



SDG15: Life On Land

Annual report (2023)

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Details via web link: <https://www.aun.edu.eg/AUIRO/index.php/en/sdg15>

Assiut University has made considerable improvements toward achieving SDG 15, which focuses on protecting global ecosystems, managing land sustainably, and conserving the biodiversity. Through educational programs, maintenance projects, research, and sustainable practices on campus.

1. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Land

- **Events and Community Involvement:**

Assiut University organizes events to promote land conservation and sustainable practices. The Assiut University Center for Sustainable Development held about 14 free workshops and activities for the community, educating the public on sustainable land management, the importance of preserving ecosystems, and responsible land use practices with a total 420 participants.

Collaborations:

- The university cooperates with government organizations, NGOs, and internationally through scientific projects for land maintenance, sustainable land use, and ecosystem repair. These partnerships involve joint research, shared events, and cooperative educational programs to promote long-term sustainability and environmental awareness.



- -Partnership and Cooperation Protocol between the Faculty of Agriculture at Assiut University and the Egyptian-Gulf Company.
- -STDF scientific project: Improving the Performance of Grounding Systems in Desert Lands Using Soil Enhancement Materials
- **Faculty of Agriculture Initiatives:**

The Department of Soil and Water at the Faculty of Agriculture engages in extensive research on land management and conservation practices. Through academic publications and research projects, the department contributes to the field, providing valuable insights on sustainable land use in arid regions and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

- STDF scientific project: Detailed Genetic Methods to Improve Biotic Stress Tolerance in Spring Wheat Using High-Efficiency Phenotypic and Genomic Approaches at the Level.

2. Protection and Extension of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

- **Green Spaces and Arboretums:**

The university developed extensive green spaces on and off campus, including an arboretum in the University Park, an ornamental plant farm, and training farms in Assiut Valley. The extension farm supports practical training for about 1300 undergraduate and 100 post graduate students. In addition to offer research facilities for faculty, promoting biodiversity and providing habitats for local flora and fauna.

- **Ornamental Plant Greenhouses:**

The university has set up greenhouses where students can grow eco-friendly plants, including rare and endangered species, in response to



environmental demands. These greenhouses serve as a resource for rare species conservation and offer a home for a variety of plants.

- **Biodiversity Research and Monitoring:**

Assiut University plays a role in monitoring and protecting IUCN Red Listed species, such as the Egyptian Vulture and the Greater Spotted Eagle. Researchers track species populations and implement conservation practices to protect these endangered species from threats like habitat loss and hunting.

3. Sustainable Food Production and Waste Reduction

- **Campus Agriculture:**

The Faculty of Agriculture's farms provide sustainably farmed food to campus dining services, reducing dependence on external food sources. The animal production, vegetables, and fruit farms supply fresh produce, contributing to the university's sustainable food systems.

- **Composting Programs:**

Assiut University has composting initiatives that turn food waste into compost to control organic waste. By enriching agricultural land and campus gardens, this compost lowers waste and improves soil health.

- **Educational Programs on Sustainability:**

Sustainability education is incorporated into Assiut University's curriculum, teaching students about sustainable management of the land. Faculties of agriculture, engineering, pharmacy and science offer about 60 courses about ecosystem management.



4. Monitoring and Managing Invasive Species

- **Invasive Species Control:**

The Faculty of Agriculture actively monitors and manages invasive species, particularly the red palm weevil and the fall armyworm. Through the Pest Control Unit, the faculty develops and implements eradication strategies and collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation to provide training on safe pesticide use.

- **Collaborative Training:**

The university works with governmental agencies to provide training on managing invasive species, such as workshops on pest control, highlighting its commitment to protecting local biodiversity and minimizing the impact of non-native species on ecosystems

5. Sustainable Campus and Green Building Initiatives

- **Green Building Standards:**

Assiut University has implemented green and sustainable building methods for new construction and reconstructions on campus. The architectural design of campus buildings corresponds with local ecosystems, preserving existing trees and planting new species to improve biodiversity.

- **Infrastructure and Environmental Management:**

With a focus on green spaces, over 82% of the campus is dedicated to open areas, including extensive green coverage. Buildings are designed with emergency exits, natural ventilation, and water-



conserving irrigation systems, all contributing to the campus's sustainability.

- **Waste Reduction in the campus:**

The university's policy to reduce paper and plastic waste promotes eco-friendly practices, with an emphasis on digital transformation to minimize paper use. Plastic reduction strategies using eco-friendly substitutes, beside the recycling projects across campus.