



BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR
UNIVERSITY

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND



2023–2024

BAU AT A GLANCE

Since its foundation in 1998, the vision of BAU has been to be a global university known for its contribution to scientific, technological, and cultural knowledge through innovative education models and research approaches that reflect international standards as well as service to society. Currently, BAU Global Network comprises of 6 universities (Istanbul, Washington D.C., Berlin, Cyprus, Batumi, Plymouth), 5 liaison offices (BAU Global Azerbaijan, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan) and 5 language schools.

As one of the leading universities in Türkiye, BAU aims primarily to improve the living standards of the local and global society by integrating the sustainable development goals into its corporate processes and culture, educational programs, academic research practices and stakeholder collaborations. BAU with its staff members, students and alumni is a big academic community who are raised as good global citizens committed to each other and the world around them and always act with the utmost sense of ethics and social responsibility.

BAU WITH NUMBERS

- 7 campuses in Istanbul
- 10 faculties, 1 conservatory, 2 vocational schools
- 54 BA programs, 187 MA programs, 30 PhD. programs
- 28 research and application centers
- 149 labs, workshops/studios, incubation centers
- 229 Erasmus partner universities, 96 world exchange partners
- 854 full-time faculty members, 449 administrative staff members
- 19.287 undergraduate students, 3.500 graduate students, 478 doctora degree students
- 81 student clubs
- 238 externally funded projects between 2023-2024
- 410 industry partnerships & projects between 2023-2024

BAU IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

BAU participates in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since 2019. According to the current rankings, BAU belongs to the 801-1000 band in the World University Rankings, 59th in the Impact Rankings and the 173th in the Young University Rankings 2024. Also, BAU is ranked among the top 5 universities in Türkiye.

The university continuously increases its standing in categories related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2025, BAU holds the following standings in the THE Impact Rankings;

- 7 th in Quality Education
- 50 th in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 2nd in Gender Equality
- Ranks between 101-200 in Reducing Inequalities
- Ranks between 201-300 in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Ranks between 401-600 in Sustainable Cities and Communities

The University takes the above-mentioned rankings as evaluation criteria for progress regarding its adherence and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to report its advancement in the rankings on a yearly basis.

LIFE ON LAND

In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 15, Bahçeşehir University actively promotes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. The University integrates biodiversity conservation and ecosystem awareness into its educational and research agenda, encouraging students and scholars to take an active role in safeguarding the natural environment. Through specialized lectures, workshops, and field-based studies, BAU emphasizes the importance of protecting forests, combating desertification, and halting biodiversity loss.

Throughout the academic year, Bahçeşehir University carries out projects and collaborations that focus on sustainable land management and ecological resilience. These include research on soil and water conservation, awareness campaigns on the value of natural habitats, and partnerships with local authorities and international organizations to promote reforestation and biodiversity protection. Student-led initiatives, particularly those within environmental and sustainability clubs, further contribute by organizing clean-up events, urban greening activities, and campaigns that foster ecological literacy and responsible citizenship.

Through these continuous efforts, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its commitment to a sustainable future where human progress coexists harmoniously with the natural world, ensuring that the planet's terrestrial ecosystems remain rich and resilient for generations to come.

Bahçeşehir University Environmental Management Commission

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ SENATOSUNUN 11.07.2024 TARİH VE 2024/09/09 SAYILI KARAR ÖRNEĞİDİR.

KARAR: 2024/09/09

Üniversitemiz bünyesinde "Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Çevre Yönetimi Komisyonu" ile alt yürütme kurullarının kurulması konusu görüşüldü.

Görüşmeler sonunda; Üniversitemizde çevre bilincinin ve ekolojik farkındalığın artırılması, sürdürülebilirliğin yaşam kültürüne dönüştürülmesi ve kaynaklarımızın verimli kullanılması, Döngüsel ekonomi ilkelere çerçevesinde kaynak kullanımının sağlanması, atık oluşumunun azaltılması, atıkların kaynağında ayrıştırılması, geri kazanılması, depolama rahasına giden miktarın azaltılması, çevresel kirlilik giderilerek bir yandan da atıkların ekonomiye katma değer sağlayarak kaliteli hammadde olarak kullanılmasına yönelik enerjinin etkin ve verimli kullanılması, enerji israfının önlenmesi, enerji maliyetlerinin azaltılması ve enerji kullanımında verimliliğin artırılmasına yönelik doğaya, diğer canlılara ve bizden sonra gelecek nesiller için sürdürülebilirlik önlemleri çalışmalarının yürütülmesi amacıyla, Toplumsal Katkı Danışma Kurulu'nun önerisiyle "Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Çevre Yönetimi Komisyonu"nun kurulmasına, bu komisyonun altında "Enerji Verimliliği Yürütme Kurulu", "Sıfır Atık Yürütme Kurulu" ve "Su Verimliliği Yürütme Kurulu"nun faaliyet göstermesine, komisyon ve kurul üyelerinin üç yılına aşağıda belirtilen isimlerden oluşmasına, "Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Sıfır Atık Komisyonu" ve "Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Sıfır Atık Yönetim Kurulu" ve "Su Verimliliği Çalışmaları Yürütme Kurulu"nun belirlendiği Üniversitemiz Senatosunun 24.01.2023 tarihli, 2023/03/02 sayılı kararı ile Üniversite Yönetim Kurulu'nun 05.10.2023 tarihli, 2023/16/24 sayılı kararının iptal edilmesine oy birliği ile karar verildi.

MERKEZİÇ/ BİRİMLER DETAJ	GÖREVE BAŞLAMA TARİHİ	KARİERDEN AYRILMA TARİHİ	ENYAN	ADİ	SOYADI
Komisyon Başkanı	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Rektör Yardı/ Prof. Dr.	Fahri Tunc	BOZBİRA
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Prof. Dr.	Celil	SOHODOL
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Genel Sekreter Yardı/ Öğr. Dr.	Blaz	TURAN
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Genel Sekreter Yardı/ Öğr. Dr.	Furkan	GÖREL
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Dr. Öğr. Üyesi	Hüseyin Günhan	ÖZCAN
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Dr. Öğr. Üyesi	Pinar	ÖZTAYAR
Komisyon Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Genel Sekreter Yardı	Ali	ÜÇAR

MERKEZİÇ/ BİRİMLER DETAJ	GÖREVE BAŞLAMA TARİHİ	KARİERDEN AYRILMA TARİHİ	ENYAN	ADİ	SOYADI
Karar Başkanı	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Fatih	EREN
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Enes	YÜCEL
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Yöneticisi	Yegem	YILMAZ
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Uzman	Begüm	EZEL TORAMAN
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Teknik Eleman	Kerem	KORKMAZ
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Teknik Eleman	Mehmet Mustafa	SAHİN
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Teknik Eleman	Tuncay	ADARTEPE
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Teknik Eleman	Zeki	SAHAN

MERKEZİÇ/ BİRİMLER DETAJ	GÖREVE BAŞLAMA TARİHİ	KARİERDEN AYRILMA TARİHİ	ENYAN	ADİ	SOYADI
Karar Başkanı	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Katip Bekarlar	YILDIRIM
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Koordinatör	Naci	CAKIR
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Yöneticisi	Yegem	YILMAZ
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Yöneticisi	Naci Başar	AKIRLU
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Yöneticisi	Çiğdem	GÖÇÜ
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	İdari Amir	Cumhuri	BEKİR
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	İdari Amir	Merve	YERSEL
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	İdari Amir	Duygun	ARPAÇI

MERKEZİÇ/ BİRİMLER DETAJ	GÖREVE BAŞLAMA TARİHİ	KARİERDEN AYRILMA TARİHİ	ENYAN	ADİ	SOYADI
Karar Başkanı	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Katip Bekarlar	YILDIRIM
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Fatih	EREN
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Başkan Yardı	Enes	YÜCEL
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Başire Yöneticisi	Yegem	YILMAZ
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	İdari Amir	Cumhuri	BEKİR
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	İdari Amir	Merve	YERSEL
Karar Üyesi	11.07.2024	11.07.2027	Uzman	Begüm	EZEL TORAMAN

31.07.2024
ASLI GİRDİR
Yönetim Kurulu Başkanı
Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi

LIFE ON LAND

On 11 July 2024, the Bahçeşehir University Senate approved the establishment of the Environmental Management Commission to reinforce institutional responsibility for environmental protection, ecosystem preservation, and sustainable resource management. This initiative aims to strengthen ecological awareness within the University community and to integrate sustainability principles into the culture and daily operations of campus life.

The Commission operates through three specialized working groups – the Energy Efficiency Executive Board, the Zero Waste Executive Board, and the Water Efficiency Executive Board – which coordinate projects that promote efficient use of natural resources, reduce waste generation, and minimize the environmental footprint of university activities. Within this framework, actions are taken to protect and enrich campus green areas, support biodiversity, and encourage sustainable land use and nature-based solutions. These efforts not only align with energy and water efficiency goals but also contribute directly to the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land.

By adopting a structured approach to environmental governance, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates its long-term commitment to responsible resource use, biodiversity protection, and ecological balance. Through the work of the Environmental Management Commission, the University continues to cultivate a campus environment where human activity coexists harmoniously with nature, contributing to the global mission of protecting life on land.

Link:<https://cdn.bau.edu.tr/content/aducqhya4pkkf-%C3%87evre%20Y%C3%B6netimi%20Komisyonu%2011.07.2024%20Senato.pdf>

LIFE ON LAND

Bahçeşehir University Zero Waste Certifications

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 10.08.2023-E.63534



T.C.
BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ
Mekan ve Donatım Birimi

Sayı : E-36220606-812-63534
Konu : Sıfır Atık Belgeleri Hk.

GENEL SEKRETERLİK MAKAMINA

Sıfır Atık Yürütme Kurulu olarak, Çevre Ajansının istemi olduğu raporların hazırlanması, sunulması ve üniversitemizde gerçekleştirilen teknik geri için mekanların hazırlanması işleri i bölümleri ile başarılı bir şekilde gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Ayrıca;

- Üniversitemiz eğitim faaliyetleri bulunan tüm farklı adreslerdeki binaların için ECRS sistemine girilmesi yapılmış, İdari amirler sistem üzerinde yetkilendirilmiş,
- Girişi yapılan tüm adresler için Sıfır Atık Belge Başvurusunda bulunulmuş,
- Belge başvurusu denetimleri öncesinde sıfır atıkla ilgili tüm hazırlıklar yürütülmüş, ekteki malzemeler teslim ve teslim edilmiş,
- Denetimle sonucunda talep edilen ölçümler/değişiklikler/eksikliklerin giderilmesi işlemleri takip edilmiş ve sonuçlandırılmış,
- Akademik ve idari personele Sıfır Atık Eğitimi verilmiş, eğitimle ilgili video hazırlanmış ve internetin altına yüklenmiş,
- Kurum içi yazışmalar yürütülmüş, dış hizmetler için bilgilendirme mailleri hazırlanmış ve mahatıplara gönderilmiştir.

Üniversitemizin tüm kampüsü ve binalarına Temel Seviyede Sıfır Atık Belgesi başarıyla alınmıştır. Yürütme Kurulumuz tüm bu süreçlerden kampüslerin yöneticileri başta olmak üzere, Destek Hizmetleri Daire Başkanlığına bağlı İdari amirler ve onların öncülüğünde da idari personellerden destek almıştır.

Sıfır Atık Belgesi alanları kampüsü ve kapadığı binalar ile belgenin no ve tarih bilgileri aşağıda listelenmiştir. Sıfır Atık Belgeleri ayrıca ekte sunulmuştur.

Sıfır Atık Belge

S.No	Kampüsler	Kapadığı Binalar	No	Verildiği Tarih	Son Geçerlilik Tarihi
1	Bahmuncu Kampüsü	Ana Blok	TS/34/B2/6/5795.07.2023	5.07.2023	
2	Galata Kampüsü	Ana Blok	TS/34/B2/6/5811.07.2023	12.07.2023	
3	Göztepe Kampüsü	A ve B Blok	TS/34/B2/6/5424.04.2023	24.04.2023	
4	Güney Kampüsü	A, B, C, D, G, N, O	TS/34/B2/6/5781.07.2023	3.07.2023	
5	Güney Kampüsü	F Blok - Hukuk Fakültesi Binası	TS/34/B2/6/58418.07.2023	18.07.2023	
6	Değirmente Kampüsü	Uzaktan Eğitim Binası	TS/34/B2/6/5805.07.2023	5.07.2023	

Belge Değişim Kodu: B084Y9F3M3C

Çevre, İklim ve Enerji Bakanlığı
14711 Beşikaşık Mahallesi
İstanbul Adresi: www.bahcesehir.edu.tr
Kurum Adresi: bahcesehir@bahcesehir.edu.tr

Belge Tarih Adresi: https://www.bahcesehir.edu.tr/bahcesehir-universitesi/etkiler

Belge Kim: Yücel YILMAZ
Bina Yürütme

Bu belge 5079 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanununun 5. Maddesi'ne göre elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.

7	Galata Kampüsü	İda Binası	TS/34/B3/6/18824.07.2023	24.07.2023
8	Kemerburgaz Kampüsü	Tüm Binalar, Girişimcilik Merkezi, Yurtlar ve Misafirhane Bloğu	TS/34/B2/6/5879.08.2023	9.08.2023
9	Kuşyaka Kampüsü	A, B ve C Blok	TS/34/B2/6/57321.03.2023	21.03.2023
10	Pera Kampüsü	Ana Blok	TS/34/B2/6/58524.07.2023	24.07.2023

Bilgilerinize arz ederim.

Saygılarımla.

Ali UÇAR
Daire Başkanı Vekili

Ek-Tüm Kampüsler Sıfır Atık Belgeleri (10 adet)

Bu belge, genel elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.

Belge Değişim Kodu: B084Y9F3M3C

Çevre, İklim ve Enerji Bakanlığı
14711 Beşikaşık Mahallesi
İstanbul Adresi: www.bahcesehir.edu.tr
Kurum Adresi: bahcesehir@bahcesehir.edu.tr

Belge Tarih Adresi: https://www.bahcesehir.edu.tr/bahcesehir-universitesi/etkiler

Belge Kim: Yücel YILMAZ
Bina Yürütme

Bu belge 5079 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanununun 5. Maddesi'ne göre elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.



Bu belge 5079 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanununun 5. Maddesi'ne göre elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.



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Bu belge 5079 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanununun 5. Maddesi'ne göre elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.

LIFE ON LAND

The Zero Waste Executive Board at Bahçeşehir University successfully coordinated the preparation and submission of reports required by the Environmental Agency, as well as the organization of on-site inspections and technical visits. Through structured collaboration between campus managers, administrative units, and support services, all required processes were completed efficiently and in line with national sustainability standards.

The initiative covered all university buildings and campuses where educational activities take place. Each site was registered in the Environmental Information System (EÇBS), administrative supervisors were authorized within the platform, and zero waste certification applications were submitted for all locations. Ahead of inspections, all necessary preparations were finalized, materials were supplied, and deficiencies were resolved in accordance with the audit feedback. In addition, academic and administrative staff received dedicated Zero Waste Training, and an instructional video was produced and shared on the university's digital learning platform.

As a result of these efforts, a total of ten Zero Waste Certificates have been granted to Bahçeşehir University, covering all campuses and buildings where educational activities are carried out. The process not only enhanced the university's waste management capacity but also reinforced its institutional culture of environmental responsibility and cross-departmental collaboration.

This initiative contributes holistically to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notably SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) through enhanced waste reduction and recycling systems; SDG 13 (Climate Action) by mitigating emissions and promoting environmental stewardship; SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through improved campus sustainability practices; SDG 4 (Quality Education) by integrating sustainability training and awareness into academic life; SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) via data-driven environmental management systems; and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through the collaborative governance model uniting multiple institutional stakeholders toward shared environmental objectives.

Additionally, the project supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by reducing waste leakage into terrestrial ecosystems, promoting responsible land use, and ensuring that campus operations contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and the natural environment surrounding university sites.

Link: https://aday.bau.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Sifir_atik_belgeleri.pdf

LIFE ON LAND

BAU Radio Fest: Open Seminar on Animal Welfare in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals



As part of the 2024 BAU Radio Fest, Bahçeşehir University, in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR and HAÇİKO – Association for the Protection of Animals from Desperation and Indifference, hosted an open-access seminar titled “Animal Welfare in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” The event brought together students, academics, civil society representatives, and the general public, offering an inclusive platform for dialogue on ethical responsibility, environmental sustainability, and compassionate coexistence.

The seminar explored the interconnection between animal welfare and sustainable development, emphasizing that the well-being of animals is integral to achieving a balanced and equitable future for all living beings. Speakers underlined how ethical awareness, empathy, and civic engagement can transform societal attitudes toward animals, encouraging policies and behaviors that foster coexistence, respect for life, and environmental harmony.

Discussions focused on the protection of stray animals, urban biodiversity, and the ecological role of companion animals in creating healthier, more livable cities. Participants examined how responsible urban planning, waste management, and environmental education contribute not only to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) but also to SDG 15 (Life on Land) – by protecting ecosystems, reducing human-wildlife conflicts, and strengthening the moral foundations of sustainability.

LIFE ON LAND

By hosting this seminar, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to ethical sustainability, environmental education, and social inclusion. Through collaborative efforts with civil society and international partners, the University continues to raise awareness on how protecting animal welfare is inseparable from protecting the planet, reflecting its holistic approach to sustainability where every living being is part of a shared ecological future.



LIFE ON LAND

Conference Presentation: "The Status of Industrial Symbiosis Across Sectors in Türkiye" (December 12, 2024)



12 Aralık 2024	
12.00 – 13.15	8. Oturum: Atık Azaltımı ve Değerlendirilmesi: Döngüsel Ekonomi Oturum Başkanı: Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Ahsen AKBULUT ULUDAG Mekan Bilgisi: Sakarya Üniversitesi Turgut Özal Kongre ve Kültür Merkezi, Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Salonu
12.00 – 12.15	Damla Nur BİRLİK, Prof. Dr. Ayvun ÖZKAN, Doç. Dr. Zerrin GÜNKAYA, Prof. Dr. Müfide BAKAR Lityum İyon Pillerden Kobalt Geri Kazınımı
12.15 – 12.30	Sermin GÜNASLAN, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Berrak EROL NALBUR Yerel Dönüşümde Lityum İyon Pillerin Etkin Bertarafına ve Geri Dönüşümüne Yönelik Yenilikçi Yaklaşımlar
12.30 – 12.45	Sermin GÜNASLAN, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Berrak EROL NALBUR, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Sevil ÇALIŞKAN ELEREN, Doç. Dr. Arzu TEKSOY, Prof. Dr. Fatma Olcay TOPAÇ Yerel Dönüşüm Çerçevesinde Elektronik Atıkların Yönetimi: Yenilikçi Çözüm Önerileri
12.45- 13.00	Yasemin ÜLKER, Arş. Gör. Elif DURSUN YİĞİT, Prof. Dr. Yavuz GÜNALAY Türkiye’de Endüstriyel Sıvıyozun Sektörlere Göre Durumu
13.00 – 13.15	Serhan SAYAR Türkiye’de Yerel OSB Çalışmaları: Düzce 2 OSB Örneği
13.15 – 14.00	Öğle Arası

12 Aralık 2024	
14.00 – 15.30	2. Panel – “Özel Sektör ve Sanayi de Atık Yönetimi Paneli” Moderatör: Engin KAYRAK Panelistler: Dr. Ahmet BAYRAK, Özge AYAN, Süleyman CESUR, Berat İŞCAN, İbrahim ÇOĞAL
15.30 – 15.45	Ara

Presented at the 12th National Solid Waste Management Congress, the study titled “The Status of Industrial Symbiosis Across Sectors in Türkiye” by BAU academics Dr.Yasemin Ülker, Research Assistant Elif Dursun Yiğit, and Prof. Yavuz Günalay explores the implementation and effectiveness of industrial symbiosis practices within various industries. The research highlights how by-products and waste materials from one sector can be utilized as valuable inputs for another, promoting a circular economy and reducing environmental impact.

By promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable collaboration among industries, the study supports SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Moreover, by lowering environmental degradation and conserving land-based resources, it also contributes to SDG 15 (Life on Land) through its emphasis on protecting terrestrial ecosystems and reducing industrial impact on biodiversity.



LIFE ON LAND

Protecting Forests, Safeguarding the Future: Wildfire Volunteer Training Programme



On 12 June 2024, Bahçeşehir University, in collaboration with the Istanbul Regional Directorate of Forestry (OGM), CIFAL Istanbul, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), organized the “Wildfire Volunteer Training Program” – a community-oriented initiative designed to enhance environmental awareness and empower citizens to take an active role in protecting terrestrial ecosystems.

The program, hosted at BAU’s Faculty of Law Conference Hall, aimed to strengthen public preparedness, early response capabilities, and collective responsibility in the fight against forest fires. The training included expert-led sessions on wildfire prevention, early detection, risk assessment, and effective intervention strategies. Participants also learned about sustainable forest management, climate resilience, and community-based environmental protection practices that align with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Tunç Bozbura, Vice Rector of Bahçeşehir University, and Prof. Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Director of CIFAL Istanbul, followed by a technical session led by Mr. İkrâm Çelik, Head of the Wildfire Department of the Istanbul Regional Directorate of Forestry. Participants who completed the training received official certificates of participation, jointly issued by BAU, CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and OGM – recognizing their commitment to environmental volunteerism and sustainable development.

By fostering collaboration between academia, public institutions, and civil society, this initiative directly supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting the protection and restoration of forests and biodiversity, SDG 13 (Climate Action) by strengthening resilience to climate-induced disasters, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by building multi-stakeholder cooperation toward a safer and more sustainable environment.

LIFE ON LAND

Through this program, Bahçeşehir University continues to demonstrate its leadership in sustainability education and community engagement – equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and ethical awareness necessary to protect the planet's most vital ecosystems.



LIFE ON LAND

Exploring Nature, Protecting Life: BAU Young TEMA Student Club's Wetlands Awareness Walk



On 24 February 2024, members of the Bahçeşehir University Young TEMA Student Club organized a Nature Walk and Wetlands Exploration at Atatürk Urban Forest. Throughout the activity, students observed local ecosystems, explored wetland biodiversity, and discussed how these areas play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The participants also created handmade bird feeders and learned about simple, actionable ways to support wildlife in urban areas. This activity highlighted the interconnectedness of biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, contributing to the goals of SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



LIFE ON LAND

Panel Series: SDGs and Beyond III – “Is There a Way Out of Fossil Fuels? COP28 and Climate Negotiations”



On 26 December 2023, Bahçeşehir University, through its Faculty of Law, TOSAM, and CIFAL Istanbul – UNITAR, hosted the third session of the “SDGs and Beyond” panel series, titled “Is There a Way Out of Fossil Fuels? COP28 and Climate Negotiations.”

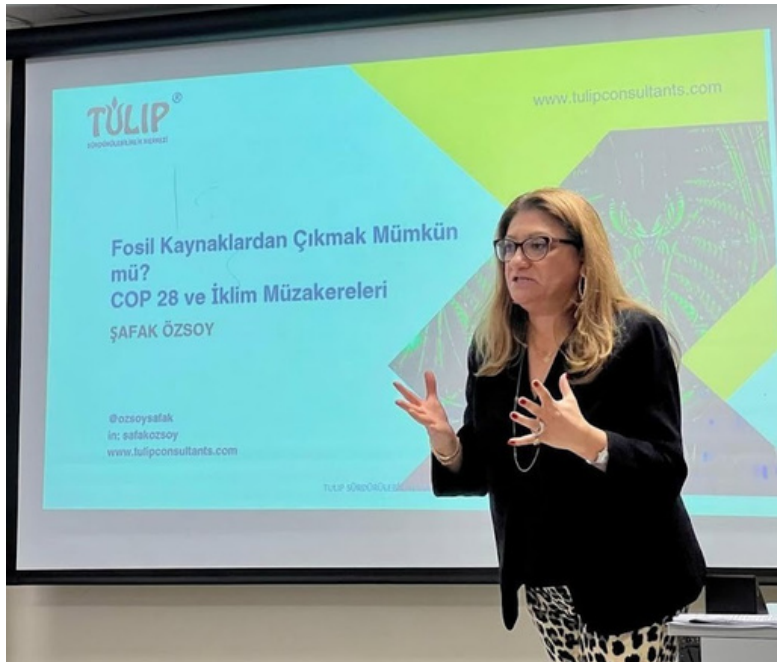
Moderated by Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı, Head of the Department of Sociology and Founding Director of TOSAM, the panel brought together Prof. Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences and Director of CIFAL Istanbul, and Şafak Özsoy, Founder and CEO of TULIP Sustainability Center and Regional Chairwoman of ESRAE Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia, as keynote speakers.

The session examined the outcomes of COP28 and the global challenges in transitioning from fossil fuels toward cleaner, renewable energy sources. Speakers discussed the intersections of energy transformation, environmental policy, and social justice, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable resource management to protect both ecosystems and human well-being.

LIFE ON LAND

With a particular focus on SDG 15 (Life on Land), the discussion emphasized that reducing dependence on fossil fuels is essential not only for mitigating climate change but also for safeguarding biodiversity, preventing land degradation, and restoring terrestrial ecosystems.

The panel further explored the significance of SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) in ensuring equitable access to renewable energy, SDG 13 (Climate Action) in accelerating decarbonization efforts, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in fostering multilateral cooperation for environmental sustainability.



LIFE ON LAND

Growing Roots for the Future: BAU Young TEMA Club Tree Planting Event



On 5 April 2024, the Bahçeşehir University Young TEMA Student Club, in collaboration with Pendik Municipality, organized a Tree Planting Sampling Event to promote environmental responsibility and hands-on learning in ecological restoration. Students actively participated in planting saplings, gaining practical knowledge about tree planting techniques, soil care, and the long-term benefits of reforestation.

The event aimed to enhance awareness of nature-based solutions that help reduce carbon emissions, restore local ecosystems, and strengthen climate resilience. By contributing to environmental regeneration, the initiative supports SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



LIFE ON LAND

Before It Burns: BAU Young TEMA Student Club Forest Fire Awareness Meeting



On 27 April 2024, the Bahçeşehir University Young TEMA Student Club organized its traditional Active Volunteer Meeting centered around the TEMA Foundation's "Before It Burns" initiative. The session focused on understanding the causes and impacts of forest fires, as well as strategies to prevent large-scale environmental damage. Participants discussed community-based fire prevention methods and the importance of early intervention to protect natural ecosystems.

Students also received certificates of appreciation from the TEMA Foundation for their volunteer efforts and commitment to environmental protection. The event strengthened awareness of disaster preparedness, environmental responsibility, and collective climate action, aligning with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

LIFE ON LAND

Clean Steps for a Greener Future: BAU Young TEMA Student Club Burgazada Nature Walk and Environmental Cleanup



On 18 May 2024, members of the Bahçeşehir University Young TEMA Student Club organized a Nature Walk and Environmental Cleanup in Burgazada, combining outdoor exploration with environmental responsibility. Volunteers enjoyed the island's natural landscape while collecting waste to help preserve its ecosystems and prevent pollution.

The event encouraged students to take personal action toward protecting nature and adopting sustainable habits that reduce environmental impact. At the end of the activity, participants sorted the collected waste by type to support recycling and circular economy practices. Through this effort, the initiative contributed to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



LIFE ON LAND

Connecting Mathematics with Climate and Environmental Awareness: ÇEVMAT Project Empowers Future Teachers



Supported by the TÜBİTAK 2237-A program, the ÇEVMAT Project aims to enhance the knowledge and awareness of pre-service middle school mathematics teachers regarding the integration of environmental sustainability into mathematics education. The project focuses on building understanding of sustainable development concepts, recognizing the impacts of environmental issues, and exploring practices to reduce ecological footprints while adopting pedagogical approaches grounded in systems thinking and critical mathematics education.

Within this scope, an online session titled “Climate Change: Basic Concepts, Mechanisms, Impacts” was delivered on 9 December 2023 by Assoc. Prof. Nilay Öztürk from the BAUSTEM Center at Bahçeşehir University. Through interactive discussions, participants explored the scientific basis of climate change and ways to incorporate climate and environmental literacy into mathematics lessons.

By strengthening educators’ capacity to integrate climate- and environment-responsive teaching practices, this initiative directly contributes to Bahçeşehir University’s engagement with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). In addition, by promoting ecological awareness and a sense of responsibility for the natural environment, the project also supports SDG 15 (Life on Land). It encourages teachers to inspire future generations to protect biodiversity, value natural resources, and understand the interdependence between human activity and terrestrial ecosystems through data-driven, analytical, and systems-based mathematical thinking.

Link: <https://inteach.org/haberler/cevmat-projesinde-iklim-degisikligi-egitimi/>

LIFE ON LAND

Empowering Change: Higher Education's Impact on Driving SDGs Progress



On 15 November 2024, Bahçeşehir University, in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), hosted a roundtable meeting titled “Empowering Change: Higher Education’s Impact on Driving SDGs Progress.” The event brought together Bahçeşehir University’s academics, UNITAR representatives, and sustainability experts to discuss the transformative role of higher education in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting, moderated by Asst. Prof. Dr. Yasemin Ülker, Deputy Director of CIFAL Istanbul, featured Dr. Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Associate Director at the CIFAL Global Network (UNITAR), as the keynote speaker. Dr. Canan-Sokullu emphasized the critical importance of academic institutions in shaping policy, fostering innovation, and strengthening community engagement to achieve sustainability at both local and global scales. Discussions focused on how interdisciplinary education and university-led research can contribute to the protection of ecosystems, climate resilience, and sustainable resource management—key pillars of SDG 15 (Life on Land).

The session also explored potential collaborations under UNITAR’s global initiatives such as the Water Academy and Green Helmets, which aim to foster youth-led environmental action and support capacity building for sustainable development. By connecting academia, governance, and international organizations, the event underscored SDG 4 (Quality Education) through inclusive learning, SDG 13 (Climate Action) by promoting academic climate awareness, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through cross-institutional cooperation.

LIFE ON LAND

Roundtable with Civil Society: “Towards COP29 – Evaluating Challenges, Solutions, and Policy Pathways for Climate Action in Türkiye”



On October 16, 2024, Bahçeşehir University and CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, in collaboration with the Corporate Social Responsibility Association of Türkiye (CSR Turkey) and several NGOs working in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainability, hosted a roundtable meeting titled “Towards COP29: Civil Society Evaluates.”

The event served as a dialogue platform where representatives from civil society, academia, and the private sector discussed Türkiye’s energy-transition agenda and priorities for COP29 in light of outcomes from COP28. Discussions focused on accelerating renewable-energy investments, enhancing energy efficiency, and ensuring equitable access to clean energy as key drivers of both environmental sustainability and national development. Participants emphasized that achieving long-term energy and environmental goals requires inclusive cooperation among stakeholders and coherent policies to reduce fossil-fuel dependency through innovation and technological progress.

During the meeting, Özlem Katisöz, Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, and Barış Doğru, Editor-in-Chief of EkoIQ, shared analytical perspectives on Türkiye’s post-COP28 energy and climate-policy landscape. The roundtable concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen collaboration between civil society, academia, and the private sector in advancing clean-energy transition and enhancing environmental sustainability.

LIFE ON LAND

In addition to advancing SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the dialogue also aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land) by highlighting the interconnectedness between energy transition, land use, and ecosystem health. Reducing fossil-fuel reliance and expanding renewable infrastructure contribute to protecting terrestrial ecosystems, preventing land degradation, and promoting a cleaner, more resilient environment for future generations.

Link: <https://cifalistanbul.org/towards-cop29-civil-society-evaluates/>



LIFE ON LAND

COP29 – The Role of Higher Education in Addressing Climate Change: Leadership, Innovation and Impact



On November 11, 2024, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, a session titled "The Role of Higher Education in Addressing Climate Change: Leadership, Innovation, and Impact" was organized in collaboration with UNITAR, CIFAL Istanbul, Bahçeşehir University, and CIFAL City of London.

The session brought together academic leaders, policymakers, and sustainability experts to discuss how higher education institutions can contribute to addressing global challenges related to sustainable energy and environmental responsibility through research, innovation, and education. Topics included integrating sustainability and energy issues into university curricula, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and supporting the development of practical solutions for resilience and resource efficiency.

CIFAL Istanbul and Bahçeşehir University contributed actively to the discussions, sharing their experience in sustainability-focused education and stakeholder engagement. Among the speakers were Prof. Esra Hatipoğlu, Rector of Bahçeşehir University, and Prof. Çisil Sohodol, Director of CIFAL Istanbul. The session was moderated by Dr. Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Associate Director at the CIFAL Global Network, UNITAR, who underlined the importance of cooperation between higher education and international organizations in advancing innovative and responsible approaches to sustainable development.

LIFE ON LAND

In addition to advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the session also reflected the principles of SDG 15 (Life on Land) by emphasizing the interconnection between climate action, land use, and ecosystem conservation. Through the promotion of climate-responsive education and research, higher education institutions play a vital role in protecting biodiversity, supporting nature-based solutions, and ensuring that development efforts respect and restore terrestrial ecosystems for future generations.

Link:<https://bau.edu.tr/haber/18950-cop29-kapsaminda-baku'de-egitim-ve-iklim-paneli-universitelerin-iklim-eylemindeki-rolu-tartisildi>



LIFE ON LAND

Sustainability Literacy Training Programme



The Sustainability Literacy Certificated Training Programme, organized in collaboration with the BAU Continuous Education Center (BAUSEM), CIFAL Istanbul, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and Bahçeşehir University (BAU), aimed to help individuals and organizations internalize the principles and practices of sustainability and sustainable development in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Designed for participants from diverse professional backgrounds, the programme explored sustainability through a multidisciplinary framework addressing key themes such as Introduction to Sustainable Development, Planet and Climate, Planet and Energy, Well-being and Labor, Peace and Justice / Partnerships, and Sustainability in the New World. Within this structure, participants examined the interconnections between environmental protection, renewable and efficient energy use, economic growth, and social inclusion.

In addition to advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the programme also supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by fostering awareness of biodiversity conservation, responsible land use, and ecosystem protection. Through its focus on environmental literacy, the programme encourages participants to adopt sustainable behaviors that respect natural resources, prevent land degradation, and contribute to the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems as part of a holistic approach to sustainability.

Link: <https://bausem.bau.edu.tr/egitim/surdurulebilirlik-okuryazarligi.html>

LIFE ON LAND

Advancing Policy Pathways for Sustainable Food and Land Systems: Bahçeşehir University and NGOs within the FABLE Consortium



Bahçeşehir University serves as the Turkish partner of the global FABLE Consortium (Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy), a network of research institutions and NGOs dedicated to developing nationally coherent and globally aligned pathways for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement targets.

Within this framework, country teams work to design bottom-up policy pathways for sustainable food and land-use systems and engage directly with national governments to promote data-driven and ambitious sustainability policies. The FABLE Secretariat is jointly led by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.

<https://fableconsortium.org/about/>

In Türkiye, the initiative is led by the BAU Research Center for Sustainable Food Systems (BAU SUGAM), which consolidates all of the University's partnerships and research efforts related to food, agriculture, and sustainability policy. Through research, data modeling, and policy analysis, BAU contributes to defining science-based policy recommendations, supporting national strategies on food security, climate action, and sustainable rural development.

<https://fableconsortium.org/turkey/>

<https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/18313-hakkimizda>

By linking academia, civil society, and government, Bahçeşehir University strengthens the national capacity for evidence-based decision-making and contributes directly to global policy dialogues on sustainable development.

Aligned with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), this initiative also embodies the essence of SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem resilience. Through its active participation in the FABLE Consortium, Bahçeşehir University contributes to global efforts to protect natural habitats, prevent land degradation, and balance food production with environmental integrity – ensuring that human progress and nature coexist in harmony.

LIFE ON LAND

National Policy Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Hazelnut Farming



The National Policy Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Hazelnut Farming, held in Giresun in December 2024, was organized under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Giresun Governorship, with the support of Bahçeşehir University (BAU), Giresun University, the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA), and several other public, academic, and private sector stakeholders.

The forum brought together government representatives, universities, research institutions, industry leaders, and farmer organizations to develop a national roadmap for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies into Türkiye's agricultural production systems – particularly in the hazelnut sector, which plays a strategic role in the country's economy.

Bahçeşehir University contributed to the forum through its expertise in AI applications, sustainable food systems, and policy research, supporting the formulation of data-driven agricultural strategies, evidence-based policy recommendations, and innovation-oriented frameworks.

By connecting national and local institutions, the initiative promotes the digital transformation of agriculture and strengthens Türkiye's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – especially SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) – advancing inclusive, climate-smart, and technology-driven agricultural development.

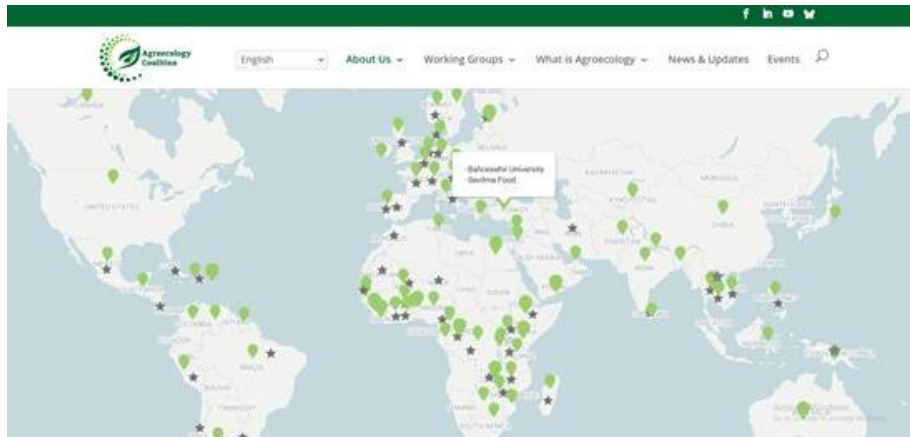
LIFE ON LAND

In addition, the forum aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting sustainable land management, soil health monitoring, and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices through the use of advanced technologies. Integrating AI into farming processes not only increases efficiency and productivity but also helps prevent land degradation, supports ecosystem balance, and fosters a resilient and environmentally responsible agricultural future for rural communities.



LIFE ON LAND

Bahçeşehir University as a Member of the Agroecology Coalition for Transforming Global Food Systems



The interconnected crises in food, climate, and biodiversity have created an urgent need for transformative, cross-sectoral action. Recognizing this global imperative, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) joined the Agroecology Coalition, a United Nations-supported initiative launched after the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit to advance the transformation of food systems through agroecology.

The Coalition offers a collaborative mechanism enabling countries, academic institutions, and organizations to ensure sustainable food production, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience simultaneously. It is guided by the 13 Principles of Agroecology defined by the HLPE-FSN under the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and aligned with the 10 Elements of Agroecology adopted by the FAO Council (2019).

Today, the Agroecology Coalition unites more than 300 members from governments, academia, NGOs, and international organizations, serving as a leading platform for science-based policy dialogue and sustainable food-system implementation. Its mission focuses on:

- . Co-creating and exchanging agroecological knowledge
- . Increasing investments in agroecological transformation
- . Advocating supportive policies
- . Developing market pathways for agroecological products
- . Building member capacity through technical collaboration

Bahçeşehir University is an official member contributing to working groups on Policies, Research, Innovation & Education, and Implementation. BAU provides expert input, helps shape international policy frameworks, and pursues research-driven collaboration to scale up agroecological practices and embed sustainability principles in national and regional strategies.

LIFE ON LAND

Through this participation, BAU advances international best practices linking academic research with policy action. Its engagement reinforces contributions to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)—and crucially to SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting biodiversity conservation, restoration of degraded lands, and sustainable land use. Through agroecological approaches, BAU supports soil-health protection, nature-based solutions, and resilient food systems, ensuring human progress and ecosystem integrity evolve together.

<https://agroecology-coalition.org/principles-and-vision/>

<https://agroecology-coalition.org/members/>

Bahçeşehir University's BAU Farm in Giresun



Bahçeşehir University established the BAU Farm in Giresun as a multidisciplinary learning space that bridges agriculture, sustainability, and education to promote environmentally responsible and socially inclusive development. Situated in the fertile lands of Türkiye's Black Sea region, the farm functions as a living laboratory where students and visitors engage in experiential learning on sustainable farming, organic food production, and efficient resource management.

By offering practical training opportunities beyond the university campus, the initiative underscores Bahçeşehir University's dedication to fostering food security awareness and empowering future generations with the skills necessary to develop resilient food systems. The farm serves as a platform where academic research meets local practice, inspiring innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and community well-being.

LIFE ON LAND

Through partnerships with local farmers and organizations, BAU Farm also supports regional agricultural development and women's participation in food production, promoting both environmental balance and equitable economic growth. These collaborations exemplify how universities can play a pivotal role in addressing hunger and advancing sustainable livelihoods through education, innovation, and collective action.

By aligning scientific expertise with community engagement, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates its ongoing commitment to combating hunger and nurturing sustainable agricultural ecosystems – ensuring that learning, productivity, and social responsibility coexist in harmony.

In addition to advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the BAU Farm directly contributes to SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting sustainable land use, soil conservation, and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Through its focus on restoring natural balance, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting local habitats, BAU Farm embodies a nature-positive approach to education and agriculture – cultivating respect for the land and ensuring that human progress remains in harmony with the natural world.

Link: <https://baufarm.com.tr/>



LIFE ON LAND

“This Bitter Irony: Hunger and Food Waste Are Rising Side by Side” – by Prof. Çisil Sohodol



Prof. Çisil Sohodol, Faculty Member at Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Communication and Director of CIFAL Istanbul (UNITAR), authored the opinion piece "This Bitter Irony: Hunger and Food Waste Are Rising Side by Side" on 13 April 2024, highlighting the global paradox of rising hunger amid increasing food waste.

In her article, Prof. Sohodol underscores the moral and structural contradictions that hinder the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Despite technological progress, millions – including children – still face hunger, while significant amounts of edible food are discarded across production, distribution, and consumption stages. Citing global sustainability reports, she notes that no country has fully eradicated hunger and that food insecurity is further intensified by climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity loss.

She argues that reducing food waste is not only an environmental responsibility but a moral obligation essential for global food security, linking individual action, institutional engagement, and policy transformation. Her reflections also reinforce Bahçeşehir University's commitment to advancing Zero Hunger and strengthening awareness of sustainable consumption.

Beyond SDG 2 and SDG 12, the article aligns closely with SDG 15 (Life on Land) by showing how unsustainable food systems contribute to soil erosion, habitat destruction, and declining terrestrial biodiversity. Prof. Sohodol ultimately stresses that tackling hunger and food waste together is a social, economic, and ecological necessity for protecting both human well-being and the planet's land ecosystems.

LIFE ON LAND

AI-Integrated System Design for Addressing Water, Soil, and Energy Challenges in Olive Cultivation Across the Mediterranean Region

2565 - TÜBİTAK - MALTA BİLİM VE TEKNOLOJİ KONSEYİ (MCST) İKİLİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI PROJE ÇAĞRISI

Projenin Başlığı:
Akdeniz Bölgesi Kırsal Alanlarında Zeytin Yetiştiriciliğinde Su, Toprak ve Enerji Zorluklarına İlişkin Yapay Zeka Teknolojisi ile Entegre Bir Sistem Tasarımı

Projenin Bütçesi:
1.050.000 TL

Projenin Süresi:
2 Yıl

Proje Ekibi:
• Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Müge Kesici
• Prof. Dr. Gül Tekin Temur
• Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Fatih Kahraman

Doç. Dr. Zeynep Tacer Caba
BAU Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesi

Tebrik Ederiz

TTU BAU

As part of Bahçeşehir University's commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural research, Dr. Zeynep Tacer Caba from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences leads the project "AI-Integrated System Design for Addressing Water, Soil, and Energy Challenges in Olive Cultivation Across the Mediterranean Region."

The team—Dr. Müge Kesici, Prof. Gül Tekin Temur, and Dr. Fatih Kahraman—reflects a multidisciplinary collaboration linking agricultural science, environmental engineering, and technological innovation.

The research aims to develop an AI-integrated system that enhances the sustainable use of water, soil, and energy in olive cultivation, a key agricultural practice across the Mediterranean basin. By improving irrigation efficiency, monitoring soil health, and reducing energy consumption, the project contributes to resource-efficient and climate-resilient agricultural models that ensure both food security and environmental protection.

Demonstrating Bahçeşehir University's expanding role in global sustainability partnerships, the project has been funded under TÜBİTAK's 2565 Bilateral Cooperation Programme with the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST). This recognition underscores its scientific relevance and contribution to cross-border research on sustainable farming systems in alignment with international development priorities.

LIFE ON LAND

Through this initiative, Bahçeşehir University strengthens innovation-driven solutions for sustainable agriculture, international research collaboration, and the transition toward a more resilient, equitable, and food-secure future.

In addition to advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the project directly supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by fostering soil-health restoration, sustainable land-use planning, and biodiversity-friendly cultivation practices. Integrating artificial intelligence into traditional olive farming helps safeguard terrestrial ecosystems, prevent land degradation, and optimize natural-resource cycles—bridging technology and ecology for the long-term sustainability of Mediterranean agricultural landscapes.



LIFE ON LAND

Future AI Summit'24: Artificial Intelligence in Smart Agriculture – Productivity and Sustainability Session



Hosted by Bahçeşehir University at its innovation and technology hub, BAU Future Campus, the Future AI Summit'24 brought together global leaders, entrepreneurs, and experts to explore the transformative power of artificial intelligence (AI) across diverse sectors. The summit served as a dynamic platform for dialogue on how AI-driven solutions can foster innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth in an increasingly digital world.

One of the most impactful sessions, "Artificial Intelligence in Smart Agriculture: Productivity and Sustainability," was organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Türkiye. The session featured distinguished speakers, including Dr. Ayşegül Selışık, Deputy Representative of FAO Türkiye; Dr. Erçin Güdücü, Secretary General of the Izmir Commodity Exchange; Ali Hakan Doğanuz, Coordinator of the Önder Farmers' Association; İlker Bektaş, Founder and CEO of Orbiba Robotics; Ömer Yuluğ, Chairman of Yuluğ Engineering; and Emre Tunalı, Co-founder of Agrovisio.

Speakers examined how digital transformation and AI-powered precision agriculture can enhance food productivity, minimize resource waste, and promote sustainable land and water management. Through data-driven solutions and early warning systems, such technologies enable farmers to optimize crop yields, improve soil health, and adapt to the growing impacts of climate change.

LIFE ON LAND

By facilitating this exchange of knowledge between global institutions, industry leaders, and innovators, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its dedication to sustainable agriculture and responsible food production, advancing the global goal of ensuring food security and nutrition for all. The summit demonstrated that the future of agriculture lies in the synergy between scientific innovation and environmental sustainability, paving the way toward more equitable and resilient food systems.

In addition to contributing to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the session also supported SDG 15 (Life on Land) by emphasizing the vital role of AI technologies in protecting soil ecosystems, restoring degraded lands, and promoting biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. The discussion highlighted that technological innovation, when guided by ecological principles, can safeguard terrestrial ecosystems, strengthen sustainable land use, and ensure that digital transformation contributes to the preservation of life on Earth.

KİD ProClass 2024 Corporate Communication Certificate Program – “Communicators’ Critical Agenda: Sustainability” Session



As part of the KİD ProClass 2024 Corporate Communication Certificate Program, Bahçeşehir University participated in the session titled “Communicators’ Critical Agenda: Sustainability,” where Prof. Dr. Çisil Sohodol, Professor at the BAU Faculty of Communication and Director of CIFAL Istanbul (UNITAR), delivered an inspiring keynote speech on the strategic role of communication in promoting sustainability.

Prof. Sohodol emphasized that sustainability is a cornerstone of corporate reputation, highlighting that effective sustainability communication requires a careful balance between truth, hope, empathy, and scientific grounding. She underlined that transparent and science-based communication not only strengthens corporate credibility but also drives social and environmental responsibility across industries, particularly those shaping global food systems and resource management.

LIFE ON LAND

The discussion explored how communication professionals can translate complex sustainability issues—such as food security, responsible production, and waste reduction—into accessible narratives that inspire action and foster behavioral change. Participants examined how effective messaging can mobilize communities and organizations to adopt sustainable practices that support environmental balance and equitable access to resources.

By integrating sustainability communication into corporate and public strategies, Bahçeşehir University continues to highlight the connection between awareness, informed action, and collective responsibility. This initiative demonstrates the University's commitment to ethical leadership, interdisciplinary education, and sustainability-oriented collaboration as guiding principles for a more equitable and environmentally responsible future.

In addition to supporting SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the session also reinforces SDG 15 (Life on Land) by emphasizing the role of communication in protecting ecosystems, promoting biodiversity conservation, and inspiring nature-positive business narratives. By shaping messages that advocate for sustainable land use and responsible production, communication professionals become vital agents of change—transforming awareness into collective action for the health and resilience of our planet.



LIFE ON LAND

IV. Agriculture and Forestry Council: BAUSÜGAM Presentation on Innovative Technologies in Rural Areas



As part of the IV. Agriculture and Forestry Council organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, the “Workshop on Sustainable Living in Rural Areas” brought together experts, academics, and policymakers to discuss innovative approaches for achieving sustainable rural development.

The session titled “Resilience in Rural Areas” featured Assistant Professor Dr. Müge Kesici Baysoy, Deputy Director of Bahçeşehir University Sustainable Food Systems Application and Research Center (BAU SÜGAM), who delivered a presentation on “Innovative Technologies in Rural Areas.”

In her presentation, Dr. Baysoy highlighted how technological innovation and data-driven agricultural practices can transform rural communities by improving productivity, conserving natural resources, and strengthening food security. The session underscored the importance of integrating sustainability principles into rural development strategies, emphasizing that innovation in agriculture plays a critical role in ensuring both economic resilience and equitable access to nutritious food.

Through the participation of BAU SÜGAM, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its institutional commitment to advancing sustainable food systems and empowering rural populations with the knowledge and tools necessary to build adaptive, inclusive, and hunger-free communities.

In addition to advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), this initiative directly supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting sustainable land management, soil health preservation, and biodiversity conservation in rural landscapes. By fostering technology-based solutions that enhance agricultural resilience and reduce environmental degradation, Bahçeşehir University contributes to protecting terrestrial ecosystems and ensuring that innovation drives harmony between human development and nature.

LIFE ON LAND

Defending Nature's Future: Games for Change Türkiye Festival – “Press Start for Change” (7–8 December 2024)

Hosted by Bahçeşehir University in collaboration with BUG Lab TEKMER and supported by Mayadem as the main sponsor, the first Games for Change Türkiye Festival explored the transformative power of games under the theme “Press Start for Change.” Bringing together industry leaders, academics, civil society organizations, and policymakers, the festival showcased how game-based approaches can drive meaningful impact across education, health, sustainability, and social innovation.

Among the festival's thematic tracks, “Games for Sustainability” played a central role in advancing SDG 15: Life on Land, highlighting how game design can promote environmental literacy, nature conservation, and ecosystem protection. Through sessions focusing on creative problem-solving and interactive learning, participants examined how games can raise awareness of biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation, habitat destruction, and the urgency of protecting natural ecosystems.

The festival emphasized that game-based learning has the unique potential to help younger generations build emotional and cognitive connections with nature. This creates new avenues for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility—aligning directly with SDG 15's aims to preserve terrestrial ecosystems and safeguard biodiversity.

The closing talks on December 7 further deepened this perspective.

Lukaš Kolek (Charles Games) delivered “Exploring History and Remembrance Through Games,” demonstrating how video games can narrate environmental disasters and land-related historical events in impactful and memorable ways.

Following this, Lili Ibrahim (Ustwo Games) presented “Games Inspiring Change: The Journey of Monument Valley, Alba and ustwo Games,” showcasing particularly the game “Alba: A Wildlife Adventure” as a powerful example of how games can inspire players to protect wildlife, understand local ecosystems, and engage in real-world conservation actions.



LIFE ON LAND

By integrating sustainability themes across multiple tracks—such as Games for Civic and Social Transformation and Games for Shaping Society—the festival underscored the powerful role of interactive media in supporting environmental stewardship, climate awareness, and collective action.

Through this pioneering festival, Bahçeşehir University demonstrated its commitment to leveraging digital creativity and interactive technologies to advance global sustainability goals—particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land), as well as SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The event showcased how games can be catalysts for social and environmental change, inspiring a new generation to envision and build a more sustainable future.



LIFE ON LAND

Training Programme to the Earthquake Zone in Malatya



Between 13–15 December 2024, Bahçeşehir University's CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR team organized a meaningful series of activities in Battalgazi, Malatya, one of the regions most affected by the February 6 earthquakes, under the title "Heroes of Nature: Raising Awareness on Sustainability." The initiative aimed to provide educational support, hope, and environmental awareness to children and their families affected by the disaster.

During the seminar, CIFAL Istanbul experts introduced participants to the mission and values of the United Nations, explaining how individuals can actively contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sessions addressed essential topics such as clean water conservation, renewable energy, sustainable cities, climate action, and the protection of natural ecosystems. Participants were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices at home and in their communities, with a particular emphasis on waste reduction and sustainable resource use.

At the end of the event, the CIFAL Istanbul team distributed books to children and hosted a tote bag painting workshop, combining creativity with environmental education and reinforcing messages of collective responsibility toward nature. This initiative reflected Bahçeşehir University's dedication to providing quality education beyond its campus, extending the reach of academic knowledge to communities in need.

On 15 December, the BAU CIFAL Istanbul delegation met with local authorities in Malatya, including the Head of the Strategy Development Department at Malatya Metropolitan Municipality and the Deputy Mayor of Battalgazi Municipality. Discussions focused on sustainable reconstruction, educational collaboration, and community resilience, particularly in the context of rebuilding safe and inclusive learning environments after the earthquake.

LIFE ON LAND

While directly contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), this initiative also embodies the principles of SDG 15 (Life on Land) by promoting environmental restoration, ecosystem resilience, and sustainability education in disaster-affected regions. Through its outreach efforts, Bahçeşehir University fosters a deeper understanding of the link between human recovery and the healing of natural environments, showing that true reconstruction extends beyond physical structures – it includes rebuilding the harmony between people and the land they live on.

Link: <https://cifalistanbul.org/cifal-istanbul-team-visited-earthquake-zone/>



LIFE ON LAND

Kocaeli Bahçeşehir High School Sustainability Summit'24



As part of the Global Schools Program, CIFAL Istanbul, representing Bahçeşehir University (BAU) and UNITAR, participated in the "Sustainability Summit'24" organized by Kocaeli High School, on 20 November, 2024, which brought together students, educators, and sustainability experts to discuss innovative approaches to global challenges. Reflecting Bahçeşehir University's dedication to extending quality education beyond its campus, the event provided a meaningful platform for high school students to engage with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the summit, Dr. Yasemin Ülker, Deputy Director of BAU CIFAL Istanbul, delivered an engaging presentation on the concept and relevance of sustainability in today's interconnected world. She also shared insights into Bahçeşehir University's initiatives that empower youth to take action toward a more sustainable and equitable future, including CIFAL Istanbul's youth-oriented projects, its role within the UNITAR global network, and the efforts of the CIFAL Istanbul Youth Platform in mobilizing student engagement.

By connecting directly with high school students and educators, Bahçeşehir University, through CIFAL Istanbul, continues to raise sustainability awareness, encourage critical thinking, and foster a culture of environmental responsibility that extends beyond university boundaries.

In addition to supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), this initiative also reinforces SDG 15 (Life on Land) by inspiring young people to protect terrestrial ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and advocate for nature-based sustainability practices. Through education and dialogue, students were encouraged to recognize their shared responsibility toward the environment – understanding that the future of the planet depends on collective action to sustain both human well-being and the life of our natural world.

LIFE ON LAND

Bahçeşehir University and CIFAL Istanbul Co-Organizes Climate Change Summit in Baku



On 1 November 2024, Bahçeşehir University, through its CIFAL Istanbul Centre affiliated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), co-organized the “Climate Change Summit: The Climate Crisis from a Sustainability Perspective” in collaboration with Azerbaijan Technical University, the Young Researchers Innovation Club, and BilimSenOl. Held at Azerbaijan Technical University in Baku, the summit exemplified Bahçeşehir University’s commitment to advancing academic collaboration and sustainability initiatives beyond national borders.

With contributions from Dr. Yasemin Ülker, Prof. Dr. Çisil Sohodol, and Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Geysi of Bahçeşehir University, the summit addressed urgent global challenges posed by climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation. Through expert discussions and knowledge exchange, participants explored innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to strengthen climate resilience and promote sustainable development in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By facilitating international dialogue, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its role as a bridge between academia and sustainability policy, encouraging collective action toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting ecosystems.

In addition to contributing to SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the summit also advanced the objectives of SDG 15 (Life on Land) by emphasizing the interdependence between climate stability, land health, and biodiversity conservation. The discussions highlighted how addressing the climate crisis requires protecting terrestrial ecosystems, restoring degraded lands, and fostering a deeper respect for the natural systems that sustain life on Earth – reaffirming Bahçeşehir University’s holistic approach to sustainability and global responsibility.

LIFE ON LAND

The Key to Improving Your Business, Planet, and Society: Corporate Sustainability and ESG



As part of the Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability Certificate Program organized by BAUGO (Bahçeşehir University School of Professional Studies), Bahçeşehir University continues to empower professionals with the knowledge and competencies needed to integrate sustainability principles into corporate strategies. The training session, titled “The Key to Improving Your Business, Planet, and Society: Corporate Sustainability and ESG,” was led by Prof. Çisil Sohodol, Director of CIFAL Istanbul (UNITAR) and Professor at the BAU Faculty of Communication.

The session explored how companies can adopt a holistic ESG approach that balances environmental responsibility, social well-being, and ethical governance. Participants examined the intersections between corporate sustainability, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the growing demand for accountable business practices that safeguard both people and the planet.

Particular attention was given to the environmental dimension of ESG, focusing on resource efficiency, ecosystem protection, and biodiversity conservation. The discussion highlighted how sustainable supply chains, pollution prevention, and effective water and land management are becoming essential pillars of responsible corporate behavior. By recognizing the link between economic growth and ecological integrity, participants were encouraged to adopt strategies that restore balance between business productivity and environmental preservation.

LIFE ON LAND

Through its multidisciplinary and applied learning framework, the program contributes to multiple global goals – including SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) – by emphasizing that sustainable business is inseparable from protecting natural habitats and supporting ecosystem resilience.

This initiative reaffirms Bahçeşehir University's commitment to equipping leaders with the vision and tools to transform organizations into agents of sustainable progress, advancing both corporate excellence and environmental stewardship in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Link: <https://bausem.bau.edu.tr/sinif/isletmenizi-gezegeni-ve-toplumu-gelistirmenin-anahtari-kurumsal-surdurulebilirlik-ve-esg67078259108f1.html>



LIFE ON LAND

Conference on Sustainability Awareness for High School Students by BAU



On 26 November 2024, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burçak Vatansever Durmaz, faculty member at Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, participated in a conference held at Bakırköy Uğur Anatolian High School to raise sustainability awareness among high school students. The event gathered around 60 students, focusing on themes such as environmental responsibility, conscious consumption, and the importance of sustainable lifestyle habits for the future.

Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, Dr. Durmaz encouraged students to reflect on their individual and collective roles in building a more sustainable and ecologically balanced society. The conference highlighted how daily actions – from consumption choices to waste management – directly influence the health of our planet and the resilience of ecosystems.

By integrating sustainability into education, the initiative not only contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), but also advanced SDG 15 (Life on Land). The session underscored the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, and developing respect for all forms of life as key elements of sustainability literacy. Through education and awareness, the event empowered young people to act as guardians of nature, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship essential for a greener, more responsible future.

LIFE ON LAND

Bahçeşehir College XI. Young Diplomats Conference – “A Communicative Perspective on the Water Crisis”



Hosted at Bahçeşehir University's Future Campus, the 11th Young Diplomats Conference brought together students from Bahçeşehir College to engage in a multidisciplinary discussion on one of the most critical global issues of our time – the water crisis. Addressed through perspectives including ecology, law, health, and industry, the conference encouraged participants to develop holistic and solution-oriented approaches to one of humanity's most essential challenges.

As part of the event, Dr. Nilüfer Geysi, Coordinator of CIFAL Istanbul and Assistant Professor at the BAU Faculty of Communication, delivered a compelling presentation titled “A Communicative Perspective on the Water Crisis.” Her talk emphasized how effective communication strategies – rooted in dialogue, empathy, and scientific understanding – can inspire behavioral change and collective responsibility toward sustainable water management. The session underscored that water scarcity is not only an environmental issue but also a social and ethical challenge, requiring global solidarity and intergenerational cooperation. Students explored the role of communication in shaping environmental awareness, learning how strategic storytelling and advocacy can influence both public attitudes and policy development.

Through such educational initiatives, Bahçeşehir University continues to strengthen youth engagement in sustainability dialogues, fostering a generation that recognizes its shared responsibility to protect natural resources and preserve ecological balance. In addition to advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the conference also contributes directly to SDG 15 (Life on Land) – by highlighting the intrinsic link between water systems, terrestrial ecosystems, and biodiversity conservation.

By promoting environmental communication as a tool for change, Bahçeşehir University empowers young people to become active stewards of both water and land, ensuring that sustainability is understood as a unified effort to safeguard all forms of life.

LIFE ON LAND

Bahçeşehir University Courses Supporting SDG 15: Life on Land

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) continues to integrate environmental sustainability and ecosystem awareness into its academic curriculum. During the Fall 2024 and Spring 2024 semesters, several courses across different faculties and departments were designed to strengthen students' understanding of biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and environmental ethics.

These courses encourage students to explore how human activity affects terrestrial ecosystems and to develop solutions that protect nature while promoting social and economic development. Interdisciplinary in nature, they combine scientific research, policy analysis, and community engagement, fostering a generation of environmentally conscious leaders prepared to take active roles in ecological preservation.

Through these and similar courses, Bahçeşehir University ensures that sustainability principles are embedded in academic and professional education. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical awareness, BAU prepares its students to contribute meaningfully to global efforts aimed at protecting terrestrial ecosystems, combating desertification, halting biodiversity loss, and fostering a future where human development and environmental balance coexist.

This academic commitment reflects BAU's holistic approach to sustainability – one that unites research, innovation, and social responsibility under the shared goal of protecting life on land.

Table of SDG 15-related courses offered in the 2024 academic year include:

Course Code	Course Title	Academic Term	Language of Instruction	Course Type	Course Level	Mode of Delivery
GEP0634	Exploring the Future of Agriculture	Spring	English	General Elective	Undergraduate	Hybrid
SOC6013	Sociology of Food and Agriculture	Fall	English	Departmental Elective	Graduate	In-person
GMS3409	Urban Agriculture for Chefs	Spring	Turkish	Departmental Elective	Undergraduate	In-person
LAW2006	Animal Rights	Fall	English	Departmental Elective	Undergraduate	Online
GEP1624	Animal Ethics and Speciesism	Fall	Turkish	General Elective	Undergraduate	Online
GEP0806	Philosophy of Life	Spring	English	General Elective	Undergraduate	Hybrid
BES4079	Sustainable Nutrition	Spring	Turkish	Departmental Elective	Undergraduate	Hybrid
EDS1218	Sustainable Development and Education	Spring	English	Departmental Elective	Undergraduate	In-person
GEP0633	Environment and Sustainable Development	Spring	English	General Elective	Undergraduate	Hybrid



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