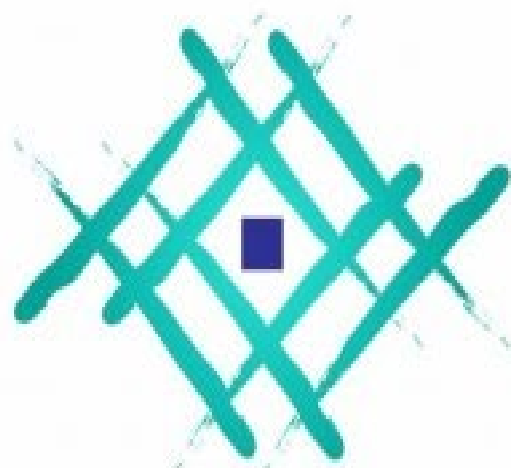


University Report on SDG 15



جامعة القصيم
Qassim
University

15 LIFE
ON LAND

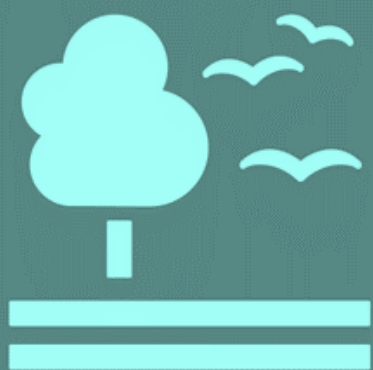


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SDG15: LIFE ON LAND

Nurturing Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Qassim University's Role in Advancing SDG 15 in Saudi Arabia

Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15) focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, forests, and biodiversity. This essay delves into Saudi Arabia's endeavors to achieve SDG 15, with a specific emphasis on Qassim University's contributions towards safeguarding land ecosystems and promoting biodiversity.

SDG 15 in Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia, endowed with diverse landscapes ranging from deserts to mountains, recognizes the significance of preserving its terrestrial ecosystems. The country has initiated various measures in alignment with SDG 15:

- **Desertification Combat:** Saudi Arabia has taken measures to combat desertification through afforestation projects, soil conservation efforts, and sustainable land management practices. These actions aim to mitigate the degradation of fertile land.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The nation has established protected areas to conserve its rich biodiversity, including rare and endangered species. These efforts contribute to maintaining ecological balance and promoting sustainable use of resources.
- **Rangeland Management:** Recognizing the importance of rangelands, Saudi Arabia has implemented policies and practices that support sustainable grazing and prevent overgrazing, helping to preserve fragile ecosystems.
- **Wildlife Protection:** The country has adopted measures to protect wildlife from poaching and illegal trade, thereby preserving biodiversity and contributing to the health of terrestrial ecosystems.

Qassim University's Initiatives:

Qassim University plays a crucial role in advancing SDG 15 through its commitment to protecting land ecosystems and promoting biodiversity:

- **Research and Conservation:** The university conducts research on local plant and animal species, their habitats, and the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. This knowledge informs conservation strategies and supports the sustainable management of natural resources.
- **Restoration Projects:** Qassim University participates in land restoration projects, including afforestation and reforestation initiatives. These projects contribute to enhancing ecosystem resilience and combating desertification.
- **Educational Programs:** Qassim University integrates environmental education into its curriculum, raising awareness among students about the importance of land conservation and biodiversity. This fosters a culture of responsible land use among future generations.
- **Community Engagement:** The university collaborates with local communities to promote sustainable land management practices. Through workshops and awareness campaigns, Qassim University empowers communities to take active roles in protecting their local ecosystems.
- **Partnerships for Conservation:** Qassim University collaborates with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies to develop and implement conservation programs. These partnerships amplify the impact of the university's initiatives.

Challenges and Future Outlook:

Challenges to achieving SDG 15 in Saudi Arabia include water scarcity, urbanization, and the need for sustainable land management practices. However, through dedicated efforts, these challenges can be addressed to ensure a sustainable future for the country's terrestrial ecosystems.

The protection of terrestrial ecosystems is essential for biodiversity, ecological balance, and sustainable development. Saudi Arabia's commitment to SDG 15 reflects its dedication to preserving its unique landscapes and diverse species. Qassim University, through research, education, and community engagement, is a driving force in advancing these goals. By nurturing land ecosystems and promoting biodiversity, Saudi Arabia and Qassim University pave the way for a more sustainable and harmonious relationship between humans and nature, ensuring the well-being of present and future generations.

The University Announces the Timeline of the Conference on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Solid Waste

<https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/1238> [1]

The University announced the timetable of the work of the «First International Conference on the Sustainability of Natural Resources: Sustainable Management of Solid Waste», which is organized by the Faculty of Engineering at the University, during the period from 6-9 Rabi Al-Awwal of next year 1441 AH, with the aim of contributing to the preparation of a vision on the sustainable management of solid waste at the national and global level, indicating the volume of natural and economic resources wasted and estimating the environmental cost of waste.



Where the reception of research abstracts wishing to participate in the work of the conference will begin on the 26th of Shaaban, through registration on the university's website at the link: <https://events.qu.edu.sa/sdc2019/>, and on the tenth of next Ramadan the acceptance of abstracts will be announced, provided that the door for early registration will be closed on 12 Shawwal 1440 AH, and the reception of full research papers will begin on the fourth of Dhu al-Hijjah, and the announcement of their acceptance on 16 Muharram 1441 AH, This is before the conference is held in the month of Rabi I.

For his part, Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Bani Al-Harbi, Vice President for Development and Quality and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, stressed that this international conference came at this time in line with the Kingdom's vision, which promotes the concepts of sustainability, especially with natural resources to preserve them, and invest them in the right way that ensures their sustainability and survival for future generations, God willing, pointing out that the rates of per capita consumption globally in general, and in the Kingdom in particular for some goods and services come within the highest rates, which in turn generates a huge volume of Solid waste, which in turn drains these important resources.

Al-Harbi added that the concept of sustainable development comes to frame this handling of resources in a moderate way to ensure their sustainability and preservation for future generations,

hence the importance of applying sustainable management of solid waste to achieve the optimal exploitation of natural resources and make the most of them, and from this point of view comes the importance of encouraging these initiatives aimed at improving sustainable waste management, optimizing the application of modern technologies in this field, and raising community awareness of the nature of risks resulting from their mismanagement.

The Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Conference believes that raising the level of performance in waste management achieves the sustainability of natural resources and the optimal exploitation of them, and reduce their depletion, stressing the importance of holding such specialized scientific meetings aimed at highlighting everything new in this vital field, where Qassim University sensed the importance of this topic and adopted the establishment of the first international conference on the sustainability of natural resources and highlight the sustainable management of solid waste from the standpoint of its leading societal role to contribute to raising the efficiency of natural resources management to achieve Optimal community development.

The conference will discuss the necessary measures to transform into sustainable food systems in which waste is reduced and food waste is reduced, stimulate integration between partners from different disciplines to manage waste in a sustainable manner, in addition to studying opportunities to stimulate investment in the development of waste recycling technologies in the Kingdom, studying the obstacles to investment in the field of waste manufacturing industries, as well as building and establishing a system of awareness, education and environmental training with the participation of individuals and communities, and linking research and studies in Saudi and international universities to the requirements of development and facing challenges. National.

The conference includes several axes, where the first axis deals with sustainable practices of waste management at all stages "from generation and separation from the source, collection, transportation, conversion, and ending with disposal", and at all levels "planning, management, operation, maintenance, and investment", while the second axis deals with how to manage food loss and food waste at the level of production and consumption, the third axis discusses the topic of investment in waste recycling and manufacturing industries, while the fourth axis deals with the rational management of waste from a legal and cultural perspective.

The University sought to organize this conference due to the high rates of per capita consumption in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of some goods and services, which come within the highest rates globally, which increased the volume of solid waste generated, and the natural resources in the Kingdom are exposed to depletion and deterioration due to high consumption rates that contradict the application of the concepts of sustainable development, in addition to the need to transfer and localize modern global technologies in the field of waste management in accordance with the conditions of the Kingdom, and the need to address the challenges caused by waste, which is the responsibility of each A member of the community.

The University also aims to raise community awareness of the risks posed by waste generation, encourage initiatives aimed at improving sustainable waste management, and provide an opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge among specialists in waste management and sustainable development.

Statistics about Plastic Usage

https://twitter.com/QassimUniv1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwtrm%5Escreen-name%3AQassimUniv1%7Ctwcon%5Es2 [2]



The Launches Campaign Posters on and Compressors

<https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/1524> [3]

The University, represented by the College of Engineering, on Thursday, 3/3/1441 AH, held an awareness campaign at the level of the Qassim region by placing posters with awareness phrases about waste on cleaning carts, as part of the preparations for the first international conference on the sustainability of natural resources "Sustainable management of solid waste", which will be organized by the University next Tuesday and Wednesday.



Awareness posters were placed on the 30 mobile vehicles "compressors" inside and outside the university city, and these posters contained a number of awareness and guidance phrases, including: "The earth does not have a tongue that speaks environmental injustice. Be her tongue," and "Sustainability is meeting our own needs. And who comes after us", "Keep the place to stay for your children, be environmentally friendly, your positive environmental behavior is a charity from you to yourself", "Desertification is the cancer of the environment; contribute to its treatment, awareness and behavior", "Balance by consuming resources gives the environment opportunities for sustainability and growth", and other awareness phrases.

Through this conference, the University seeks to contribute to the preparation of a comprehensive vision on solid waste management at the national and global level, the demonstration of the magnitude of natural and economic resources wasted and the estimation of the environmental cost of waste, with the participation of a number of speakers who will review the latest developments of modern science in this field, as well as discuss many relevant research and scientific papers.

The conference includes a number of themes, including: sustainable practices of waste management at all stages "from generation and separation from the source, collection, transportation, conversion, and ending with disposal", and at all levels "planning, management, operation, maintenance, and investment", while the second axis deals with how to manage food loss and food waste at the level of production and consumption, the third axis discusses the topic of investment in waste recycling and manufacturing industries, while the fourth axis deals with the rational management of waste from a legal and cultural perspective.

6 entities participate in the exhibition «The First International Conference on the Sustainability of Natural Resources» at the University

<https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/1536> [4]

The exhibition accompanying the First International Conference on the Sustainability of Natural Resources, which began on Tuesday morning, 8/3/1441 AH at the University, attracted the attention of visitors and participants of the conference and students and employees of the University, where on its first day it hosted more than 750 visitors, who toured all corners of the exhibition, in which 6 different parties participated, represented by the Faculty of Engineering at the University, the Secretariat of the Qassim Region, the Center for Sustainable Development at the University, the Cement Company, the strategic sponsor of the conference, the Al-Fahad Company, and the Hygiene Mechanisms Company.

For his part, the supervisor of the exhibition, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University, Dr. Fawaz Al-Harbi, explained that the exhibition, which lasts for two days during the period of the conference, attracted visitors from the university students and specialists in the field of sustainability and environmental engineering, as the exhibition focused on the experiences of government agencies and private companies in the field of recycling and sustainability of natural resources.

Al-Harbi added that the accompanying exhibition included 6 exhibitions, including: a pavilion for the College of Engineering, which includes a display of student projects and scientific research, the exhibition of the Cement Company, the strategic sponsor of the conference, which showcases the company's experience in preserving the environment using alternative energy, and the pavilion of the Sustainability Center at the university, which shows the university's initiatives in the field of sustainability and conservation of natural resources.

The exhibition also included a pavilion of the Qassim Municipality supporting partner that showcases the Secretariat's modern experience in waste disposal, the exhibition of Al-Fahad Company, the silver sponsor of the conference, which showcases modern containers that compress and convert waste into fertilizers that can be utilized, and the exhibition of the Hygiene Mechanisms Company, during which their experience in using modern equipment to sort waste according to the quality of the material of manufacture is presented.

The conference, hosted by the University, aims to demonstrate the magnitude of natural and economic resources wasted and estimate the environmental cost of waste, as well as to discuss the necessary measures to transform into sustainable food systems where waste is reduced and food

waste is reduced, in addition to stimulating integration between partners from different disciplines to manage waste sustainably, and to study opportunities to stimulate investment in the development of waste recycling technologies in the Kingdom.



Earth Hour 2023

<https://twitter.com/QassimUniv1/status/1639643832605110272> [5]

#جامعة_القصيم is participating in the global environmental event #ساعة_الأرض this evening, Saturday, March 25, 2023 AD, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

The Initiative



Green KSA

From الإخبارية - آخر الأخبار

<https://twitter.com/QassimUniv1/status/1670478362530181120> [6]

Within the #الخضراء_السعودية initiative and to achieve the goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

#جامعة_القصيم contributes to increasing the vegetation area within the university city and benefiting from approximately 524 thousand cubic meters of treated water to reduce the effects of desertification

Student's engagement in activities and community services about sustainability and climate change.

https://pdq.qu.edu.sa/laravel-filemanager/files/shares/Final_Qassim%20University%20Framework%20strategy%20for%20Climate%20change.pdf [7]

Main Initiatives:

A. Increasing involvement of students in activities related to sustainability and climate change. Key Performance Indicators:

1. The Number of student organizations related to sustainability (includes climate change).
2. Number of cultural activities on campus (e.g.Cultural Festival) including virtual activities involving sustainability concepts (includes climate change).
3. Number of organized community services to tackle the sustainability and climate change concepts.

Our environment is our life.. we do not destroy it with our own hands..

Be responsible and protect the environment.

<https://twitter.com/QassimUniv1/status/1635948481301839872> [8]



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- [3] [Online]. Available: <https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/1524>.
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- [8] [Online]. Available: <https://twitter.com/QassimUniv1/status/1635948481301839872>.