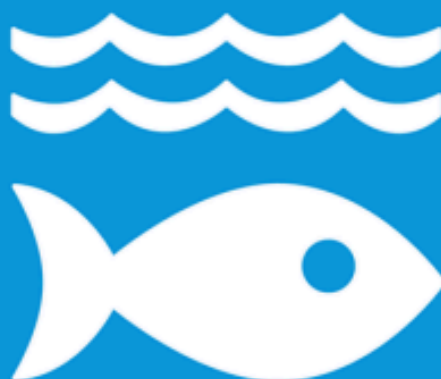


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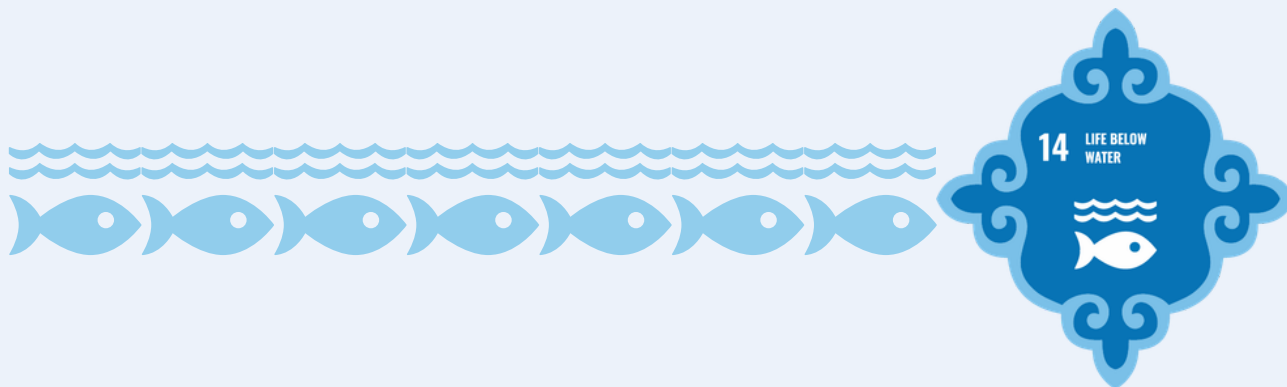
**PRESERVING LIFE
BELOW WATER
FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

GOALS

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Introduction

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University strengthened its commitment to SDG 14: Life Below Water by focusing on the sustainable management and protection of freshwater resources, river ecosystems, and water quality. Recognizing the importance of water for both ecological balance and human well-being, NSU implemented initiatives that combined research, education, and community engagement to protect inland aquatic ecosystems and promote sustainable water practices.

Governance and Institutional Commitment

- The Sustainable Development Centre continued to coordinate SDG 14 initiatives, integrating freshwater conservation strategies into university operations, research programs, and student activities.
- Policies for responsible water use and pollution prevention were formalized for laboratory operations, campus landscaping, and administrative processes, ensuring alignment with broader sustainability and climate action goals.

Freshwater Research and Education

Research Initiatives

- Faculty and students conducted studies on water quality monitoring, aquatic biodiversity, and sustainable water management, focusing on local rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
- Research projects addressed pollution mitigation, water purification techniques, and the ecological impacts of urban and agricultural runoff.

Curriculum Integration

- Climate change, water sustainability, and freshwater ecosystem management were integrated into courses across environmental sciences, biology, and geography programs.
- Students participated in fieldwork, water sampling, and ecological surveys, providing practical experience in monitoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems.





Campus Water Management and Pollution Prevention

- Campus Water Management and Pollution Prevention
- The University implemented efficient water use strategies, including low-flow faucets, rainwater collection for landscaping, and monitoring of water consumption in laboratories and dormitories.
- Wastewater management practices were enhanced to minimize chemical and biological pollutants entering local water bodies.
- Awareness campaigns educated students and staff about water conservation, reducing water wastage and promoting eco-friendly behavior on campus.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

- NSU collaborated with local authorities and environmental organizations to protect nearby rivers and reservoirs from pollution and overuse.
- Student-led programs promoted clean-up drives, water quality awareness campaigns, and community workshops, strengthening local freshwater stewardship.
- Participation in regional networks and academic conferences allowed knowledge exchange on freshwater conservation strategies and sustainable water management.



Monitoring and Future Priorities

Monitoring Measures:

- Regular water quality assessments and biodiversity surveys were conducted to track the health of local freshwater ecosystems.
- Indicators such as water consumption per capita, pollution reduction, and community participation rates were tracked as part of SDG 14 reporting.

Future Priorities:

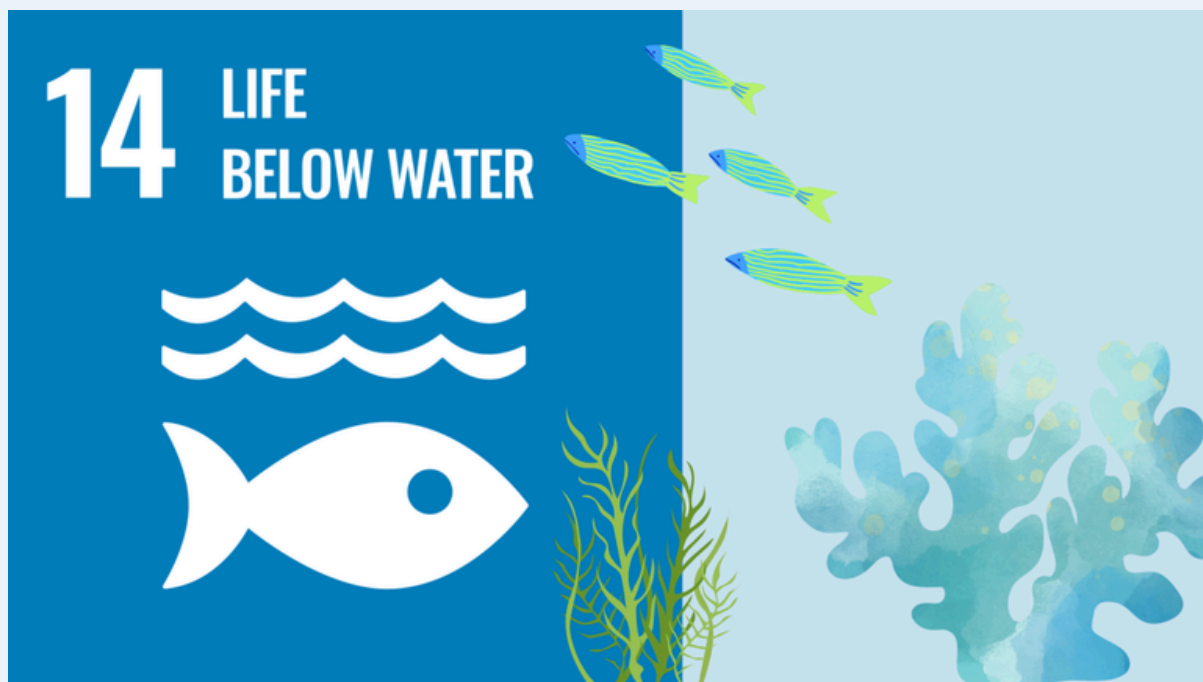
- Expansion of research on aquatic ecosystems and climate impacts on water resources.
- Strengthening partnerships for regional water resource management and conservation programs.
- Integration of innovative water-saving technologies and circular water use practices on campus.
- Further education and outreach programs to raise awareness about sustainable freshwater management.

Future Goals (2025–2027)

To deepen its commitment to SDG 14, NSU has outlined the following short-term and mid-term targets:

- Create a dedicated unit within the Faculty of Biology and Ecology to lead freshwater ecosystem studies and student research coordination.
- Expand Monitoring Scope
- Increase sampling locations beyond Araz River to include irrigation canals and village reservoirs.
- Partner with local environmental NGOs for shared data use.
- Publish an Annual Water Report
- Publishing an annual “NSU Water Impact Report” summarizing education, research, and outreach outcomes related to water sustainability.
- Strengthen Youth Engagement





Conclusion

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University advanced SDG 14: Life Below Water through an integrated approach to freshwater conservation, governance, education, and community engagement. By prioritizing the sustainable management of inland aquatic ecosystems, the University reinforced its commitment to environmental stewardship and regional ecological resilience.

The coordination of SDG 14 initiatives through the Sustainable Development Centre enabled the systematic integration of responsible water use, pollution prevention, and freshwater protection across institutional operations and academic activities. Research and curriculum development enhanced scientific understanding of water quality, aquatic biodiversity, and sustainable water management, while student involvement in field-based studies strengthened applied learning outcomes.

Improvements in campus water management and wastewater practices contributed to reduced resource consumption and minimized environmental risks. Additionally, partnerships with local stakeholders and student-led outreach initiatives extended the University's impact beyond campus boundaries.

Overall, NSU's 2025 activities established a strong foundation for continued progress in freshwater sustainability, aligning institutional practices with national priorities and global sustainable development objectives under SDG 14.