15 LIFE ON LAND

Academic excellence in harmony with nature.

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Advancing Green Sustainability, Strengthening Institutional Responsibility, Protecting Life on Land

LAND STEWARDSHIP, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

"Safeguarding our forests, soils, and biodiversity is not only an ecological responsibility—it is an investment in the stability and well-being of future generations. Every preserved habitat supports life, resilience, and hope"

Gulnoz MAMARASULOVA
Associate Professor in Philological Sciences

Although TSUULL is situated in an urban setting far from major natural reserves, the university firmly recognizes that **SDG 15 – Life on Land** is critical for the long-term ecological resilience of Uzbekistan and the wider Central Asian region. Healthy terrestrial ecosystems—ranging from trees and soil systems to micro-habitats within cities—play a decisive role in climate adaptation, air quality, biodiversity conservation, and community well-being. Understanding this interconnectedness, TSUULL has adopted a *comprehensive, multi-layered institutional strategy* to support land stewardship both on campus and beyond.

The university's approach is grounded in five interconnected pillars:

(1) ecosystem conservation, (2) green campus management, (3) community outreach, (4) academic research, and (5) active student engagement.

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By integrating these elements into institutional planning and everyday operations, TSUULL ensures that environmental responsibility is embedded across academic life, campus culture, and external partnerships.

In 2024-2025 academic year, the university significantly expanded its commitment to terrestrial biodiversity protection. Key achievements included the implementation of responsible **land-use policies**, the introduction of sustainable landscaping practices, and the enhancement of green zones with drought-tolerant native species. New academic initiatives deepened students' understanding of land ecosystems, while collaborative projects with NGOs, local authorities, and community groups strengthened public awareness of the threats facing terrestrial environments.

Through these coordinated actions, TSUULL not only preserved and enhanced the ecological value of its own campus but also contributed meaningfully to broader societal efforts to protect land resources, restore biodiversity, and build a more sustainable future for generations to come.

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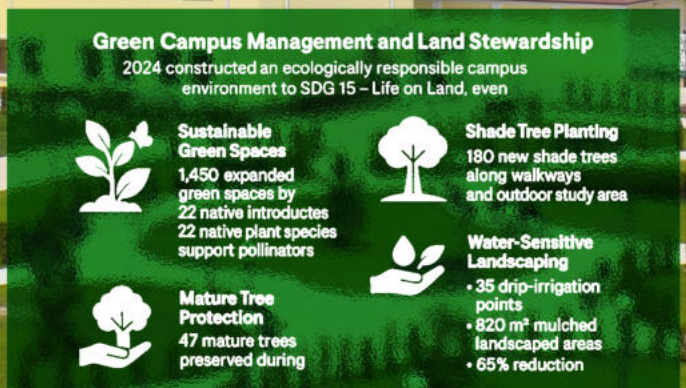
GREEN CAMPUS MANAGEMENT AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

TSUULL strengthened its commitment to maintaining a healthy, green, and ecologically responsible campus environment by adopting sustainable landscaping techniques, biodiversity-supportive practices, and improved land-use management. These initiatives ensure that the university contributes meaningfully to **SDG 15 – Life on Land**, even within an urban setting.

In 2024-2025 academic year, TSUULL expanded its green spaces by ***1,450 m², incorporating 22 native and climate-adapted plant species*** that support pollinators, require less irrigation, and restore small habitats across campus. A total of **180 new shade trees** were planted along walkways and outdoor study areas to enhance canopy cover, provide natural cooling, and improve air quality. At the same time, the university prioritized ecological preservation by protecting **47 mature trees** during construction and renovation projects.

To maintain healthy soils and reduce pollution, TSUULL transitioned to organic fertilizers across campus landscapes and adopted Integrated Pest Management practices, achieving a **65% reduction** in pesticide use. Regular soil-quality monitoring ensures that nutrient levels and contamination risks are tracked and addressed promptly.



Water-sensitive landscaping practices were expanded through the installation of **35 drip-irrigation points**, improving irrigation efficiency and reducing water waste. Additionally, ***820 m²*** of landscaped areas were covered with organic mulch to retain moisture, strengthen soil health, and support beneficial organisms. Landscaping guidelines now prioritize drought-tolerant, low-water native species to strengthen campus resilience and reduce long-term resource use.

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COURSES SUPPORTING SDG 15 AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Academic Contributions to SDG 15

TSUULL offers a range of academic modules that directly support terrestrial ecosystem protection, blodiversity awareness, and sustainable land management.

Environmental Literacy and Communication
Students explore brodiversity issues, develop environmental awareness campaigns, and learm how to effectively communicate conservation

Ecology and Society
This course examines the relationship between human activity and land ecosystems, focusing on habitat pressures, land-use conflicts, and sustainable interactions between people and nature

Sustainable Development Studies
Provides grounding in land governance frameworks, conservation planning, and national strategies addressing land degradation, desertification, and soil restoration

Climate Change Impacts on Terrestrial Ecosystems
Offers hands-on lemte stressors—including drought, heat waves, and land degradation—affect terrestrial ecosystems, while introducing adaptation and resilience strategies

Urban Environmental Management
Focuses on creating greener cities through sustainable land planning, green infrastructure

Together, these courses equip students with the interdisciplinary knowledge required to address land degradation, protect biodiversity, and support sustainable land-use policies at regional and national levels.

Academic research at TSUULL plays a significant role in advancing SDG 15. Faculty and students collaborate on studies that deepen understanding of terrestrial ecosystems and inform conservation strategies.

- Student-led biodiversity assessments

Multidisciplinary student groups conduct surveys of local parks, botanical areas, and green corridors. These projects map plant species, identify threats, and generate proposals for improvement.

- Environmental communication and awareness research

Faculty and postgraduate students explore how public narratives, media messages, and educational interventions can shift community behavior toward land protection and responsible natural resource use.

TSUULL continues to strengthen its operational commitment to SDG 15 – Life on Land by embedding environmentally responsible practices into campus management systems. These measures support biodiversity, reduce ecological harm, and ensure that all university operations align with sustainable land stewardship principles.

Responsible Waste Management

TSUULL expanded its campus-wide waste management system to minimize land pollution and support circular resource use:

- Expansion of waste segregation points for paper, plastics, and organic waste across academic buildings, dormitories, and outdoor areas. This system improves recycling efficiency and reduces the volume of mixed waste entering landfill sites.
- Reduction of single-use plastics through policy changes, awareness campaigns, and the introduction of reusable alternatives. Plastic bags, disposable cups, and low-quality packaging materials are being phased out.
- Annual "Zero-Waste Campus Week" encourages students and staff to adopt sustainable consumption habits through workshops, exhibitions, clean-up events, and interactive challenges. The event strengthens community responsibility and promotes long-term behavioral change.

These efforts significantly reduce waste-related pressure on land ecosystems and support cleaner, healthier campus surroundings.

Green Procurement

TSUULL's procurement policies increasingly reflect a preference for environmentally responsible products:

- Environmentally friendly cleaning agents and materials are prioritized to minimize chemical contamination of soils and indoor/outdoor spaces. Biodegradable and plant-based products are used wherever possible.
- Limiting procurement of harmful products, such as chemical pesticides, non-recyclable plastics, and materials linked to deforestation. The university aims to ensure that all purchased goods align with ecological and ethical standards.

This approach ensures that TSUULL's purchasing decisions actively support biodiversity protection and reduce the institution's ecological footprint.

Annual Green Audits

To assess progress and identify areas for improvement, TSUULL conducts annual campus-wide environmental audits:

- Assessment of green spaces, including tree health, landscaping quality, biodiversity levels, and maintenance needs.
- Monitoring waste generation patterns to track reductions and enhance recycling performance.
- Review of land-use practices, ensuring that new developments or renovations do not harm existing habitats or green zones.

These audits provide valuable data for planning future sustainability initiatives and ensure that the university maintains high standards of environmental responsibility.