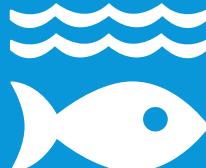


NAKHCHIVAN  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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23

# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

14 LIFE BELOW  
WATER



THE GLOBAL GOALS

# Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, include 17 interconnected objectives aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, and promoting peace and prosperity by 2030. SDG 14, “Life Below Water,” focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources. Although Nakhchivan State University (NSU) is located inland, it actively supports this goal by promoting water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable water management practices. NSU integrates water-related sustainability topics into its curriculum, engages students in water conservation projects, and collaborates with environmental organizations to raise awareness about protecting aquatic ecosystems. Through these efforts, NSU fosters a campus culture that values and contributes to the preservation of water resources and environmental resilience.

Nakhchivan State University (NSU) is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) by preserving water resources and promoting sustainable water management practices. Through impactful initiatives like the ECOLEAD project, NSU has addressed environmental water rights and the impacts of ecological violations on water quality. The university has also conducted workshops on water supply and pollution prevention, enhancing students' knowledge of water conservation. In collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology, NSU undertook research projects to monitor river water quality and map underground water resources. These efforts highlight NSU's commitment to safeguarding water ecosystems and supporting sustainable water practices.

Nakhchivan State University (NSU) is actively engaged in efforts to preserve clean water resources and strengthen environmental water rights through various impactful initiatives. Notably, NSU hosted a scientific-practical conference titled “Strengthening the Environment: The Role of Awareness and Law Enforcement Measures” as part of the ECOLEAD project. This conference highlighted “Environmental Water Violations Accelerating Climate Change” and discussed the impact of ecological rights violations on water resources. According to the presented data, environmental damage due to land occupation from 1988 to September 2023 has resulted in approximately 13.4 billion manats in losses to Azerbaijan’s ecology.

To increase awareness among students and environmental specialists, NSU organized a series of workshops covering topics such as “Sanitary Protection of Water Supply Sources and Pipelines,” “Controlling Water Losses in Canals,” “Types, Composition, and Properties of Polluted Water,” and “Hygienic Aspects of Water Supply Sources.” These workshops enhanced participants’ knowledge about ecological water supply, sanitation, and the protection of water ecosystems.



In collaboration with the Nakhchivan Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry, NSU launched monitoring and research projects focused on assessing water quality and levels in the region's main rivers. Water samples were taken from Nakhchivanchay, Alinjachay, Nurgutchay, and Paragachay rivers, with measurements taken at hydrological stations. These were among the findings:

- Nakhchivanchay: Water flow rate  $1.9 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ , level 50 cm
- Alinjachay: Water flow rate  $0.495 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ , level 27 cm
- Nurgutchay: Water flow rate  $1.2 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ , level 34 cm
- Paragachay: Water flow rate  $0.238 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ , level 18 cm



Additionally, NSU and the Ecology Ministry undertook a comprehensive project to map and record private sub-artesian wells across districts like Shahbuz, Sharur, Julfa, Ordubad, and Kangarli. This data has been digitized using ArcGIS software and aims to facilitate effective management of underground water resources by identifying the precise number and locations of private wells.

The monitoring scope extended to areas within Nakhchivan City, Qaraquch, Qaraxanbeyli, Heydarabad, Sadarak, Garaagach, Diza, Ashagi Yayji, Yukhari Yayji, Shakhbuz, Mahmudoba, and Nursu. Analyses of drinking water and river water were conducted, and assessments were made of anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Additionally, the condition of agricultural areas undergoing agro-technical care was evaluated.



An additional noteworthy initiative in which Nakhchivan State University (NSU) participated is the release of 20000 juvenile carp into the Heydar Aliyev Reservoir in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. This project, co-organized by NSU, aimed at enhancing biodiversity, enriching aquatic ecosystems, and increasing fish populations in the reservoir. Representatives from the Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry of Nakhchivan and eco-volunteers were present at the event, underscoring a collaborative commitment to preserving the region's natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability.

These initiatives demonstrate NSU's dedication to sustainable water resource management and active measures to combat climate change impacts.

