



THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SDG 15 — LIFE ON LAND

2025 / 2026



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1. Overview — SDG 15: Life on Land

Gulf University's contribution to SDG 15 (Life on Land) during AY 2025–2026 is led by SDM-C, with modest reinforcement from CECEC and no reported activity from DTC. SDM-C's strongest evidence comes from Gulf University Sustainability Week (GUSW2025), where SDG 15 was addressed across 8 of 35 analysed activities (22.9%), anchored by two flagship Day 4 activities: a dedicated Sustainable Land Use Planning & Biodiversity Conservation training session, and an off-campus field trip to the Karzakan Forest nature reserve. The Daily Tree-Planting Campaign is explicitly mapped to this goal, and the GU Sustainability Club names SDG 15 as one of its primary contribution goals.

The University's quantified land/biodiversity infrastructure including forest vegetation coverage and a planned Native Flora Conservation Zone. ICSDI 2025 research contributed 2.6% of accepted papers. CECEC's contribution is present in 2 of its 7 pillars (3 pillar/event instances per CECEC's own SDG Contribution Chart): a living-plant distribution component of Sustainability Week programming (Pillar 2) and a Chechen mountain field experience for Languages Hub students (Pillar 7). DTC reports no explicit SDG 15 initiative.

2. Key Highlights for Academic Year 2025–2026

- GUSW2025: SDG 15 (Life on Land) addressed through 8 of 35 activities (22.9%); ICSDI 2025: 2.6% of papers.
- Daily Tree-Planting Campaign: explicitly mapped to SDG 15 — biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration.
- GUSW2025 Day 4: Sustainable Land Use Planning & Biodiversity Conservation training session; off-campus field trip to Karzakan Forest nature reserve.
- GU Sustainability Club (GUSC): SDG 15 is a primary contribution goal.
- CECEC's SDG Contribution Chart records SDG 15 across 3 pillar/event instances, spanning 2 of 7 pillars (Pillar 2 and Pillar 7).
- The 716.80 m² (2.19% of campus) of forest vegetation used for research, teaching, and community engagement; a Micro-Greenhouse and Native Flora Conservation Zone is planned under the Sustainability Engineering Hub.
- Future Sustainability Roadmap: campus afforestation, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable landscaping, urban agriculture — all currently at the planning stage.
- Conservation evidence formally documented under UI GreenMetric indicator [1.18] — Conservation of plant, animal, and wildlife genetic resources secured in medium or long-term conservation facilities (SI.8) — for the 2025–26 submission cycle.

3. Training, Innovation, and Awareness Programs

Program	Objective	Key Outcome
Sustainable Land Use Planning & Biodiversity Conservation Session (SDM-C, GUSW2025 Day 4)	Build institutional and student awareness of land-use planning and biodiversity conservation principles	Dedicated training session delivered as part of the flagship sustainability week programme
Karzakan Forest Field Trip (SDM-C, GUSW2025 Day 4)	Provide experiential, first-hand engagement with a natural terrestrial ecosystem	Off-campus nature-reserve visit reinforcing hands-on environmental learning beyond classroom theory
GU Sustainability Club (GUSC) — Life on Land Activities	Sustain ongoing student-led biodiversity and ecosystem	Named as a primary GUSC contribution goal; supports tree-



Program	Objective	Key Outcome
	awareness beyond Sustainability Week	planting and conservation continuity (not separately quantified)
Chechen Mountain Field Experience (CECEC, Pillar 7, Languages Hub)	Expose students to a natural mountain ecosystem through international cultural-environmental immersion	First-hand engagement with Chechnya's mountain ecosystem for 13 students and 3 faculty, raising environmental/ecosystem awareness
ICSADI 2025 Research on Life on Land (SDM-C)	Advance academic research addressing terrestrial ecosystem sustainability	SDG 15 represented in 2.6% of accepted conference papers

4. Campus Land & Biodiversity Infrastructure

Metric	Value
Total campus area	33,982.18 m ²
Forest vegetation used for research, teaching, and/or community engagement	716.80 m ² (2.19% of campus)
Long-term plant/animal conservation facility	None currently — a Micro-Greenhouse and Native Flora Conservation Zone is planned under the Sustainability Engineering Hub, supervised jointly by SDM-C and CECEC, aligned with SDG 13 and SDG 15

Bahrain's arid climate (average annual precipitation of just 73 mm) limits natural forest vegetation; the University maintains its 716.80 m² of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation through active irrigation and maintenance rather than natural rainfall.

The planned Micro-Greenhouse and Native Flora Conservation Zone, to be established under the Sustainability Engineering Hub, will focus on preserving drought-resistant and ornamental plant species, creating a live laboratory for environmental education and biodiversity awareness. The programme will be supervised by SDM-C in collaboration with CECEC, and this evidence has been reported under UI GreenMetric indicator [1.18] (SI.8), aligned with both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

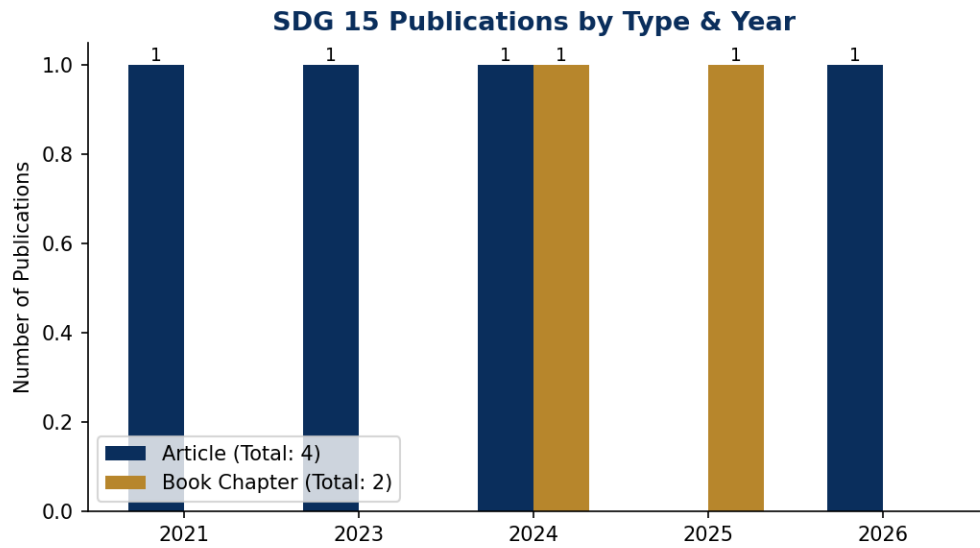
5. Institutional Policies and Land Sustainability Framework

Framework / Policy	Description	Status	Contribution to SDG 15
Future Sustainability Roadmap — Environmental Initiatives (SDM-C)	Campus afforestation, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable landscaping, urban agriculture	Planning stage	Sets long-term policy direction; not yet implemented
Daily Tree-Planting Campaign (SDM-C, with Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture, stc Bahrain)	Recurring institutional greening initiative tied to Sustainability Week	Active, recurring	Explicitly mapped to SDG 15; biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration



Framework / Policy	Description	Status	Contribution to SDG 15
GU Green Campus / 360° Campus Project (SDM-C)	Ongoing physical campus greening — façades, landscaped areas, green roofs	Ongoing since 2021	Physical, land-based sustainability infrastructure underpinning biodiversity goals
Native Flora Conservation Zone (planned)	Micro-greenhouse preserving drought-resistant and ornamental species as a live education laboratory	Planned for the Sustainability Engineering Hub	Would be GU's first dedicated conservation facility
GU Sustainability Club (GUSC) Charter	Student-led environmental stewardship mandate under SDM-C	Active	Institutionalises ongoing student engagement in tree-planting, biodiversity, and land-related conservation

6. GU Research & Publications Related to SDG 15



Publication Type	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Article	1	1	1	0	1	4
Book Chapter	0	0	1	1	0	2

Gulf University's SDG 15-linked research base totals 6 publications (4 articles, 2 book chapters).

7. Summary of Impact and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 1	Activities addressing SDG 15 within GUSW2025	8 of 35 activities (22.9%)	Achieved
KPI 2	Dedicated land-use/biodiversity sessions and field engagement (GUSW2025 Day 4)	2 — Sustainable Land Use Planning & Biodiversity Conservation session; Karzakan Forest field trip	Achieved
KPI 3	CECEC pillar coverage of SDG 15	2 of 7 pillars (3 pillar/event instances)	Minimal
KPI 4	ICS DI 2025 research papers addressing SDG 15	2.6% of accepted papers	Minimal
KPI 5	Forest vegetation / conservation infrastructure	716.80 m ² (2.19% of campus); conservation facility in planning stage — documented under UI GreenMetric indicator 1.18 (SI.8)	Early stage
KPI 6	Future Sustainability Roadmap land-related initiatives	Listed in roadmap — planning stage only	Early stage
KPI 7	SDG 15-linked publications	6 publications (4 articles, 2 book chapters)	Achieved

8. Conclusion and Future Directions

SDG 15 shows a similar profile to SDG 14: Gulf University has genuine, credible field-based engagement — the Karzakan Forest trip and the dedicated biodiversity session both demonstrate real experiential learning — but the goal remains concentrated almost entirely within a single week (GUSW2025) and a single centre (SDM-C). The planned Native Flora Conservation Zone is a promising but not-yet-built step toward GU's first dedicated conservation facility.

Future directions:

- Move the Future Sustainability Roadmap's land-related initiatives (afforestation, biodiversity enhancement, urban agriculture) and the planned Native Flora Conservation Zone from planning into a funded, phased implementation plan with target completion dates.
- Convert the Karzakan Forest field trip and biodiversity session into a recurring, year-round GUSC-led programme rather than a once-a-year GUSW2025 activity.
- Quantify Tree-Planting Campaign outcomes specifically for biodiversity impact (species planted, habitat area restored), separate from its climate-action metrics.



- Explore whether CECEC could develop a purpose-built SDG 15 initiative (e.g., a campus biodiversity or native-species garden) rather than relying on incidental plant distribution and cultural field trips.
- Commission a dedicated SDG 15 research/publications tracker to build on ICSDI 2025's 2.6% share.
- Set a minimum annual target (e.g., ≥ 1 completed Future Roadmap land initiative, plus one GUSC-led biodiversity activity outside Sustainability Week).
- **Compiled from:**
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/innovation-entrepreneurship-center/annual-report/IEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>
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- Sustainability Development Makers- Center -Annual Report for the year 2025-26
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/sustainability-and-development-makers-center/SDM-C-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>
-
- Community Engagement & Continuing Education Center (CECEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/community-engagement-and-continuing-education-center/annual-reports/CECEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>
-
- Digital Transformation Center (DTC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/digital-transformation-center/annual-report/DTC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>
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