



**SAMARKAND STATE UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER SHAROF RASHIDOV  
(SAMDU)**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14  
(SDG 14)**



The conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources is the focus of Goal 14. Seas and oceans in good health are vital to human life and the survival of the planet. The ocean is essential to our existence on the planet. Comprising 77% of the planet's surface, they hold 97% of its water and, by volume, constitute 99% of all living space on Earth.

In addition to providing essential natural resources like food, medicine, biofuels, and other goods, they also assist in the breakdown and removal of trash and pollution, and their coastal ecosystems serve as storm-damage buffers. They serve as the largest carbon sink on Earth as well.

The oceans sustain life on our planet and control the climate system worldwide. With about a million known species living there, it is the largest ecosystem in the world and offers a wealth of unrealized scientific research potential.

The economic, social, and environmental needs of the world's population are still met by the oceans and fisheries. Ocean conservation is extremely important, yet decades of careless exploitation have resulted in an alarming degree of deterioration.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is located in an arid climate zone. The country experiences severe winters from November to March. The temperature ranges from -23 to 48 degrees Celsius. The Republic of Uzbekistan is a landlocked country. It means the country does not share its boundary with any ocean. However, the country has many rivers and lakes viz., Amu Darya, Zarafshan River and Aydurkul lake, and many more.

## Metrics

### **14.2.1 - Does your university as a body offer educational programmes on fresh-water ecosystems (water irrigation practices, water management/conservation) for local or national communities?**

Samarkand State University offers many educational programs on the following.

1. Oceanography
2. Irrigation
3. Sustainable Development
4. Ecosystem Research
5. Rangeland Research
6. Green Energy
7. Non-conventional Energy
8. Agriculture Practices
9. Ecology
10. Many more

The primary objective is to increase the understanding of our students and researchers about life underwater. Underwater ecosystems provide plenty of resources to humankind. However, these systems are facing acute pollution in all domains viz., freshwater and salty water ecosystems.

Therefore, we have many targets including:

- Reduce Marine and Freshwater Pollution.
- Protecting and Restoring Ecosystems from further Decay.
- Sustainable activities in and around the water resources.
- Preservation of water resources from being depleted.

**14.2.2 - Does your university as a body offer educational programme / outreach for local or national communities on sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism?**

Samarkand is the biggest tourist destination in Uzbekistan where people come from different countries and regions every year. However, many of the Uzbekistan inhabitants like fishing for entertainment and eating. People do fishing and hunting as per the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Therefore, Samarkand State University offers aquaculture courses in different faculties viz., the faculty of biology and the faculty of geography and ecology. In these courses, we teach ecotourism, sustainable hunting and fishing, and agrotourism etc.

Further, we also provide crash courses and outreach programs for local people who are interested in fishing, aquaculture, and sustainable development for tourism.

**14.2.3 - Does your university as a body offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices?**

The university and its allied departments organize many outreach events annually to discuss issues concerning to the overfishing, illegal fishing, and unregulated fishing. In 2022, more than 5 events organized for such purposes in which many interested people participated.





**14.3.1 - Does your university as a body support and/or organise events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources?**

Samarkand State University and its allied departments organize onsite training and events for



providing practical knowledge about water resources to our students, researchers, and common people.





**14.3.2 - Does your university as a body have a policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested?**

<https://www.samdu.uz/upload/content-files/Sustainable%20Purchase%20and%20Procurement%20Policy.pdf>

**14.3.3 - Does your university as a body work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat?**

Faculty of Biology, Geography and Ecology work proactively on ecosystem research and biodiversity. They conduct study tours to teach their students about the biodiversity and ecosystem.



Biodiversity and ecosystem research is the integral part of our study programs at bachelor, masters and Ph.D. levels. Therefore, our experts and students collaboratively work on these issues. Further, they come forward to tell the innovative and indigenous solutions of complex problems.

We also collaborate with the world's leading scientists and researchers for modern research and meaningful outcomes.



**14.4.1 - Does your university as a body have water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges (to uphold water quality in order to protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare, etc.)?**

Samarkand State University named after Sharof has water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges that follow the Uzbekistan Clean Water Act. In addition, the university has modern and well-equipped laboratories to estimate water pollution. Further, the university cooperates with the Hydrometeorology Department of the Republic of Uzbekistan in restoring the water standards before discharging the wastewater into water bodies. The university has a concrete policy to not discharge wastewater into surface water bodies.

**14.4.2 - Does your university as a body have an action plan in place to reduce plastic waste on campus?**

The university has no plastic policy at the university-owned campuses. Further, we run many awareness drives to provide significant information on the consequences of plastic use in daily life.





### 14.4.3 - Does your university as a body have a policy on preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities?

We provide ample knowledge and skills to our students by incorporating marine life into our curriculum and syllabus. However, the Republic of Uzbekistan does not share its boundaries with any ocean. It limits our practical approach.

### 14.5.1 - Does your university as a body have a plan to minimise physical, chemical and/or biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems?

Samarkand State University's experts continuously work on collecting samples, analyzing, and publishing results about the physical, chemical, and biological status of the Zarafshan river, Amu Darya, and many lakes.



The faculty of Geography and Ecology conducts research on Zarafshan river water to monitor the health of water ecosystem. It is evident that the Zarafshan river is considered as the most polluted river while it is the main source of water to the Uzbekistan.





### 14.5.2 - Does your university as a body monitor the health of aquatic ecosystems?

Many of our faculties conduct long-term studies of the ecosystem, biodiversity, and management of streams, lakes, and other biodiversity zones. We also work with local governments, communities, and NGOs to prevent further damage to the natural health of the ecosystem.



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