

15 LIFE
ON LANDNUMBER OF
PUBLICATIONS & THESES

1

NUMBER OF
PROJECTS

1

NUMBER OF
EVENTS

17

NUMBER OF
COURSES OFFERED

4

NUMBER OF
COLLABORATIONS

1

NUMBER OF
AWARDS

4

SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets and Indicators

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species



15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Courses, Theses, Publications

On October 14, 2021, TEDU's University Senate made a commitment to pursue the SDGs to enhance awareness of these issues both at the university and in the local community.

CE 436 Integrated Coastal Zone Management: this course offered by the Civil Engineering Department of TEDU aims to introduce the existing pressures on coastal areas, and the strategies developed within the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). One learning outcome of the course is “analyze the anthropogenic impact on the marine coastal areas (INCLUDING THE COASTAL WETLANDS), and the environmental issues threatening the coastal system”. This learning outcome supports Target 15.1 “... ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”.

Events - Activities

There are 17 events related with SDG 15.

Animal Rights: Among them is the talk of Attorney Tuğba Gürsoy, who is the President of the Ankara Bar Association Animal Rights Center on the Street Animals Law hosted by The Atatürkist Thought Society and the Animal Friends Society (See Image 1). This event support SDG 15 as it align well with the gold of protecting ecosystem.



Image 1. Talk of Attorney Tuğba Gürsoy on Animal Rights

Evidence: <https://ds.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/street-animals-law-and-animal-rights>

Işıkdığı Karagöl Geosite: The activity held by TEDU Nature Sports Community to Işıkdığı Karagöl Geosite for camping is significant as it raises awareness in students regarding ecosystems in mountainous areas.



Image 2. Işıkdığı Karagöl Geosite



Evidence:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C38ZX7DtpJo/>

Life with Nature Academy: In 2024, the Life with Nature Academy was successfully conducted at the TOVAK International Marmaris Academy in Marmaris/Turunç between July 7–14, with the support of the Muğla Metropolitan Municipality. The program, organized under the theme “Women and Ecology,” brought together 20 female students from various universities pursuing undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral studies.



Image 3. Life with Nature Academy

Evidence: <https://ell.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/life-nature-academy-2-women-and-ecology>

EGET Foundation: The theoretical courses, developed collaboratively by instructors from the EGET Foundation and faculty members of the TEDU English Language and Literature Department, provided participants with comprehensive knowledge of sustainable living, including social, cultural, and economic dimensions. Complementing the theoretical component, hands-on workshops led by EGET Foundation instructors enabled participants to acquire practical skills and experience in environmentally sustainable practices applicable to daily life. Enriched with performance exercises, film screenings, visits to archaeological sites, and musical events, the training program fostered an integrative understanding of human-nature interactions and the importance of preserving terrestrial ecosystems. By promoting awareness of ecological stewardship and sustainable land use, the Life with Nature Academy directly contributes to the

objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 15, aiming to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. The program concluded with a certificate ceremony, formally recognizing participants' engagement and learning achievements.

Evidence:

<https://www.eget.org.tr/eget/dogayla-yasam-akademisinin-2-sini-gerceklestik/>

The 9th Conference on Urban Studies:

This conference held in Ankara from November 20–22, 2024, under the theme “Resilient Cities & Communities,” was organized as part of the Resilient Cities and Communities project by the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) (See Image 4). The conference sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of urban resilience in the context of multiple crises, addressing topics such as climate change, social and economic resilience, urban planning, disaster awareness, infrastructure, and technology.



Image 4. The 9th Conference on Urban Studies

A special session on November 21, chaired by Prof. Dr. Orhan TATAR, featured experts from government institutions, municipalities, and academia. Dr. Ceren Gamze Yaşar from TEDU highlighted the mission of the AFETTEK Platform, a voluntary collaborative initiative focused on disaster technologies, emphasizing its role in enhancing risk reduction through urban and regional planning strategies.



From the perspective of SDG 15, the conference and AFETTEK Platform's initiatives are relevant in promoting sustainable land use and ecosystem management within urban environments. By integrating disaster resilience with strategic urban planning, the discussions contribute to the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, highlighting the importance of minimizing land degradation, safeguarding green spaces, and promoting biodiversity in urban and peri-urban areas.

Evidence: https://city.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/9th-conference-urban-studies-resilient-cities-communities?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Collaborations, Projects, Awards

TEDU freshman students exhibit small projects at the end of each year within the scope TEDU 102 Service Learning Course. In 2024, the student projects were focused on the street animals. Some of the project examples are shared to show how TEDU provide space for students to engage with sustainability related topics in their projects. The following projects are related to protecting ecosystems and focused on protection of street animals and informing university and local communities about animal rights (See Image, 5, 6 and 7).



Image 5. Make a Difference for Street Animals



Image 6. Stronger Together-Respecting Animal Rights



Image 7. Better Bowls for Animals

Preserving Earth: The project aims to inspire and empower young people to address environmental challenges by providing knowledge, resources, and support for proactive initiatives that promote the sustainable use and conservation of



terrestrial ecosystems (See Image 8). By enhancing environmental awareness, developing practical skills, and fostering networking and collaboration, the project encourages the adoption of sustainable practices that contribute to the protection, restoration, and responsible management of forests, biodiversity, and land resources.



Image 8. Preserving Earth

Environmental Awareness: The increasing pollution and degradation of terrestrial ecosystems pose significant challenges to the sustainability of our environment, much of which is caused by human activities. Addressing these issues requires environmental education from an early age (See Image 9). In this context, our project seeks to raise awareness among first-year students about the importance of protecting and conserving land-based ecosystems. By targeting primary school students, the initiative aims to cultivate knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that contribute to the sustainable management of forests, biodiversity, and other terrestrial resources. Through fostering environmental

responsibility and proactive engagement, the project aspires to support long-term ecosystem preservation and promote a more sustainable relationship between humans and the natural environment.



Image 9. Environmental Awareness

DG Doğru Geri Kazanım: The agreement involves the collection of used vegetable oils, generated by the operations of the company/individual, and their transfer to DG Doğru Geri Kazanım for environmentally safe recycling (See Image 10). DG Doğru Geri Kazanım is responsible for transporting these waste oils to licensed biodiesel facilities in compliance with relevant regulations, ensuring that human health and the environment are not adversely affected. The waste oils are then processed into biodiesel or biogas, while awareness-raising and educational activities are conducted to inform stakeholders about sustainable waste management practices. This initiative addresses the environmental problem of improper disposal of organic waste and transforms it into a renewable energy source, thereby contributing to the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems. By preventing soil contamination and reducing the environmental footprint of industrial waste, the project indirectly supports the objectives of SDG 15, fostering ecosystem preservation and responsible land use practices.



Image 10. DG Doğru Geri Kazanım



Campus

Four of the nine buildings on our campus have cultural heritage value and are registered as monumental buildings. Therefore, this issue is taken into consideration in all activities carried out on the campus. Event arrangements, technical maintenance and repair activities, building and construction projects are prepared in accordance with the regulations concerning monumental structures. In addition, large-scale renovation or modification projects in our university buildings are approved by the relevant authorities of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye. This approval process also covers the preservation of individual trees and pruning activities on the campus. Furthermore, awareness-raising events and seminars are organized to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the campus land and its historical and natural assets.

Although the landscaped areas within our campus are relatively limited in size, they are utilized in an optimal and efficient manner. Particular attention is given to landscape design and maintenance in open social spaces frequently used by staff, students, and visitors as part of the campus life cycle. These areas are enhanced through the use of sustainable materials and environmentally conscious practices (See Image 11).

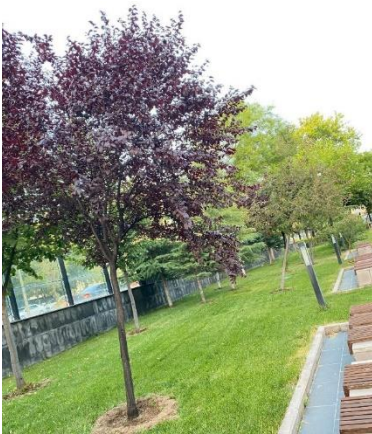


Image 11. Green Spaces in Campus (1)

Wood materials that are no longer in use are repurposed through recycling processes, reshaped, and reintroduced into landscape areas. In addition, surplus gravel and stones are reused within the botanical gardens, promoting resource efficiency and waste reduction (See Image 12).



Image 12. Green Spaces in Campus (2)

Within the campus botanical garden, long-lasting and climate-resilient plant species such as laurel (taflan), lavender, thyme, and barberry are cultivated. These plants not only support ecological diversity but also contribute to the natural aesthetic and sustainability of the campus environment (See Image 13).



Image 13. Green Spaces in Campus (3)

As part of our efforts to protect public health and ensure a safe and comfortable campus environment, regular pest control and disinfection activities are carried out across all physical areas of the campus at predetermined intervals. These operations

are carefully planned and implemented to maintain a hygienic, safe, and healthy living and working environment within the campus.

In addition, all trees and plants within the campus are periodically treated to protect them from insects and pests, increase their resilience, and promote healthier growth.

Before and after each pest control activity, informative notifications are sent to all relevant personnel and campus users to ensure awareness and maintain a safe and well-informed environment during the process. These practices are also aligned with the university's commitment to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species that could threaten the local ecosystem and campus biodiversity.

We pay meticulous attention to the protection of all elements within our campus land area. In this context, TEDU collaborates with the local community and public authorities, such as the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, to maintain and improve shared land ecosystems and green areas around the campus. When necessary, technical and operational support is also received from these institutions to ensure sustainable land management.

A mutual agreement was signed with Mertoğulları Recycling Company for the disposal of hazardous waste within the campus and activities for the process are continuing.

Er Geveni is safe with TEDU: Due to its location, Ankara is a city rich in plant diversity with over 1400 taxa according to the Flora of Turkey. There are many endemic plant species that can be observed in the districts of Ankara. However, with the increasing population pressure in Ankara, the natural habitats of plants living in the city center and its immediate surroundings are decreasing day by day. As a natural consequence, many of the endemic plants in Ankara's flora have disappeared and some of them are in danger of extinction. The endemic plants living in Ankara are not only a value of our city and country, but are also extremely important as they are part of the entire world ecosystem. In

order to protect the endemic plant species living in Ankara, which have been identified by experts with great work and efforts, to introduce them to the public and to raise awareness on this issue, the "Ankara Endemics Project" with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality is carried out with universities in Ankara.

TEDU undertook the protection of the Er Geveni plant with the protocol signed on 07.07.2020 (See Image 14).



Image 14. Er Geveni Project

The Er Geveni plant, which grows in Çamlıdere geography and is an endemic plant, is a plant species that can also be used in the treatment of cancer. It lives among sparse trees and shrubs, which are representatives of degraded forest remnants. It has an important role in the protection and enrichment of pastures as an erosion preventive.

Evidence:

<https://sustainable.tedu.edu.tr/en/about-us>

Within the scope of the protocol signed between our University and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, research studies are being carried out for the protection and breeding of the plant species named Er Geveni *Astragalus Bozakmanii Podlech*, which grows narrowly endemic in Çamlıdere district of Ankara Province. The protection of this plant has been undertaken by our University. In order to show the necessary sensitivity for the plant and to draw attention to its protection, the visual of the plant was printed on promotional products (raw cloth bags, pens, notebooks, etc. obtained from recycled products) used in events. In 2024, Er Geveni-themed designs were incorporated into the university's official corporate gifts, further strengthening institutional ownership



and commitment to the protection of this endemic species (See Image 15).



Image 15. Reproduced Promotion Items

Land sensitive waste disposal: In order to reduce plastic waste on our campus, the areas of use of plastic products have been restricted and different alternatives are preferred instead of plastic products in our events, conference and meeting halls (See Image 16). In addition, bottles with corporate logos have been prepared and distributed at various events so that glass products are preferred instead of plastic products. Again, it is aimed to reduce plastic waste thanks to the purified water fountains on the campus.



Image 16: Glass Water Bottles

A mutual agreement was signed with Mertoğulları Recycling Company for the disposal of hazardous waste within the campus and activities for the process are continuing.

