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SDG 14
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UZBEKISTAN STATE WORLD LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY

SDG 14: Life Below Water — Progress Report

Uzbekistan is a landlocked country in the Aral Sea basin, and the rivers, canals and lakes on which its people and wildlife depend are under heavy pressure. Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) contributes to SDG 14 by keeping water discharged from its campuses clean, sourcing food from aquatic ecosystems responsibly, building a culture of water stewardship among students and staff, and sharing knowledge about freshwater ecosystems with the wider community. This page summarizes the University's progress in 2025.

100%
of wastewater pre-treated before discharge (2024–2025)

12
discharge points sampled every month

4,200+
students and 520 staff in the "Every Drop Counts" campaign

54,700 m³
mains water use in 2024–2025, down from 63,800 m³

Keeping campus water clean

The University applies water quality standards to every discharge from its facilities. All wastewater from university buildings is pre-treated on site before it enters the city sewer network: the share rose from 94% in 2023–2024 to 100% in 2024–2025. Samples taken every month at 12 discharge points are analyzed for pH, turbidity, biochemical and chemical oxygen demand and suspended solids, and the results are verified jointly with Tashkent City Water Supply JSC. Every catering outlet is fitted with grease traps, and hazardous substances are handed over only to licensed organizations. At the same time, mains water use fell from 63,800 m³ in 2023–2024 to 54,700 m³ in 2024–2025, reducing the University's demand on the rivers and groundwater that supply Tashkent.



UzSWLU representatives at the Samarkand International Climate Forum, April 2025 (left); Water Day seminar and awareness posters (right)

Policies for aquatic ecosystems

In January 2025 the University adopted the Aquatic Ecosystems Protection Policy, which brings together its commitments on sustainably sourced aquatic food, the prevention of pollution from land-based activities

and the protection of the water bodies connected to its sites. It works alongside the University's other environmental policies:

Policy	Created	Last revised	Addresses
Aquatic Ecosystems Protection Policy	2025	—	Sustainable sourcing of fish; preventing pollution from land-based activities; minimizing physical, chemical and biological alterations of water bodies
Water Quality and Discharge Management Policy	2022	2023	Standards, treatment and testing for all water discharges
Water Reuse Policy	2025	—	Greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting to reduce demand on city water
Plastic Waste Reduction Policy	2021	2025	Phasing out single-use plastics; separate collection and recycling
Hazardous Waste Disposal and Management Policy	2022	2025	Keeping chemicals and hazardous materials out of drains and the sewer network
Biodiversity Conservation Policy	2021	2025	Protection of IUCN Red List and Red Book species and their habitats

Sustainable food from aquatic ecosystems

Fish served at campus canteens that offer fish dishes comes from local producers in Uzbekistan who raise common carp, silver carp and grass carp in ponds. Wild-caught fish is not purchased for campus catering, species listed on the IUCN Red List or in the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan are never served, and any marine fish or seafood must carry a recognized certification such as MSC or ASC.



Eco Club campaign in Guzar mahalla, Uchtepa district, September 2025

A culture of water stewardship

Water stewardship is promoted on campus through standing programs rather than one-off events. The annual "Clean Water, Clean Campus" campaign grew from 1,500 participants in 2023–2024 to more than 2,000 in 2024–2025, and the "Every Drop Counts" campaign engaged more than 4,200 students and 520

staff members. First-year students complete a compulsory module on water conservation, the SaveWater@UZGUMYA mobile app gives personalized water-saving advice, more than 200 members of the University community signed a water conservation pledge, and departments and dormitories are evaluated on their water performance.

Sharing knowledge about freshwater ecosystems

Students of the Department of Ecology and Green Resources, established in January 2025, run awareness activities in local neighborhoods (mahallas) and schools on saving water and the scarcity of drinking water. On 5 September 2025 the national newspaper Yangi O'zbekiston published the article "Water Problems and Journalism" by UzSWLU lecturer Malika Saburova. On 4–5 April 2025 the head of the department, Professor Dilorom Yormatova, and Professor Kh. Khushvaktova took part in the first Samarkand International Climate Forum, where the Aral Sea crisis was among the central topics. On 30 May 2025 the University hosted the international conference "Modern Environmental Policy: From National Experience to Global Solutions," with partners including the Aral Sea Innovation Center, where water-saving technologies were among the priority directions discussed.

Looking ahead

Priorities for the coming years are to report annually against the indicators of the Aquatic Ecosystems Protection Policy, to extend greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting to more campuses, to begin regular observation of the water bodies near university sites, and to build lasting partnerships with neighboring communities for the care of shared rivers and canals.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS