2024
Sustainability Report
SDG 14

LIFE BELOW WATER

LETTER FROM THE REPORT RECTOR

Ege University is a leading university, an example of the Turkish higher education system, which has received Turkey's first Institutional Full Accreditation Certificate and has the identity of a Student-Focused Research University.

Our University, with its 69-year deep-rooted history, strong academic staff, qualified scientific studies, distinguished students, and graduates, is to make a supreme effort to build a solid future for new generations by being sensitive to the realities of the world, our country and the society we live in. Ege University is a strong research institution with an entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem where R&D, innovation, knowledge, and technology transfer take place between industry and university.

Ege University has adopted all the goals of eliminating inequalities, strengthening economic growth and employment,improving cities and residential areas, ensuring industrialization, protecting oceans and ecosystems, producing and consuming energy more sustainably, combating climate change, developing sustainable production and consumption, and empowering human rights. Our university operates within an adequate ultrastructure designable to implement all academic and operational activities within the SDGs framework.

We steadfastly persist in our pursuit of elevating Ege University into a vanguard research institution dedicated to pioneering technological advancements in support of sustainable development.

This report not only contains in-depth information about Ege University's remarkable efforts in each of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals throughout 2024 but also reveals the key strategies of our institution. Moreover, it serves as a guiding compass, not only illuminating our efforts but also enabling a keener determination of our evolving needs and strategic plans.

In harmonious unity, we ardently endeavor to steer our institution towards a guiding and pioneering role by meticulously realizing our objectives through a management philosophy of fairness, equity, and accessibility.

I appreciate all my esteemed colleagues whose collective efforts have shaped this report.

With warm regards and respect…"

Prof. Dr. Necdet BUDAK

Rector

LETTER FROM THE REPORT TEAM

As the Sustainability Report Team, Ege University, we are proud and excited to present the third annual Sustainability Report of Ege University, one of Turkey's pioneering universities, prepared to concretize the University's commitment to sustainability and enable you to follow our sustainability-related efforts closely.

Sustainability lies at the heart of Ege University's main objectives. Besides, our university bears the responsibility of leaving a more livable world to future generations, and it emphasizes its determination to integrate sustainability principles in the fields of education, research, social contribution, and campus management. Over the years, Ege University has built a strong track record of offering sustainable solutions to address the challenges facing the university and society. In 2020, all these efforts culminated in establishing the Rankings Office. This move not only strengthened the university's commitment to sustainability but also led to the formation of sub-commissions focusing on various Sustainable Development Goals. These sub-working groups brought together academics and administrative staff from every faculty and the Rectorate, each contributing diverse perspectives and professional expertise.

What makes the Rankings Office even more dynamic is its inclusion of the Sustainability Report Team, which actively participates in all activities, thus enhancing the visibility of the office across the university.

Ege University aims to extend influence far beyond the boundaries of our institution. The EGE Sustainability Team seeks to be a trailblazer in instilling a culture of sustainability in other higher education institutions. Our Sustainability Team and its sub-working groups are going to serve as advisors to our university as well as to other universities, offering insights into Sustainable Development Goals and impact management. Furthermore, we are going to continue to be actively involved in educational initiatives that support schools on their sustainability journeys.

Beyond our campuses, we actively engage with local communities, businesses, and government entities to foster sustainable relationships, collaborate on solving common issues, and share our wealth of knowledge.

Ege University is unwavering in its commitment to the responsible management of resources to mitigate their impact on society, the environment, and the economy. This report offers a transparent and current source of information, providing valuable guidance to universities and stakeholders seeking to expand their knowledge on sustainability.

EGE University is actively dedicated to advancing sustainability through research, education, and innovation to become a leading institution in Turkey and worldwide. Our primary focus is on enhancing the accessibility, inclusivity, and affordability of our university for the benefit of our community. We cultivate positive partnerships with industry leaders to strengthen our engagement and ensure the use of environmentally sustainable practices that support innovation and research.
This report offers insight into EGE UNI's position in 2024 regarding enhancing sustainability in Turkey. We share our initiatives and commitments related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, along with their corresponding impacts. We extend our gratitude to our sub-working groups, the Sustainability Report team, our dedicated students, EGE's esteemed academicians, and the Rectorate for their unwavering efforts this year to further our sustainable impact.

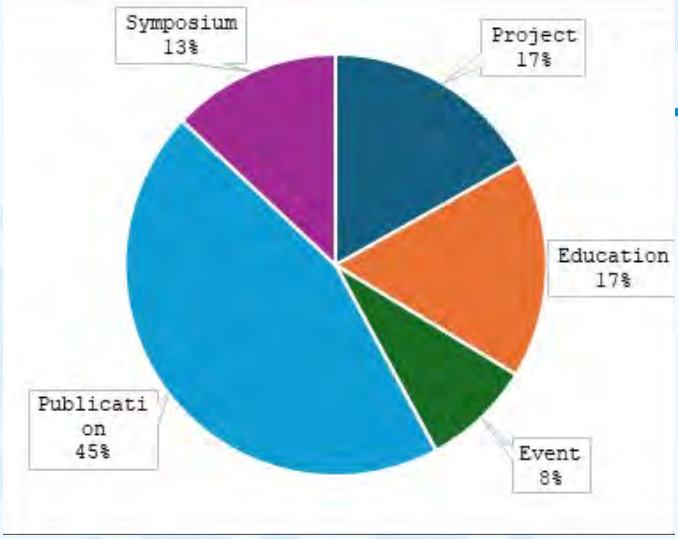
Our journey towards securing the sustainability of our world is an extensive and long way one. As the EGE Sustainability Team, we place our trust in the dedication of our university's staff and students to continue their improvements this year and sustain their endeavors well into the future.

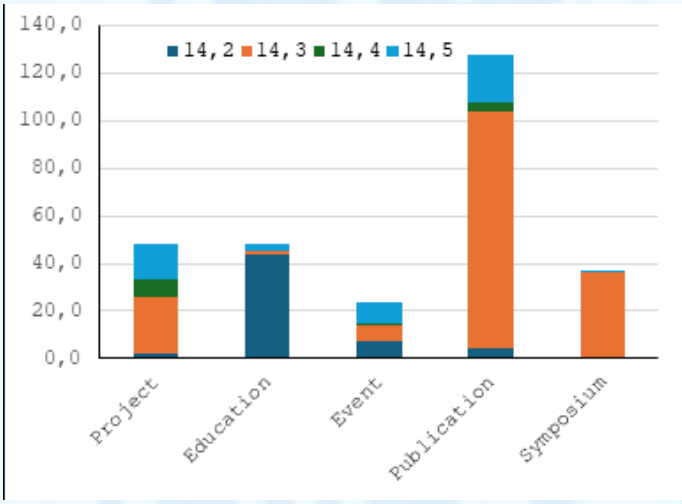
We appreciate your interest in the Ege University Sustainability Report and eagerly welcome the feedback of our readers.

Prof. Dr. Göknur ŞİŞMAN AYDIN
Coordinator
EU Sustainability Office

EGE FOCUSES ON LIFE BELOW WATER

All activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) concerning Life Below Water are categorized in our university under four main headings: Projects, Events, Education, Symposium participation and Publications. Totally 285 activities were conducted during the reporting period.





Publications constitute the largest portion of all activities, representing 45% of the total. Subsequently, projects make up 17%, events 8%, education 17% and symposium participation 13% of the total distribution. When analyzing publications related to the sub-goals of Life Below Water, SDG 14.3 holds the largest share at 68%, followed by SDG 14.2 at 23%.

Numerous online and face-to-face information seminars on aquatic life have been held at our university.

SUPPORTING WATER ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Many online and face-to-face international seminars on the theme of aquatic life have been held at our university.

AQUATIC LIFE CONVERSATION

Numerous online and face-to-face national talks on the theme of aquatic life have been held at our university.

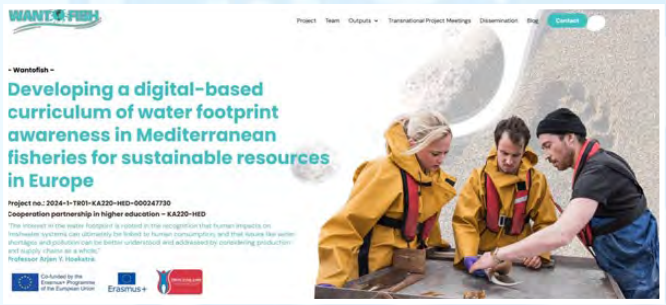
STUDENT WORKSHOPS ON AQUATIC LIFE

Workshops were held for students at our university.

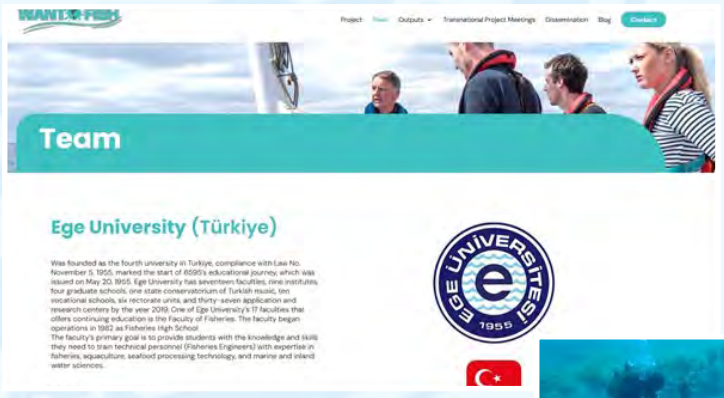
NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations and meetings have been organized on issues that closely concern the aquaculture sector.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



Some large-scale projects have been implemented at the international level.



EGE staff deploying Acoustic Listening Station as part of Turkish array, 2023, credit Aytac Ozgul

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

An underwater certification program was held at our university.

IMPORTANT DAY FOR LIFE BELOW WATER

World environment and biodiversity days were held at our university.

A conference on climate change and invasive species was held at Ege university.

EGE UNIVERSTY hosted GET FEST 24

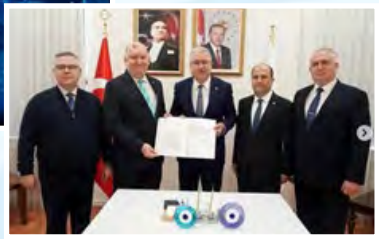
Get fest 24, organized by the E.Ü. gastronomy society at the Binbir gida conference hall of the faculty of fisheries, was completed successfully with the intense interest of all students.

CLEAN SEA

A public awareness event on marine pollution was held at Cumhuriyet Square on June 5th, 2024.

CERTIFICATE IN HIGH EDUCATION

An important step towards internationalization in higher education has been taken.



SUPPORTING WATER ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH ACTION
MICROALGAE CULTURE COLLECTION

Our university's basic facilities, which support sustainable water goals and the development-oriented global goals of Life Under Water in a versatile way, have culture collections for the sustainability of the life of microorganisms in water and the biotechnological use of microalgae There is a 'Microalgae Technology Laboratory' where research is carried out under the Faculty of Engineering, Department of Bioengineering. There is also a Microalgae Culture Collection (Ege-MACC).

ECOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Faculty of Fisheries has an 'Ecotechnology Laboratory' where R&D projects are carried out for the treatment of wastewater and the development of reuse models by utilizing aquatic organisms, especially microalgae.

EGE UNIVERSITY FISHERIES SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS (ESFM) COLLECTION

Since the 1930s, specimens have been collected in the Ege University Fisheries Scientific Materials (ESFM) collection, comprising approximately 4,100 marine species, including fish, phytoplankton, sponges, annelids, mollusks, arthropods, and other invertebrates. Beyond marine species, ESFM's inland water fish collection includes around 46,000 specimens gathered from various habitats across 26 river basins in Türkiye, among them 32 newly discovered species identified by faculty researchers. This collection serves as comparison material for scientists worldwide and is one of the first of its kind in Türkiye to preserve aquatic species by international standards. Materials obtained through monitoring surveys and field studies or donated from across Türkiye, are registered and stored under appropriate conditions within the Faculty of Fisheries. ESFM's primary goals include preserving the diversity of Turkish waters, contributing to scientific and educational research, and raising public awareness about the country's rich biodiversity.

MARINE FISH OF TÜRKİYE

IJA

Original Research Articles

Establishing a fish repository at Ege University Faculty of Fisheries (1965-2023): A Journey on a long and challenging road to becoming a museum

Israeli Journal of Aquaculture - Bamidgeh

During this reporting period, a BAP project (FHD-2021-23431) has been completed, adding the "Marine Fish of Türkiye" section to our collection. This section now includes 346 species from 125 families, representing 64% of Türkiye's marine fish fauna, all of which have been preserved. The article of the study has been published.

EUHAYMER - Fisheries Research Laboratory is housed within the Laboratory Animal Application and Research Center. This laboratory provides facilities for creating experimental environments using aquatic organisms and supports scientific research activities.

HOMA LAGOON

We are the only university in the world that has a lagoon system with high conservation status. Ege University has supported local and regional governments in protecting and sustainably managing water resources for many years. In addition, the 40,000-hectare Homa Lagoon System and its wetlands, located within the internationally significant RAMSAR Region, were allocated to the Ege University Faculty of Fisheries by a triple decree in 1986. The lagoon system is utilized for education, research, and practical applications. It also serves recreational purposes and assists local governments in developing wetland management plans. In addition, seminars on water-saving technologies are given to regional farmers, and national and international projects are implemented. In Homa Lagoon, which has been successfully operated by the Faculty of Fisheries for nearly 40 years, in addition to scientific research, the sale of fish caught in the catchment is carried out.

Ege University Journal of Fisheries EgeJFAS

Ege University Journal of Fisheries (EgeJFAS) has been published since 1984. It makes an important contribution to the dissemination of the information contained in a large number of studies carried out for the protection, sustainability, and health of water ecosystems and biodiversity to society and related persons.

Fish Samples Analysis Report

The "Fish Samples Analysis Report" book, which includes the project outputs carried out with the Ege University Faculty of Fisheries and the Ege Exporters' Associations (EİB) and the comparison of the nutritional values of marine and cultured fish, was published.

FISH SALES UNIT

The fish sales unit within the Faculty of Fisheries is an exemplary sales unit approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and with the necessary hygiene certificates within the framework of the Food Hygiene Regulation. We offer quality fish, which we process with utmost care in our unit, especially our students and staff, and then the whole of Izmir City.

Healthy and hygienic exemplary-model aquaculture products sales unit on the campus...

Online ordering system

Anyone who visits the official website of Ege University Faculty of Fisheries has the opportunity to order the healthy and hygienic fish we produce 24/7. Orders placed can be picked up from our Fish Sales Unit at the requested time or the next day.

Research and educational expeditions are conducted with the research vessel named EGESÜF, which operates under the Faculty of Fisheries.

Genel Bilgiler	
Bağlama Limanı	İzmir
Çağrı Adı	TC7656
İnşaa Yılı	1984
Sahibi	Ege Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü Su Ürünleri Fakültesi
Boyutlar	
Tam Boy	23,22 m
Genişlik	6,75 m
Yükseklik (Freeboard)	0,84 m
Su Kesimi (Draft)	1,96 m
Net Tonaj	38,77 Ton
Gross Tonaj	98,47 Ton
Görev Fonksiyonu	
Ana Görev Fonksiyonu	Bilimsel Araştırma ve İnceleme
Operasyon Bölgesi	Kabotaj Seferi
Kapasite	
Yakıt Kapasitesi	11,76 m3
Su Kapasitesi	6 ton
Seyir Sürati	9 kts
Ekonomik Sürati	6 kts
Maksimum Sürati	11 kts
Denizde Kalabileceği Süre	1 gün
Gemi Personeli Yatak Sayısı	4
Bilim Adamı Yatak Sayısı	8
Makine	
Tekne Materyali	Sac

Seyir ve Muhabere Cihazları	
Radar	Koden MD3400
İskandil	Icom Marine Plotter/Sounder, Humminbird Helix 10
Konumlandırma Sistemi	Icom Marine Plotter/Sounder, Humminbird Helix 10
VHF Telsiz	Ray Jefferson 7800
Otomatik Tanımlama Sistemi	I-Marine I-AIS TBCS
Oşinografik Sistemler	
Üretici Kurum	TDI
Model	Akustik Doppler
Frekans	600 kHz
Çalışma Derinliği	100 m
CTD	YSI 6600
Vinçler, Güverte Donanımları ve Küçük Deniz Araçları	

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

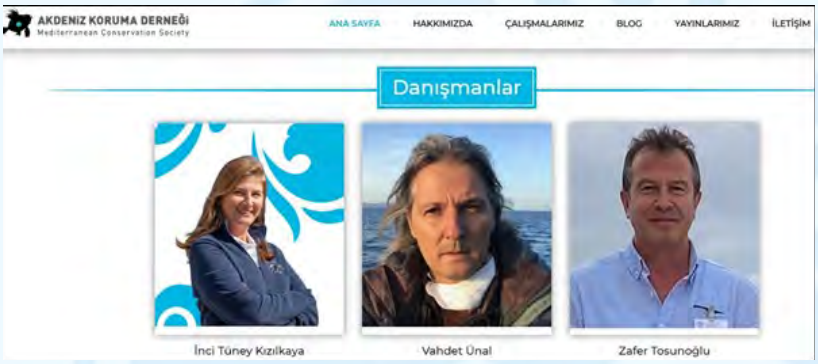
Our campus implements an "Integrated Waste Management System" to ensure the environmentally safe disposal of hazardous wastes generated from educational, academic, research, and service activities. Ege University has an 'Integrated Waste Management' system for the disposal of all other waste, including plastic waste. In addition, hazardous wastes generated in all our units are disposed of with the methods specified in the relevant booklet.

As a result of the studies carried out within the scope of the "Zero-Waste" Project initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, our university was awarded a "Zero Waste Certificate". Ege University became the first educational institution in Izmir to receive this certificate on a campus basis. Ege University implements an "Integrated Waste Management System" to ensure the environmentally safe disposal of hazardous wastes generated from educational, academic, research, and service activities.

The book titled "Gediz Delta Fisheries" prepared by Ege University members, was brought to the world of science.

MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mediterranean conservation association advisors from Ege University.



Cross-sector dialogue

Ege University leads cross-sector SDG dialogue by organising and participating in international events within the "Resilient Coasts 2 Climate" Project - including the **International Workshop on Coastal Resilience & Nature-based Solutions** (14-16 May 2024) and the **"Climate Fest Izmir"** (17 May 2024). These activities bring together government institutions, NGOs, academia, private sector and communities on one common platform, enabling dialogue on SDG-aligned climate action and coastal adaptation approaches.

Reference

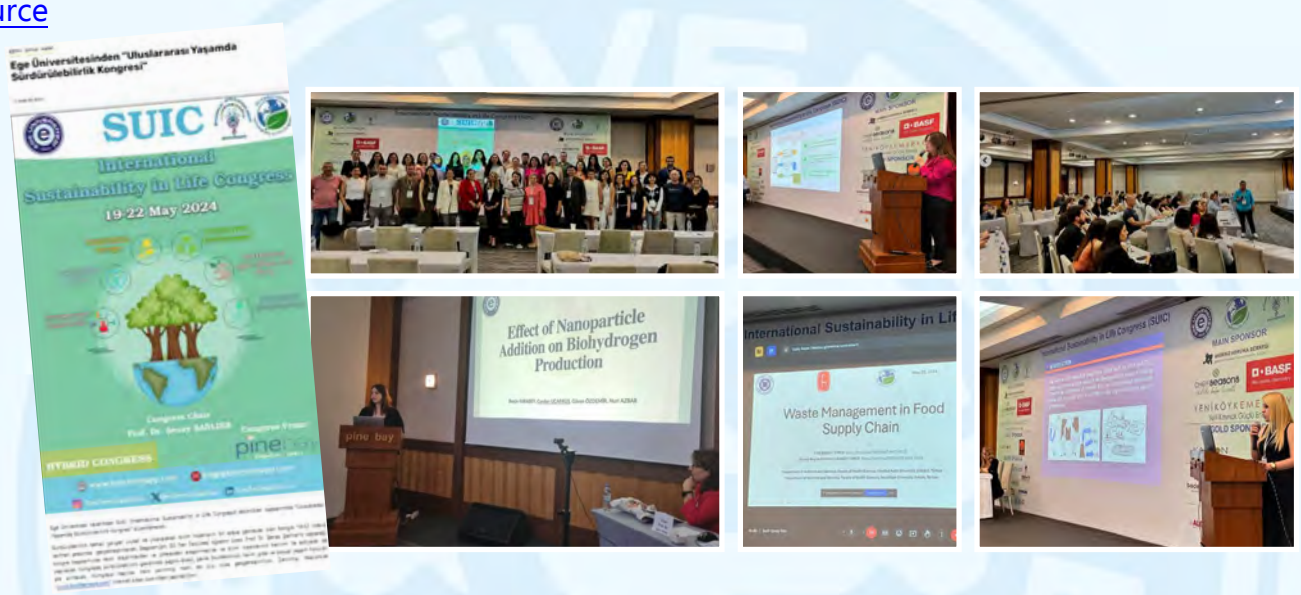
International Workshop on Coastal Resilience & Nature-based Solutions, 14–16 May 2024, Izmir, Ege University

I. Climate Fest Izmir , 17 May 2024, Ege University

Cross-sector dialogue case (International Sustainability in Life Congress)

Ege University hosted the International Sustainability in Life Congress (19–22 May 2024, Kuşadası, Turkiye), bringing together international academics, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, practitioners and students for multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainability in health, energy, environment and social sciences. The congress created an interdisciplinary platform for discussion and exchange of SDG-related knowledge and experiences across sectors.

Source



Ege University Provides Scientific Contributions to Climate Change, Water Management and Food Security with the ACLIFS Project

The project **"Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Food Safety and Enhancing the Resilience of Rural Communities (ACLIFS)"** is implemented under the Climate Change Adaptation Grant Program (CCA-GP) coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change. Led by TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center. The project brings together national universities, research institutes, government agencies, producer associations, cooperatives, NGOs, and local farmers to support SDG implementation through climate change modelling, water resource assessment, agricultural adaptation planning, and socio-economic impact analysis. As part of this cross-sectoral partnership, regional workshops, training programs, focus group meetings, and comprehensive stakeholder surveys were successfully conducted, strengthening local capacity for climate resilience and sustainable agricultural production.

Activities carried out within the scope of the project:

- Regional meetings
- Training programs
- Comprehensive surveys conducted with target stakeholders

NATMed, in partnership with Ege University, is an EU-funded PRIMA project focused on sustainable water management and the implementation of nature-based solutions (NbS) across Mediterranean regions. The project aims to develop, apply, and validate a set of best practices of NbS integrated into existing grey and natural water infrastructures, based on specific phases of the water cycle, to optimize water-related and water-dependent ecosystem services.

This project has received funding from the European Union's PRIMA Research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 2221.

During the 4th periodic meeting held in Bozcaada on 1–2 October 2024, project partners-including universities, research institutions, municipalities, private sector actors, and international stakeholders-evaluated technical progress, shared data across five case studies (Spain, Greece, Italy, Türkiye, and Algeria), and conducted site visits to monitor NbS applications. Through its scientific involvement in case study coordination, data analysis, and climate-resilient water management strategies, Ege University strengthensoutcomes under SDG 6 and SDG 13 while advancing international, cross-sectoral partnerships under SDG 17.

An international project led by Ege University academician Prof. Dr. Ninel ALVER has received a grant of 13 million 500 thousand Yen from Japan. Within the scope of the project, a new damage detection method will be developed by applying artificial intelligence algorithms to detect damages that may occur in water infrastructure such as water storage structures, dams, reservoirs, water transportation structures, coastal and port structures during their service life due to environmental effects or dynamic loading such as earthquakes.

Ege University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. İnci Tüney Kızılkaya, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Conservation Society, analyses the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems and living life in detail. In this context, the project team carries out studies on the potential effects of climate change on marine biodiversity, strategic planning on the importance of protecting marine areas and developing sustainability recommendations.

Gökova Bay to Cape Gelidonya Turkey

Restoring marine ecosystem connectivity in south western Turkey. This project is removing barriers to the recovery of marine ecosystem from Gkova Bay to Cape Gelidonya, triggering the revival of healthy ecosystem processes. A fully functioning ecosystem which keeps invasive species in check will generate sustainable benefits for local people and increase resilience to climate change.

Gökova Gulf – Sponge Monitoring

Marine ecosystem restoration experiments

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in the Foça Special Environmental Protection Area

Ege University academics strongly collaborate with international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on research supporting sustainable marine management and biodiversity conservation. One notable example is the report "Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in the Foça Special Environmental Protection Area- Main Report," published within the framework of the **Small-Scale Fisheries Co-Management Project** led by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Türkiye), supported by the WWF Mediterranean Programme and WWF International. Two academics from the Ege University Faculty of Fisheries, Prof. Dr. Vahdet Ünal and Prof. Dr. Zafer Tosunoğlu, are co-authors of this report, which analyzes the ecological, social, and economic aspects of fisheries in the Aegean region. The project report aimed to promote ecosystem-based management, assess the impacts of fishing on marine biodiversity, and provide sustainability recommendations for the Foça Special Environmental Protection Area. This collaboration exemplifies Ege University's active participation in internationally supported, NGO-led research contributing to SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Ege University (EU) continues to serve science in line with its mission of internationalization, supported by its qualified academic staff and strong scientific activities. Ege University members are actively involved in numerous new projects focused on enhancing educational quality and reinforcing the university's commitment to being a student-centered, fully accredited research institution.

THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 & GRI Index Matrix

THE	Impact Rankings Methodology 2026 Version 1.1	GRI	Disclosure	Reported	Page
14.1	**Research on life below water**			Fully	1
14.2	**Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education**			Fully	2
14.2.1	Fresh-water ecosystems (community outreach) Offer educational programmes on fresh-water ecosystems (water irrigation practices, water management/conservation) for local or national communities Free Paid	GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016	304-1 Operational sites owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas	Fully	1
14.2.2	Sustainable fisheries (community outreach) Offer educational programme or outreach for local or national communities on sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism Free Paid			Fully	1
14.2.3	Overfishing (community outreach) Offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices Free Paid			Fully	1
14.3	**Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action**			Fully	2
14.3.1	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans (events) Support or organise events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources	GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016	304-1 Operational sites owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas	Fully	6-12
14.3.2	Food from aquatic ecosystems (policies) Have a policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested			Fully	7-10
14.3.3	Maintain ecosystems and their biodiversity (direct work) Work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat		304-2 Significant impacts of activities, products and services on biodiversity	Fully	7-12
14.3.4	Technologies towards aquatic ecosystem damage prevention (direct work) Work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) on technologies or practices that enable marine industry to minimise or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems			Fully	5-6
14.4	**Water sensitive waste disposal**			Fully	8
14.4.1	Water discharge guidelines and standards Have water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges (to uphold water quality in order to protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare)			Fully	5
14.4.2	Action plan to reducing plastic waste Have an action plan in place to reduce plastic waste on campus	GRI 306: Waste 2020	306-4 Waste diverted from disposal	Fully	8
14.4.3	Reducing marine pollution (policy) Have a policy on preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities	GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016	304-2 Significant impacts of activities, products and services on biodiversity	Fully	4
14.5	**Maintaining a local ecosystem**			Fully	6
14.5.1	Minimizing alteration of aquatic ecosystems (plan) Have a plan to minimise physical, chemical and biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems	GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016	304-3 Habitats protected or restored	Fully	6-11
14.5.2	Monitoring the health of aquatic ecosystems Monitor the health of aquatic ecosystems			Fully	7
14.5.3	Programs towards good aquatic stewardship practices Develop and support programmes and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices Ad hoc On-going			Fully	8
14.5.4	Collaboration for shared aquatic ecosystems Collaborate with the local community in efforts to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems			Fully	9-12
14.5.5	Watershed management strategy Have implemented a watershed management strategy based on location specific diversity of aquatic species	GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016	304-2 Significant impacts of activities, products and services on biodiversity	Fully	9-12

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