoting sustainable land use and efficient natural resource management, protecting biodiversity and forest ecosystems, reducing land degradation and environmental pollution, and directing scientific research toward ecological challenges. Additionally, the strategy highlights the importance of enhancing environmental awareness, knowledge, and skills among students and academic staff.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

3.1 TEACHING AND LEARNING

Mingachevir State University (MSU) adopts a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to integrating SDG 15 – "Life on Land" into its teaching and learning processes. The university ensures that environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land use are not treated as isolated topics but are systematically embedded across a wide range of academic disciplines. Courses related to ecology, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, forestry management, land resource management, soil science, and sustainable ecosystem use form a strong academic foundation for addressing terrestrial environmental challenges. Even in programs where these subjects are not the primary focus, key concepts such as land degradation, deforestation, habitat protection, and ecosystem restoration are incorporated into course content, ensuring broad-based awareness and understanding among students.

SDG 15-related topics are particularly emphasized within academic programs such as Environmental Engineering, Ecology, Agricultural Sciences, and other natural and technical fields. These programs are designed to equip students with both theoretical knowledge and practical competencies necessary for addressing complex environmental issues. Students develop the ability to analyze ecological systems, assess environmental risks, and design sustainable land management strategies. In addition, they gain a deeper understanding of the interconnections between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human activities, which is essential for promoting sustainable development at local, regional, and global levels.

Practical and experiential learning plays a crucial role in strengthening the implementation of SDG 15 within the teaching process. Laboratory work, field studies, case analyses, and project-based learning activities enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world environmental challenges. These methods enhance critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and research skills while fostering a deeper understanding of ecological processes and environmental management practices. Students are encouraged to engage in hands-on activities that simulate real-life scenarios, allowing them to explore innovative solutions to issues such as soil degradation, deforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

Field-based learning is one of the key strengths of the university's approach. Students actively participate in scientific expeditions aimed at studying flora, fauna, and ecosystem conditions in natural environments. These experiences not only improve their observational and analytical skills but also provide valuable insights into biodiversity conservation and ecosystem dynamics. Such activities help bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical application, ensuring that students are well-prepared to address environmental challenges in their future careers.

In addition to fieldwork, the university organizes specialized training sessions focused on soil resource monitoring and protection. These trainings provide students with practical knowledge on sustainable land management techniques, methods for preventing land degradation, and approaches to maintaining soil health. By engaging in these activities, students gain hands-on experience with tools and methodologies used in environmental assessment and resource management.

Environmental responsibility is further reinforced through active participation in sustainability initiatives such as tree-planting campaigns and ecosystem restoration activities. These initiatives contribute to increasing green cover, improving environmental quality, and promoting biodiversity conservation. At the same time, they foster a strong sense of environmental stewardship among students by involving them directly in actions that have tangible ecological benefits.

Student engagement is a central pillar of SDG 15 implementation at MSU. Students are not passive recipients of knowledge but active participants in the learning process. They contribute to research projects, participate in practical assignments, and engage in seminars, workshops, and awareness-raising activities focused on environmental protection and land sustainability. This active involvement enhances their environmental awareness, strengthens their sense of responsibility, and encourages long-term commitment to sustainable practices.

3.2 RESEARCH

Mingachevir State University (MSU) actively advances research activities aligned with SDG 15 – "Life on Land," with a strong focus on the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and the reduction of environmental degradation. The university implements a wide range of applied research initiatives addressing key environmental challenges such as soil quality assessment, vegetation and forest dynamics, land degradation monitoring, and the impact of human activities on ecosystems. These research activities are supported through a combination of field observations, laboratory analyses, and interdisciplinary collaboration among specialists in environmental science, ecology, agriculture, and engineering. This integrated approach ensures that research outcomes are both scientifically grounded and practically relevant.

A central component of MSU's research activity is field-based biodiversity investigation. Scientific expeditions conducted in various regions provide valuable opportunities for researchers and students to study flora and fauna in their natural habitats. Through these expeditions, ecological data are systematically collected, species diversity is analyzed, and ecosystem conditions are assessed. Such research contributes to a deeper understanding of biodiversity patterns, habitat conditions, and ecological interactions, thereby supporting the development of evidence-based conservation strategies. At the same time, these activities strengthen the university's capacity for conducting applied environmental research in real-world settings.

Another important research direction at the university is soil sustainability and land protection. Research and applied studies in this area focus on monitoring soil resources, assessing soil quality, and identifying methods to prevent land degradation. Through specialized training programs and research initiatives, both students and academic staff gain practical and methodological knowledge on sustainable land management practices. These studies contribute to maintaining soil health, preventing erosion, and ensuring the long-term productivity of land resources, which are essential for ecological stability and sustainable development.

Ecosystem restoration and greening initiatives also represent a significant dimension of MSU's research activities. Tree-planting campaigns and environmental restoration projects are not only practical sustainability measures but also function as research platforms for studying vegetation growth, ecological succession, and land recovery processes.

In terms of research dissemination, SDG 15-related outputs are primarily shared through national scientific journals, conference proceedings, and institutional academic events. Faculty members and researchers publish studies in areas such as ecology, environmental engineering, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management. These publications address critical topics including land degradation control, ecosystem protection, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Although the number of publications indexed in international databases such as Scopus and Web of Science is still developing, the university continues to strengthen its global research visibility through international collaboration, joint projects, and academic partnerships.

To further enhance research quality and international recognition, MSU is actively investing in research capacity-building initiatives. These include improving laboratory infrastructure, encouraging interdisciplinary research, supporting academic staff in publishing in high-impact journals, and expanding participation in international scientific networks. Such efforts are aimed at increasing both the quantity and quality of research outputs in environmental sciences and sustainability-related fields.

Importantly, SDG 15-related research is closely integrated into the educational process. Undergraduate and graduate students actively engage in research activities through thesis projects, independent studies, and participation in scientific investigations. Topics such as biodiversity conservation, soil protection, ecosystem monitoring, and sustainable land use are commonly explored within student research work. Field-based learning, scientific excursions, and practical research activities enable students to develop essential scientific skills, including data collection, species identification, soil analysis, and ecosystem assessment.

3.3 SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT

Mingachevir State University (MSU) plays a proactive and socially responsible role in fostering cooperation with industry partners, public institutions, and local communities to promote sustainable land management, ecosystem protection, and environmental awareness in alignment with SDG 15 – "Life on Land." The university's approach to social and industry engagement is grounded in the integration of academic expertise with practical, community-oriented environmental actions. This ensures that knowledge generated within the university is effectively translated into real-world impact, contributing to both regional sustainability and broader environmental objectives.

A key dimension of MSU's engagement is its collaboration with regional stakeholders to support environmental education and experiential learning. Scientific excursions organized in various regions, including rural and ecologically significant areas, provide students with hands-on experience in biodiversity assessment, ecosystem observation, and environmental data collection.

The university also actively contributes to raising environmental awareness through public education initiatives. Training sessions, workshops, and community-oriented programs focused on soil resource monitoring and protection play an important role in increasing public understanding of sustainable land use and land degradation prevention. These initiatives extend beyond the academic environment, engaging youth organizations, local residents, and other stakeholders. As a result, MSU helps build a more environmentally conscious society while promoting responsible attitudes toward natural resource management.

Practical environmental actions form another important pillar of the university's social engagement. Tree-planting campaigns and greening initiatives actively involve students, academic staff, and members of the local community. These activities contribute directly to ecosystem restoration, expansion of green spaces, and improvement of environmental quality in the region.

In addition to traditional outreach activities, MSU promotes innovation-driven engagement through events such as Green Hackathons and EcoTech initiatives. These platforms bring together students, researchers, industry representatives, and external stakeholders to collaboratively develop solutions addressing key environmental challenges, including land degradation, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem sustainability. By encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and creative problem-solving, these initiatives contribute to the development of innovative and practical approaches to environmental protection.

Furthermore, MSU's cooperation with industry partners supports the alignment of academic activities with real-world environmental needs. Through joint projects, applied research, and knowledge transfer, the university contributes to the adoption of sustainable practices in industry and supports the development of environmentally responsible solutions.

Overall, Mingachevir State University demonstrates a comprehensive and impactful approach to social and industry engagement in support of SDG 15. By integrating education, research, and community involvement, the university ensures that environmental sustainability is not confined to academic discourse but becomes a shared responsibility among academia, industry, and society. This holistic approach significantly contributes to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, and the protection of terrestrial ecosystems at both regional and national levels.

EVIDENCE

Mingachevir State University (MSU) actively implements a diverse set of academic, research, and community-based activities that contribute to SDG 15 – "Life on Land." These initiatives demonstrate the university's strong commitment to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, environmental education, and ecosystem protection through both practical engagement and scientific inquiry.

One of the notable initiatives includes an educational and research-oriented visit to the Khachmaz region, where students and academic staff participated in field observations and environmental data collection. This activity significantly enhanced participants' practical understanding of ecosystems and biodiversity while promoting awareness of sustainable land use and environmental protection (https://mdu.edu.az/khachmaz_05-04-25/). Such field-based experiences strengthen students' ability to interact responsibly with natural landscapes and contribute to ecological sustainability.

Similarly, students conducted a scientific expedition in the Agdash region, engaging in comprehensive field research, biodiversity observation, and ecological data analysis (https://mdu.edu.az/mingachevir-state-university-students-conduct-scientific-expedition-in-agdash-30-03-25/). This initiative served as an important experiential learning opportunity, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world environmental contexts. Through systematic observation and data collection, participants examined species diversity, habitat conditions, and ecosystem interactions, gaining practical insights into ecological processes and environmental challenges specific to the region.

EVIDENCE

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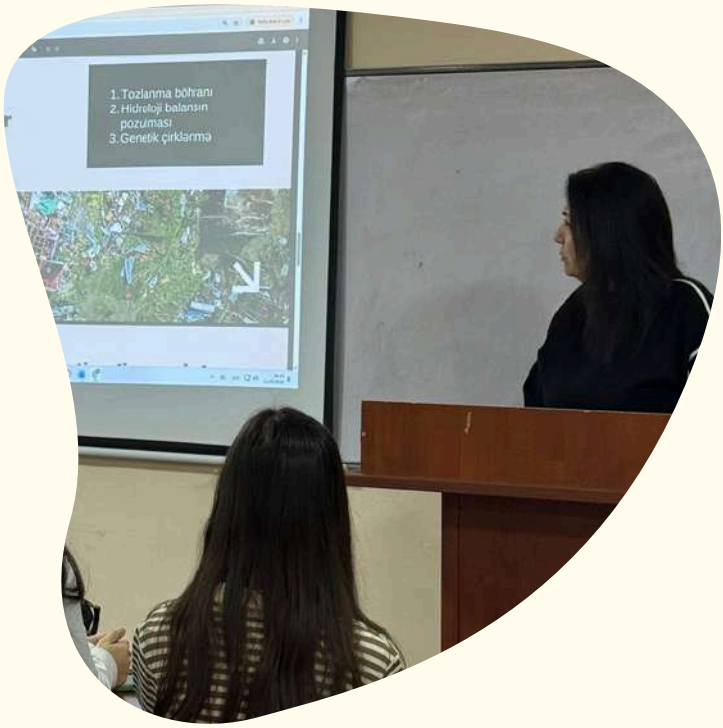
Goal 15: Life on land

Mingachevir State University (MSU) plays a vital and multifaceted role in promoting environmental awareness among younger generations through targeted outreach initiatives involving school students. These programs introduce ecological concepts and sustainability principles through interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, and educational materials (https://mdu.edu.az/mektebliler_22-09-25/). By engaging students at an early stage, the university fosters a deeper understanding of biodiversity, environmental protection, and sustainable land use. This early exposure is critical in shaping environmentally responsible attitudes and behaviors, ultimately contributing to the development of a more sustainability-oriented society.

In parallel, MSU organizes thematic seminars that address pressing environmental challenges and expand ecological knowledge among students and academic staff. A notable example is the seminar on invasive species, which examined the ecological risks posed by non-native organisms to local ecosystems and biodiversity (https://mdu.edu.az/invasive_29-09-25/). Through expert-led discussions and active student participation, the event emphasized the importance of maintaining ecological balance and implementing effective conservation strategies. Such academic platforms enhance awareness of biodiversity threats and encourage informed environmental decision-making.



EVIDENCE

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Goal 15: Life on land

Field-based scientific research is another cornerstone of the university's sustainability efforts. Expeditions dedicated to studying flora and fauna in specific regions (https://mdu.edu.az/a-scientific-expedition-was-conducted-to-study-the-flora-and-fauna-of-the-region-04-04-25/) provide valuable opportunities for collecting ecological data and conducting biodiversity assessments.

Research and capacity-building activities in soil sustainability further strengthen MSU's contribution to SDG 15. Training sessions on soil resource monitoring and protection (https://mdu.edu.az/training-on-soil-resource-monitoring-and-protection-held-at-mingachevir-youth-house/) equip participants with essential knowledge and skills related to soil analysis, sustainable land management, and land degradation prevention.

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The university also promotes environmental research through scientific events and academic forums where students and researchers present their findings on ecological topics (https://mdu.edu.az/scientific-16-03-25/). These events facilitate knowledge exchange, stimulate academic discussion, and encourage the development of innovative solutions to environmental problems.

Environmental awareness is further enhanced through events addressing pollution and its impact on ecosystems (https://mdu.edu.az/pollution-03-12-25/). These initiatives explore the sources and consequences of environmental pollution, particularly its effects on land resources and biodiversity. By highlighting the importance of sustainable practices, such activities motivate students to take an active role in environmental protection and responsible resource use.

EVIDENCE

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Goal 15: Life on land

Special emphasis is placed on fragile ecosystems, including mountainous regions, through targeted educational and research activities (https://mdu.edu.az/mountain-30-01-26/). These initiatives raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by sensitive ecological zones and the need for sustainable land use and conservation strategies. They also contribute to a broader understanding of ecosystem diversity and resilience.

MSU continues to support scientific innovation through initiatives that encourage collaboration between students and academics on environmental topics (https://mdu.edu.az/scientific_20-12-25/). These activities promote critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and interdisciplinary cooperation, enabling participants to develop practical solutions to complex environmental issues.

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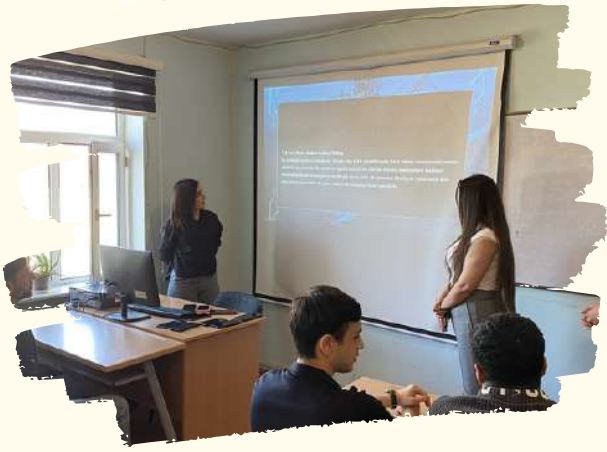
Innovation-driven initiatives further expand the university's impact. Programs such as Green Tech events (https://mdu.edu.az/green-tech_14-11-25-2/) encourage participants to develop technological solutions for environmental protection, while the EcoTech Hackathon (https://mdu.edu.az/mingachevir-state-university-hosts-ecotech-hackathon/) provides a collaborative platform for designing creative and sustainable solutions to ecological challenges.



Practical sustainability actions also form an integral part of MSU's activities. Tree-planting campaigns (https://mdu.edu.az/tree-planting-30-09-25/) actively involve students, academic staff, and local communities in restoring ecosystems, increasing green cover, and combating land degradation. These initiatives not only deliver measurable environmental benefits but also foster a strong culture of environmental responsibility and collective action.

EVIDENCE

The university also contributes to advancing land management practices through innovative research on erosion mapping and prevention (https://mdu.edu.az/innovative-solutions-for-regional-erosion-mapping-22-09-25/). By combining environmental science with technological tools, these initiatives support more effective monitoring and mitigation of land degradation.

Digital innovation events further strengthen the integration of technology and sustainability by encouraging students to develop digital solutions for environmental challenges (https://mdu.edu.az/digital-13-04-25/). These initiatives demonstrate the growing importance of digital transformation in environmental protection and sustainable land management.

EVIDENCE 04

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Goal 15: Life on land

Efforts to increase green cover and improve environmental conditions are also reflected in projects focused on vegetation growth and ecosystem balance (https://mdu.edu.az/green-cover-21-09-25/). These activities contribute to land restoration, enhance ecological resilience, and promote awareness of the importance of greenery in maintaining environmental stability.

Finally, the Green Hackathon organized by MSU (https://mdu.edu.az/mingachevir-state-university-hosts-green-hackathon/) serves as a dynamic platform for developing innovative and practical solutions to sustainability challenges. By fostering creativity, teamwork, and interdisciplinary collaboration, such initiatives reinforce the university's leadership role in promoting sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and environmental protection.

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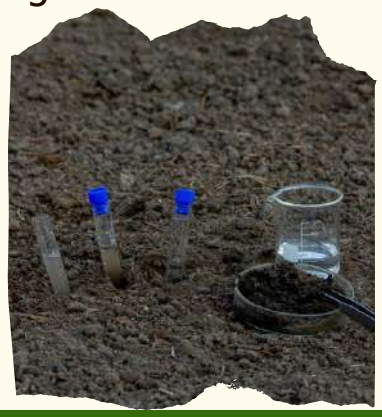
IMPACT

The integration of SDG 15 – Life on Land – related topics into the teaching and learning processes at Mingachevir State University has led to a substantial enhancement in the overall quality and relevance of education. By systematically embedding real-world environmental challenges—such as biodiversity loss, land degradation, soil erosion, desertification, and ecosystem restoration—into curricula, the university ensures that students acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also practical, up-to-date, and contextually relevant competencies. This approach enables learners to better understand complex ecological systems and the interdependence between natural resources and human activities.

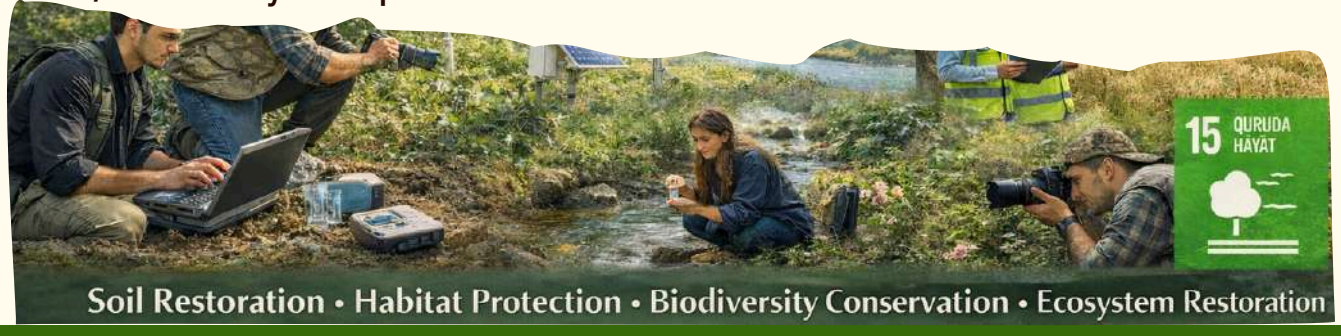
The adoption of innovative pedagogical approaches further strengthens this process. Field studies, scientific expeditions, laboratory-based experiments, and project-based learning methodologies provide students with hands-on experience and direct exposure to environmental conditions. These methods significantly enhance critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem-solving abilities, and interdisciplinary perspectives. As a result, the educational process becomes more dynamic, research-oriented, and aligned with international sustainability frameworks and global academic standards.SDG 15-related activities also contribute profoundly to the professional and personal development of both students and academic staff. Students actively participate in scientific expeditions, ecological monitoring projects, biodiversity assessments, and environmental research focused on flora, fauna, and ecosystem dynamics. Such engagement allows them to develop essential competencies, including research methodology, data collection and analysis, teamwork, leadership, and decision-making skills.



Simultaneously, academic staff benefit from increased involvement in applied research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and field-based investigations. Participation in sustainability-focused initiatives promotes continuous professional development, encourages scientific innovation, and enhances teaching quality. It also supports the integration of research findings into the educational process, thereby strengthening the link between theory and practice. Moreover, ongoing engagement in environmental projects cultivates a culture of lifelong learning and academic excellence within the university.Furthermore, by equipping students with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills related to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable land use, the university significantly contributes to the development of a highly qualified and environmentally conscious workforce. Graduates are well-prepared to address contemporary environmental challenges across various sectors, including agriculture, ecology, environmental engineering, forestry, and regional planning.

At the regional level, Mingachevir State University plays a strategic and impactful role in promoting sustainable environmental development. By addressing local ecological challenges—such as land degradation, habitat loss, declining biodiversity, and the need for ecosystem restoration—the university contributes to improving environmental quality and resilience in the region. Collaboration with local authorities, industry stakeholders, and community organizations further amplifies the effectiveness and societal impact of these initiatives. Through applied research, policy-relevant studies, and community engagement, the university supports evidence-based decision-making and sustainable resource management.

Overall, Mingachevir State University demonstrates a comprehensive, integrated, and forward-looking approach to advancing SDG 15 objectives. By effectively combining education, research, and community engagement, the university not only enhances academic quality but also contributes meaningfully to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, and ecosystem protection.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE PLANS

Mingachevir State University adopts a strategic and forward-looking approach to further strengthen its contribution to SDG 15 – "Life on Land" by continuously expanding and enhancing its academic, research, and community-based activities related to terrestrial ecosystems. The university recognizes that sustainable environmental development requires long-term commitment, innovation, and adaptability; therefore, it prioritizes continuous improvement as a core component of its institutional strategy.

A key objective for the future is the deeper and more systematic integration of biodiversity conservation, soil protection, land degradation prevention, and ecosystem restoration topics into academic curricula across various disciplines. This will be achieved through the development of specialized courses, updated teaching materials, and interdisciplinary academic programs that reflect current global environmental challenges and scientific advancements. In parallel, the university aims to strengthen interdisciplinary research capacity in environmental sustainability by fostering collaboration between departments such as ecology, agriculture, engineering, and environmental sciences.

Increasing student engagement in experiential and field-based learning remains a central priority. The university plans to expand opportunities for students to participate in scientific expeditions, ecological monitoring projects, environmental impact assessments, and applied research activities focused on terrestrial ecosystems. Such initiatives are expected to enhance practical skills, research competencies, and environmental awareness among students, while also aligning academic training with real-world environmental needs.

Strengthening international cooperation is another important strategic direction. Mingachevir State University seeks to expand partnerships with international universities, research institutions, and global sustainability networks. Participation in international research projects, academic exchange programs, and global environmental initiatives will contribute to knowledge transfer, capacity building, and the internationalization of sustainability-related activities.

In addition, the university plans to introduce a range of new initiatives focused on biodiversity protection and sustainable land management. These include the establishment of specialized research and innovation platforms dedicated to ecosystem studies, biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable land-use practices. The expansion of field-based environmental programs and the introduction of student-led sustainability projects will further encourage active participation and innovation among students. The university also intends to organize international conferences, scientific workshops, and competitions focused on SDG 15 topics, thereby creating platforms for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and dissemination of research findings.

Collaboration with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and industry partners will be further strengthened to ensure that academic activities are closely aligned with national and regional environmental priorities. Through joint projects, policy-oriented research, and community-based initiatives, the university aims to increase its societal impact and contribute to evidence-based environmental decision-making.

Furthermore, the university emphasizes the importance of implementing measurable indicators and performance evaluation mechanisms within its SDG-related activities. The development of clear benchmarks, monitoring frameworks, and regular assessment processes will enable the institution to track progress more effectively, identify gaps, and continuously refine its strategies. This evidence-based approach will support informed decision-making and contribute to the long-term strategic development of the university in the field of environmental sustainability.

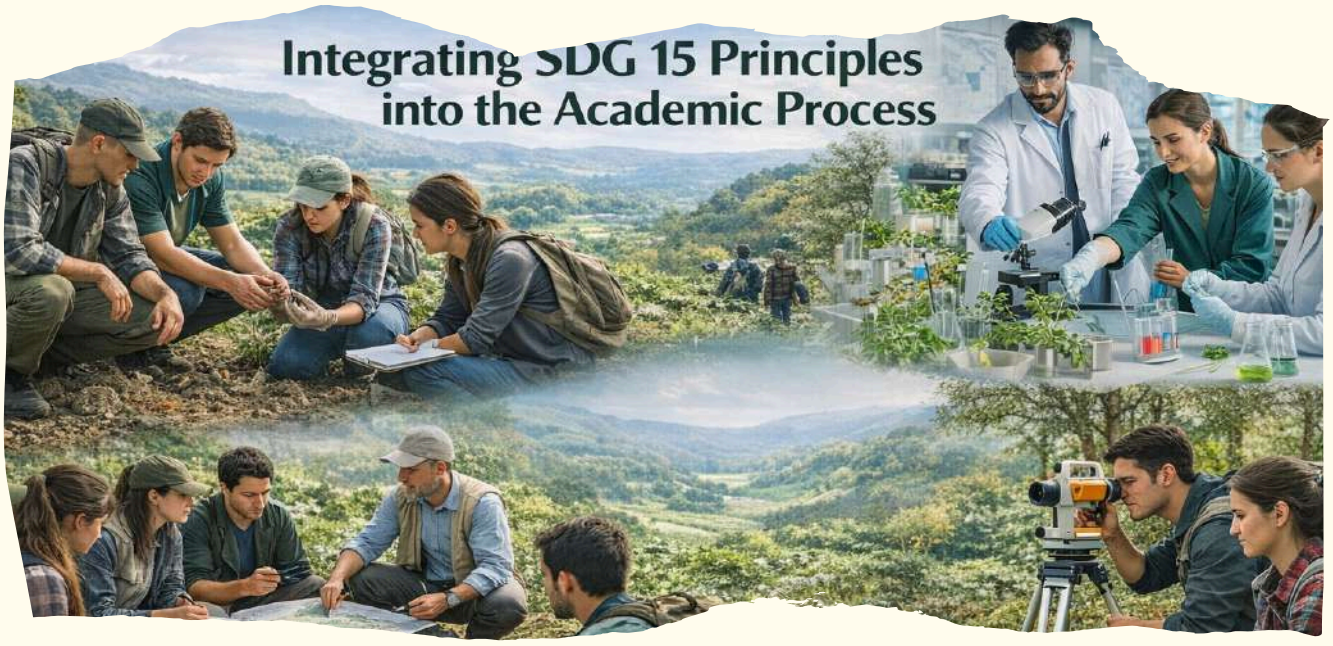
Overall, Mingachevir State University demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in advancing SDG 15 objectives. By integrating education, research, and community engagement within a structured and strategic framework, the university aims to enhance its impact on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, and ecosystem protection, while contributing to regional and global environmental sustainability goals.

CONCLUSION

Mingachevir State University (MSU) demonstrates a strong, systematic, and institutionally embedded commitment to the implementation of SDG 15 – "Life on Land" through a comprehensive and integrated approach that encompasses teaching, research, governance, and community engagement. The university has established a well-defined institutional framework supported by sustainability-oriented policies, strategic development plans, and long-term environmental objectives. This framework ensures that key principles such as biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, land restoration, and sustainable land management are consistently integrated across all academic and administrative levels.

CONCLUSION

The analysis indicates that SDG 15 principles are effectively incorporated into the academic process through interdisciplinary curricula, innovative teaching methodologies, and practice-oriented learning approaches. Courses related to environmental sciences, ecology, agriculture, and sustainability are designed to address real-world environmental challenges, enabling students to develop both theoretical knowledge and applied competencies. Field-based learning, laboratory research, project-based assignments, and student-centered activities play a critical role in enhancing understanding of biodiversity conservation, soil protection, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land use. This integrated educational approach not only strengthens academic quality but also prepares students to respond effectively to contemporary environmental challenges.



CONCLUSION

In the field of research, MSU actively contributes to addressing regional and national environmental issues through applied scientific studies, field investigations, and ecological monitoring activities. Scientific expeditions focusing on biodiversity allow students and researchers to conduct in-depth studies of flora and fauna within natural ecosystems, generating valuable ecological data that supports conservation efforts and evidence-based environmental management. In addition, research initiatives related to soil monitoring, land degradation assessment, and ecosystem restoration further strengthen the university's contribution to sustainable land management.

Practical environmental initiatives also form an important component of MSU's contribution to SDG 15. Tree-planting campaigns, greening programs, and landscape restoration activities support the enhancement of green cover and ecological balance within the region. Such initiatives not only contribute directly to ecosystem restoration but also serve as practical platforms for student engagement and environmental education.

CONCLUSION

At the same time, there remains considerable potential for further improvement. Key areas for development include strengthening international research collaboration, increasing the number and quality of publications in high-impact scientific journals, and expanding the use of innovative and data-driven approaches for ecosystem monitoring and environmental analysis. Enhancing digital technologies, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing tools, and data analytics in environmental research will further improve the effectiveness and global competitiveness of the university's activities.

In conclusion, Mingachevir State University has established a solid and sustainable foundation for contributing to SDG 15 and continues to advance toward becoming a more research-intensive, innovation-driven, and sustainability-oriented institution. Its ongoing and planned initiatives demonstrate a clear long-term commitment to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and sustainable land management. Through continuous improvement and strategic development, the university is well-positioned to play an increasingly influential role in promoting environmental sustainability and supporting the achievement of global sustainable development goals for future generations.

MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY

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THANK You

We sincerely thank all partners, academic and administrative staff, students, and participants for their support in implementing these initiatives. The achieved results contribute to the MSU`s progress in sustainable development.

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