



Sustainable KTU

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

15 LEVEN OP
HET LAND



www.ktu.edu.tr/sustainability



surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr



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Sustainability is one of the most important areas of responsibility shaping our future through its environmental, economic, and social dimensions. Universities are not only institutions that produce knowledge, but also pioneering structures that guide sustainable development and contribute to social transformation.

In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the development objectives of our country, and the vision of sustainability in higher education, we, as Karadeniz Technical University, place sustainability at the core of our education, research, social contribution, and institutional governance processes.

Throughout 2025, our university carried out significant initiatives in many areas, including quality education, climate action, energy efficiency, scientific research, social inclusion, and regional development. Through projects focused on scientific knowledge production and societal contribution, we continued to support the achievement of sustainable development goals.

This report presents our university's activities in the field of sustainability and our commitment to the future. Guided by science and in collaboration with our stakeholders, we believe that we will continue working towards a more sustainable future.

Prof. Dr. Hamdullah ÇUVALCI

Rector, Karadeniz Technical University





The protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of biodiversity, and preservation of natural resources for future generations are among the fundamental components of sustainable development. Environmental threats such as climate change, habitat loss, land degradation, deforestation, and the decline of species directly affect not only natural life but also human health, food security, and economic sustainability. Therefore, efforts aimed at protecting life on land have become critically important on a global scale.

Karadeniz Technical University contributes significantly to the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems through its strong scientific background, research infrastructure, and interdisciplinary research capacity. Within the university, various research and implementation activities are carried out in areas such as biodiversity conservation, monitoring of endemic species, ecosystem restoration, sustainable forestry practices, erosion control, and nature-based solutions.

KTU also contributes to environmental sustainability through collaborations with local governments, public institutions, and other stakeholders, while supporting the goals of SDG 15: Life on Land through education, research, and public awareness activities.

This report aims to present KTU's academic studies, field practices, and collaborations conducted within the scope of SDG 15, highlighting the university's strategic contributions to the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems.



Institutional Structure

Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), in line with SDG 15 “Life on Land,” has established an interdisciplinary institutional structure to ensure the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, the preservation of biodiversity, and the sustainable management of natural resources. Within this framework, the Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Science, Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences, Faculty of Architecture, and related research centers work collaboratively to develop holistic strategies for the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems.

Within the university, the Faculty of Forestry plays a leading role in forest ecosystems, soil and water conservation, wildlife management, ecosystem restoration, and the monitoring, protection, and revitalization of flora and fauna diversity. In addition, the Environmental Problems Research and Application Center conducts scientific analyses on environmental impact assessment, sustainable land use, and the protection of natural habitats.

Beyond academic studies conducted within the scope of SDG 15, KTU develops collaborations with public institutions, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and international stakeholders to carry out applied projects. Thanks to this structure, the university’s research and application capacity goes beyond producing academic knowledge, contributing directly to ecosystem protection policies.

By integrating the principles of sustainable development into its institutional policies, KTU aims to pursue scientific research, community awareness initiatives, and applied project activities within the scope of SDG 15 through a long-term strategy.



[KTU Faculty of Forestry](#)





Landslide Application and Research Center

The Landslide Application and Research Center operates to investigate and manage landslide risks arising from the geographical and geological characteristics of the Eastern Black Sea Region. The center conducts studies on land-use planning, risk analyses, early warning systems, and the development of preventive measures prior to disasters. In this way, the negative impacts of natural disasters on terrestrial ecosystems and settlements are minimized. Within the scope of SDG 15, the Landslide Application and Research Center plays a critical role in protecting life on land and ensuring sustainable environmental management in the region.

Environmental and Climate Change Application and Research Center

KTU Environmental and Climate Change Research and Application Center carries out significant work in the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems. The center conducts research on monitoring and assessing soil, water, and air quality, preserving ecosystem health, and supporting biodiversity. In addition, it provides field studies, analyses, and scientific consultancy services to address regional environmental issues. By contributing to SDG 15 "Life on Land," UYGAR supports the protection of natural habitats and the maintenance of ecosystem balance.



[KTU Landslide Application and Research Center](#)

[KTU Environmental and Climate Change Application and Research Center](#)





Zero Waste Coordination

KTU Zero Waste Coordination Office contributes indirectly to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems by coordinating sustainable waste management practices across the university. The office carries out activities such as composting organic waste, optimizing recycling processes, and improving resource efficiency. Through these efforts, the harmful impact of waste on campus and surrounding natural areas is prevented, while soil and water quality are preserved. In line with SDG 15, the Zero Waste Coordination Office also organizes educational and awareness-raising activities to enhance environmental consciousness and contribute to the sustainability of life on land. Additionally, the office operates a Compost Waste Production Unit dedicated to environmental protection. In this unit, modern technologies are used to recycle organic waste into compost. Particularly, pre-consumer food waste is processed and transformed into organic fertilizer, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.



[KTU Zero Waste Coordination](#)



ORGANİZMA'DAN HABİTAT'A

TEMALAR

Krizler

iklim değişikliği,
küresel ısınma, savaşlar,
doğal afetler, çatışmalar,
pandemi, geçici kentler,
göçler, küresel sorunlar...

Çevre ve Yaşam Alanları

yapılı çevre, doğal çevre,
sosyo-kültürel çevre, merkez,
tarihsel çevre, kamusal alanlar,
ekolojik alanlar, konut alanları,
yeşil alanlar, sınırlar...

Yöntem

multidisipliner yaklaşımlar, fratal,
karşılaştırmalı çalışmalar, koruma
çalışmaları, tarihsel-coğrafya,
tipo-morfoloji, çeper-kuşak,
mekan dizimi,
yapay zeka,
algoritmalar...

Süreç ve

Yönetim

planlama,
mimarlık ve
tasarım, yasalar,
aktörler, politikalar,
uygulamalar,
müdahaleler...

Özet gönderimi

13 Ocak 2025

Özet kabul bildirim

7 Şubat 2025

Tam metin gönderimi

18 Haziran 2025

KTÜ

TMMOB

PEYZAJ MİMARLARI ODASI

TRABZON ŞUBESİ

LCI CHAMBER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

İLİTİŞİM

tnum25@ktu.edu.tr

https://tnum.org.tr/

Osman Turan Kültür Merkezi

Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi

TRABZON

12-14 Mayıs 2025

SÜREKLİLİK, SÜREKSİZLİK, YIKIM, YAPIM, KOPUŞ, İŞGAL

İLETİŞİM

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5th Urban Morphology Symposium: From Organism to Habitat

Organized by the Turkish Network for Urban Morphology Research and hosted by Karadeniz Technical University, the 5th Urban Morphology Symposium was held on May 12-14, 2025, at the KTÜ Prof. Dr. Osman Turan Cultural Center under the theme "From Organism to Habitat." The symposium addressed topics such as climate change, global warming, natural disasters, migration, green spaces, ecological areas, the natural environment, and living spaces from the perspective of urban morphology. Emphasizing that cities should be evaluated not only as built environments but also together with natural systems and habitats, the event contributed to academic awareness within the scope of SDG 15: Life on Land, particularly in areas such as ecological continuity, habitat conservation, green space planning, and the sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems.

Talk: "Designing the Future: New Methods in Garden Design"

The talk titled "Designing the Future: New Methods in Garden Design" was organized in collaboration with the Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Forestry at Karadeniz Technical University, and the Trabzon Branch of the Chamber of Landscape Architects (TMMOB), and was held on December 2, 2025, at the Ahmet Şener Amphitheater of the KTÜ Faculty of Forestry. The event featured international landscape architect Peter Donegan and addressed topics such as the future of garden design, contemporary landscape practices, design approaches in harmony with the natural environment, and the creation of sustainable open and green spaces.

The talk contributed to the objectives of SDG 15: Life on Land in terms of plant design, ecological landscape approaches, the conservation of green spaces, and strengthening the human-nature relationship. It also provided an important platform for experience sharing on nature-based design for both students and professionals.



Designing the Future: New Methods in Garden Design



PETER DONEGAN
MSGLD



2 Aralık Salı



10:30



KTÜ
Orman Fakültesi
Ahmet Şener Amfisi

*Peter Donegan is an
international landscape
architect, garden designer and
speaker based in Dublin,
Ireland.*





Event on Identifying Medicinal Plants on Our Campus

Organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy at Karadeniz Technical University, a technical field trip was conducted on May 30, 2025, within the scope of the Pharmaceutical Botany Practical Course, aiming to help students identify medicinal plants present in the campus flora. The event represents an important educational practice in terms of utilizing the botanical diversity of the university campus and increasing students' awareness of terrestrial ecosystems.

During the field trip, students were introduced to medicinal plants that naturally grow on campus or are included in landscape arrangements. Information was provided on the morphological characteristics, areas of use, and pharmaceutical botanical significance of these plants. The activity was guided by Prof. Dr. Salih Terziođlu and Lecturer Diren Uycan Saraç from the Faculty of Forestry, as well as Dr. Lecturer İçim Gökçaya, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Within the scope of SDG 15 - Life on Land, this activity makes a meaningful contribution by promoting the plant diversity of the campus ecosystem, raising students' awareness of biodiversity, and fostering an understanding of the conservation of medicinal plants. The event can be associated with educational efforts aimed at recognizing, protecting, and ensuring the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and plant species.

Furthermore, the activity highlights the university campus not only as an educational space but also as a living learning environment and a biodiversity area. Students' direct observation and identification of plants in the field supported the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical experience and strengthened their scientific and environmental awareness regarding the conservation of terrestrial life.



Life on Land Poster Event

Organized by Karadeniz Technical University Vocational School, a poster event titled "Life on Land" was held on May 28, 2025, with the participation of second-year students. The event aimed to raise students' awareness of the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, the sustainability of biodiversity, and the importance of natural habitats in line with SDG 15 - Life on Land.

Within the scope of the event, students prepared posters addressing the vital importance of protecting forests, mountains, desert ecosystems, and all terrestrial living beings for maintaining ecological balance. During the poster preparation process, research was conducted on topics directly related to SDG 15, such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil erosion, illegal hunting, climate change, and the conservation of natural habitats. The information obtained was presented through visual expression.



The posters emphasized the interdependent relationship between nature and human life, highlighting the role of healthy forest ecosystems in the water cycle, air quality, soil conservation, and climate balance. By demonstrating that every species within terrestrial ecosystems is an integral part of ecological balance, students conveyed the importance of individual and societal responsibilities in protecting nature.

During the poster presentations, students underscored the importance of being environmentally conscious individuals and encouraged the school community to reflect on and take action regarding the protection of natural life, the sustainability of biodiversity, and the need for awareness in the face of threats to ecosystems. The event strengthened collaboration and knowledge sharing among students while contributing to the development of environmental awareness and a love for nature across the school.

In this context, the "Life on Land Poster Event" stands out as a significant educational and awareness-raising activity within KTÜ's 2025 SDG 15 - Life on Land initiatives. It contributes to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, draws attention to biodiversity loss, emphasizes the importance of forests and natural habitats, promotes environmental awareness, and supports the development of a sustainable lifestyle culture among students.





Presentation on Biodiversity and Biopiracy

On May 15, 2025, an informative presentation titled "Biodiversity and Biopiracy" was delivered at Karadeniz Technical University. The event was organized to enhance students' knowledge and awareness of Türkiye's rich biological diversity, species conservation, and the impacts of biopiracy on natural ecosystems.

Within the scope of the presentation, the importance of biodiversity for the sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems was discussed, along with topics such as species protection, the sustainability of natural habitats, and the negative effects of biopiracy on ecosystem balance. It was also emphasized that biopiracy may lead to species loss, damage to genetic resources, and degradation of natural habitats.

The event contributed to increasing students' awareness of nature conservation, biodiversity sustainability, and ecosystem protection. Supported by participants' questions and discussions, the presentation served as an important educational activity for raising awareness on the protection of biological diversity.

In this context, the "Biodiversity and Biopiracy" presentation is considered a significant activity within KTÜ's 2025 SDG 15 - Life on Land initiatives, contributing to biodiversity conservation, prevention of species loss, sustainable management of natural habitats, and awareness-raising on combating biopiracy.





Green Homeland Mobilization Tree Planting Event

At Karadeniz Technical University, within the scope of SDG 15 - Life on Land, a tree planting event titled "Be a Breath for the Future!" was held on November 11, 2025, National Afforestation Day. The event was organized to increase green spaces on the university campus, protect the natural landscape, support plant diversity, and strengthen environmental awareness.



Within the scope of the event, various types of saplings were planted in the campus area with the participation of academic and administrative staff as well as students. Participants actively took part in the planting process, and the event was completed by watering the saplings. In this respect, the activity was not only a reforestation effort but also an awareness-raising initiative contributing to the development of an environmentally conscious culture within the university community, in line with the focus of SDG 15 - Life on Land. Considering the plant diversity and natural landscape values of the KTÜ campus, such afforestation activities are of great importance for the protection and development of the campus ecosystem. Increasing green spaces through tree planting contributes to supporting terrestrial ecosystems, enhancing plant diversity, improving habitat quality, and leaving a greener campus for future generations.







Tree Planting and Afforestation Activities within the Scope of SDG 15 – Life on Land

At Karadeniz Technical University, various tree planting and afforestation activities were carried out throughout 2025 with the participation of different units in line with SDG 15 – Life on Land. These activities made significant contributions to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, the expansion of green spaces, the strengthening of environmental awareness, and the development of a sense of responsibility toward nature among students.

In this context, a tree planting event was organized on campus on November 11, National Afforestation Day, under the theme “Be a Breath for the Future!” Saplings of various species were planted with the participation of academic and administrative staff as well as students. The activity aimed to protect the natural fabric of the campus, support plant diversity, and leave a greener campus for future generations. Considering KTÜ’s natural landscape values and plant diversity, this initiative represents an important practice for the sustainability of the campus ecosystem.

In another activity carried out by university students on the same occasion, saplings were planted in a designated afforestation area within the scope of social responsibility. Students contributed to nature by adopting saplings and supported raising environmental awareness and promoting a sustainable future. This event strengthened environmental responsibility by enabling students to directly engage with nature.



In addition, on December 23, 2025, a total of 250 saplings were planted in the Şinik Organized Industrial Zone under the Akçaabat Forest Sub-District Directorate as part of a social responsibility project. Conducted with the participation of students and academic staff, this activity was organized to contribute to nature and increase environmental awareness, providing tangible support to regional afforestation efforts.

These tree planting and afforestation activities carried out within KTÜ are directly related to SDG 15 - Life on Land. The activities have created an important implementation area in terms of strengthening terrestrial ecosystems, increasing green spaces, supporting plant diversity, improving habitat quality, and promoting environmental awareness in society. At the same time, they have contributed to educating students as environmentally responsible individuals with a strong sense of nature conservation.



[Fidan Dikim Faaliyetleri](#)
[Fidan Dikim Faaliyetleri](#)



“Where Nature Exists, Humans Exist” Photography/Drawing Competition



Within the scope of KTÜ's 2025 SDG 15 - Life on Land initiatives, a photography/drawing competition titled “Where Nature Exists, Humans Exist” was organized to highlight the relationship between humans and nature and the similarities they share with the natural environment. The results of the competition were announced as part of the end-of-term event held on May 14, 2025.

The event contributed to students' observation of nature, their interpretation of the human-nature relationship from an artistic perspective, and the development of awareness toward the natural environment. Through photography and artwork, the role of nature in human life, the aesthetic and ecological value of natural elements, and the connection between humans and terrestrial ecosystems were made visible.

This competition is considered an important cultural and awareness-raising activity within the context of SDG 15 - Life on Land, in terms of increasing environmental awareness, strengthening students' connection with the natural environment, and supporting sensitivity toward the protection of terrestrial life through artistic means. The event also enabled university students to contribute through creative works on sustainability, love of nature, and environmental responsibility.



15 LIFE
ON LAND





IASON+ Project Kızılırmak Delta Spring Field Study

Within the scope of KTÜ's 2025 SDG 15 - Life on Land initiatives, a spring field study was conducted at the Kızılırmak Delta between May 29-31, 2025 as part of the IASON+ Project. The study was carried out to monitor invasive alien species in the Kızılırmak Delta and to assess their impacts on ecosystem services.

During the fieldwork, the distribution patterns and ecological effects of identified invasive alien species in the delta were examined. In this regard, the study aims to produce significant scientific data for the protection of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems, the conservation of biodiversity, and the sustainability of ecosystem services.

The work conducted under the IASON+ Project is planned as part of a two-year monitoring program. Through this long-term monitoring approach, it is aimed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of invasive alien species on ecosystems and to develop scientific assessments for the protection of natural habitats.

This field study stands out as an important academic activity within the context of SDG 15 - Life on Land, contributing to the monitoring of invasive species, the assessment of pressures on biodiversity, the protection of ecosystem services, and the sustainable management of natural habitats.



15 LIFE ON LAND



KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Sel, Taşkın ve Heyelanların Önlenmesinde Ormanların Rolü



Prof. Dr. Turgay DİNDAROĞLU
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Orman Mühendisliği Bölüm Başkanı

18 Haziran | KTÜ Radyo/TV
11.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Yaban Hayatı ve Ormancılık



Prof. Dr. Günay ÇAKIR
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Yaban Hayatı Ekolojisi ve Yönetimi Bölümü

27 Mayıs | KTÜ Radyo/TV
11.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

İklim Değişikliği Sürecinde Ağaç Türlerinin Adaptasyon Stratejileri



Prof. Dr. Zafer YÜCESAN
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Orman Mühendisliği Bölümü

4 Aralık | KTÜ Radyo/TV
14.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Ağacın Gölgesi Odunundan Değerli



Prof. Dr. Mustafa Fehmi TÜRKER
KTÜ Orman Mühendisliği Bölümü
Orman Ekonomisi Anabilim Dalı

8 Nisan | KTÜ Radyo/TV
11.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Mantarların Gizemli Dünyası



Prof. Dr. Sibel YILDIZ
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Orman Endüstrisi Mühendisliği Bölümü

25 Eylül | KTÜ Radyo/TV
14.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Biyçeşitliliğin Değerlendirilmesi: Arktik ve Akdeniz Seferleri



Doç. Dr. Rafet Çağrı ÖZTÜRK
18.12.2025 Saat: 15:00
Konferans Salonu



Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Türkiye'de İnsan-Yaban Hayatı Çatışması



Doç. Dr. Ahmet ARPACIK
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Yaban Hayatı Ekolojisi ve Yönetimi Bölümü

6 Kasım | KTÜ Radyo/TV
14.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

KTÜ BİLGİLENDİRİYOR

Orman ve Su



Prof. Dr. Turgay DİNDAROĞLU
KTÜ Orman Fakültesi
Orman Mühendisliği Bölüm Başkanı

9 Ekim | KTÜ Radyo/TV
14.00 | Canlı Yayın

Radyo KTÜ 1017 • ktuedu.tr/radyotv • www.youtube.com/ktufv

Forest, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Awareness Activities within the Scope of SDG 15 – Life on Land

Within the scope of KTÜ's 2025 SDG 15 – Life on Land initiatives, various informational and awareness-raising activities were carried out on forest ecosystems, wildlife, biodiversity, fungi, tree species, and ecosystem services.

In this context, KTÜ Radio/TV programs were organized under the titles "Wood Is More Valuable Than the Shadow of a Tree," "Wildlife and Forestry," "The Role of Forests in Preventing Floods, Torrents, and Landslides," "The Mysterious World of Fungi," "Forest and Water," "Human-Wildlife Conflict in Türkiye," and "Adaptation Strategies of Tree Species in the Process of Climate Change." These programs addressed the ecological value of forests, wildlife conservation, human-wildlife relationships, the role of fungi in ecosystems, forest-water interactions, the importance of forests in reducing disaster risks, and the adaptation of tree species to changing environmental conditions.

In addition, a seminar titled "Assessing Biodiversity: Arctic and Mediterranean Expeditions" shared scientific studies on monitoring and evaluating biodiversity across different ecosystems. These activities provided significant contributions within KTÜ's SDG 15 – Life on Land framework by supporting the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable forest management, increasing biodiversity awareness, conserving natural habitats, and emphasizing the importance of ecosystem services.





Academic Contributions

Karadeniz Technical University continued its academic production in 2025 within the scope of SDG 15 - Life on Land, focusing on terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, forest resources, natural habitats, land use, ecosystem services, and sustainable environmental management. The university's scientific studies related to this goal include journal articles, conference papers, and book chapters, gaining visibility in both national and international academic databases.

According to the 2025 data, a total of 25 full-text articles, 4 conference papers, and 3 book chapters related to SDG 15 - Life on Land were identified within KTU. These studies contribute to scientific knowledge production in areas such as the protection of terrestrial life, biodiversity sustainability, management of forests and natural ecosystems, environmental monitoring, and ecosystem conservation.

An analysis of the indexing status of these publications shows that 15 were indexed in SCI-E, 3 in SSCI, 19 in Scopus, 5 in TR Dizin, and 2 in ESCI. These findings indicate that KTU's academic output in the field of SDG 15 is visible in both international citation indexes and national academic platforms. Considering that some publications may overlap across different indexing categories, the data demonstrate that the university's scientific contributions related to terrestrial ecosystems are represented across multiple academic platforms.





Sustainable KTU

Prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Makbule ONUR

Asst. Prof. Demet Ülkü GÜLPINAR SEKBAN

This publication has been prepared by KTU Office of
Research Coordination



www.ktu.edu.tr/sustainability



surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr