



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable Development Goal_14 (life Below Water) Report

Al-Balqa Applied University
2025

Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU) is a prominent public university in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with a student body of over 60,000 and multiple satellite campuses across the country. BAU's vision is to excel as a globally competitive applied university, renowned for creativity, innovation, applied scientific research, and leadership. The university is dedicated to fostering Jordan's knowledge economy and society, delivering high-quality education that equips students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



Spanning an estimated **11,100,000 m²**, BAU's campuses are home to a wide array of educational, research, medical, sports, and cultural facilities. Additionally, the campuses feature extensive green spaces and recreational areas, creating a vibrant, supportive environment for student development and engagement.

BAU's main campus is located in the ancient city of [As-Salt](#), in Al-Balqa' Governorate, home to a number of important cultural and historical sites, and a [UNESCO world heritage](#) site. Built by Macedonians, [As-Salt](#) occupied an important trading position by Roman, Byzantine, and Mamelukes. Along with its historical value, As-Salt city is located 20 minutes from the lowest point on earth, the [Dead Sea](#) and is very close to the [holy baptism site of Jesus Christ](#) on the East bank of the Jordan River. A sunny day at As-Salt rewards visitors with a breathtaking view of the holy lands.

Alongside BAU's main campus, the university's satellite campuses are hubs for quality education and research and offer students the opportunity to explore Jordan's rich cultural heritage. For example, [Aqaba University College](#) located in Jordan's only port, offers maritime transport technology programs as well as easy access to the golden triangle of [Petra](#), [Wadi Rum](#) and [Aqaba](#). And Shoubak University College, which is located close to the stunning [Dana Biosphere Reserve](#). and [Huson University College](#) in the north, which closest to [Jerash](#) which is the second to Petra on the list of favorite destinations in Jordan

Al-Balqa Governorate is a province of intellectual heritage and folklore, and it is popular for recreational and religious tourism; traveler may visit many ruins and sacred shrines for Prophet Shu'ayb (Maqam Nabi Shu'ayb), Prophet Joshua Ben-nun, Prophet Gad Ben Jacob, Prophet Ayub, Prophet Hazir, and Prophet Gilad (May Peace Be Upon Them), as well as the shrines of two of Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) Companions: Abu Obeida Al-Jarah and Dirar Ibn Azwar.

Such an integral role along with other cities of the Kingdom was deeply rooted during the establishment of the Emirate of Jordan in 1921 moving towards developing the country. Salt City was prominent with its scientific and educational legacy, which was marked by the founding of Salt School, inaugurated by His Majesty King Abdullah the First – may God rest his soul – (Prince at that time) in 1923, to be the first school in the kingdom having its graduates as great officials and leaders of the nation.

Upon firmly acknowledging the educational and scientific long history of Salt City along with its leading role in the field of education by the Hashemite leadership, Late King Hussein Bin Talal – May God rest his soul – honored Balqa' governorate by the issuance of the royal decree to establish Al Balqa Applied University in Salt city on the 22nd of August 1996. This has enhanced the city's role, commemorated the pioneers of its early graduates, and scientifically empowered its legacy which we hope to continually flourish.

Our Strategic Response

BAU operates through a network of campuses across Jordan, covering diverse climatic regions from the highlands in the mid-west to the arid governorates in the south and far east. This geographical diversity has driven BAU to undertake extensive initiatives in climate variability and adaptation, establishing itself as a leader in climate resilience.

BAU is at the forefront of research and innovation in areas such as water conservation, drought management, capacity building, and technology transfer. Its initiatives span solar energy, wastewater treatment and reuse, and smart agriculture. The university has also introduced specialized academic programs in fields like smart agriculture, water treatment, smart buildings, and electric and hybrid vehicles, alongside conducting numerous climate change awareness activities.

On another hand (BAU) adopts the United [Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(UN SDGs\)](#), and Paris Agreement goals which are adopted by all nations as a universal call to protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 through ethical management of resources, openness to societies and contributing to their development and solving their problems, and creating a conscious generation of its students who adopt the dimensions of sustainable development in their lives, directing scientific research to contribute to achieving sustainable development, and strengthening national and international partnerships, also (BAU) became a member of [United Nations Academic Impact \(UNAI\)](#), and [United Nation - Sustainable Development Solution Network \(UNSDSN\)](#).



INTRODUCTION:

BAU has adopted a sustainability-driven approach rooted in continuous improvement, with a mission to fully integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its core strategies, policies, and daily operations. This commitment has inspired transformative initiatives, projects, and programs across all faculties and campuses. Through responsible resource management, innovative teaching, impactful research, and strong national and international partnerships, BAU continues to redefine its institutional identity as a leader in sustainability.

To strengthen its contribution to the SDGs, BAU established a **dedicated [Sustainability Office](#)** and implemented best practices that have earned international recognition. Remarkably, the university ranked **first nationally and 2nd in the Arab region**, and **53rd globally** in the **2023 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings**.

These accomplishments align with the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which serve as a guiding framework for meaningful action toward people and the planet. By embracing these goals, BAU continuously assesses its progress and sets clear priorities for future advancement.

BAU remains steadfast in empowering students as agents of change, community leaders, and responsible global citizens. Faculty and students actively engage in sustainability-oriented education through diverse courses, academic programs, and research projects that advance SDG principles in teaching, learning, and innovation.

In alignment with its [Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#), BAU continues to pioneer innovative approaches through training programs, applied research, and community engagement initiatives—all designed to contribute effectively to the realization of the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



INTRODUCTION:

Goal 14 aims to conserve and sustainably (Life below water)use oceans, seas, and marine resources essential for life on Earth. Oceans cover 75% of the planet, hold 97% of its water, and provide 99% of its living space. They regulate climate, absorb carbon, supply food and medicines, and protect coastlines. Yet, they face severe threats from pollution, overfishing, warming, and acidification.

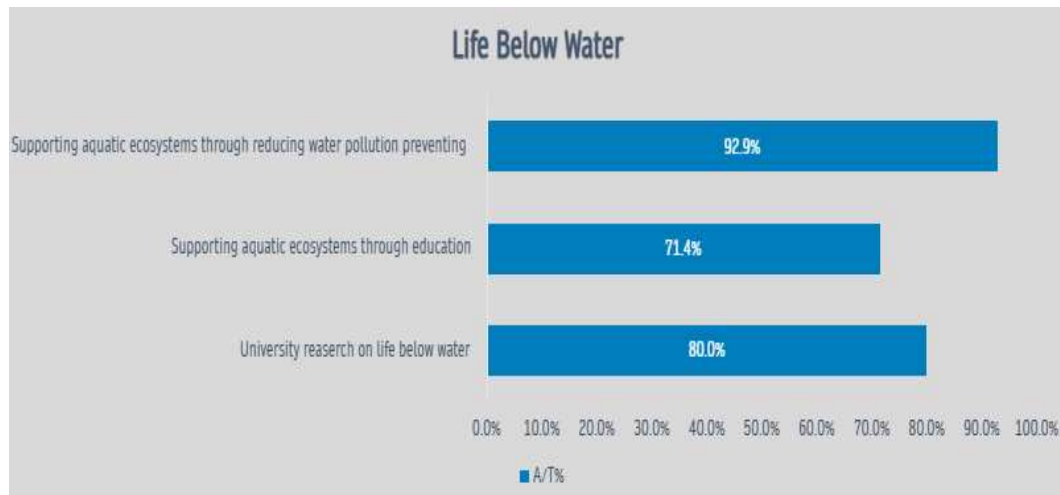
Marine pollution is escalating, with 17 million metric tons of waste in 2021, expected to double or triple by 2040. Plastic is the most harmful pollutant, costing \$13 billion annually in cleanup and economic losses. Ocean acidification has increased by 30% since pre-industrial times, endangering marine life and food security. Coral reefs are in crisis the fourth global bleaching event has affected 84% of reefs worldwide between 2023 and 2025.

Despite progress, only 8.4% of oceans are protected, far below the 30% target for 2030. Oceans absorb 23% of annual CO₂ emissions and over 90% of excess heat, but this comes at the cost of marine heatwaves and ecosystem collapse. Coastal tourism, worth \$134 billion annually, also poses risks if unmanaged.

Urgent action is needed: expand marine protected areas, reduce pollution, support sustainable fisheries, and invest in ocean science. The ocean is our planet's life-support system; protecting it is vital for a sustainable future.

With the global population projected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050 and the intensifying impacts of climate change, the sustainable use of water and ecosystems for food security presents a monumental challenge. BAU recognizes the critical importance of understanding the intricate interplay between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and their profound impact on water availability and quality. The uncertain consequences of climate change on ecosystems—and their cascading effects on water and food security underscore significant concerns. Projections indicate

increased vulnerability to environmental damage, diminished ecosystem services, and reduced resilience, demanding urgent action and innovative solutions.



[Strategic Achievement for SDG14/2025](#)

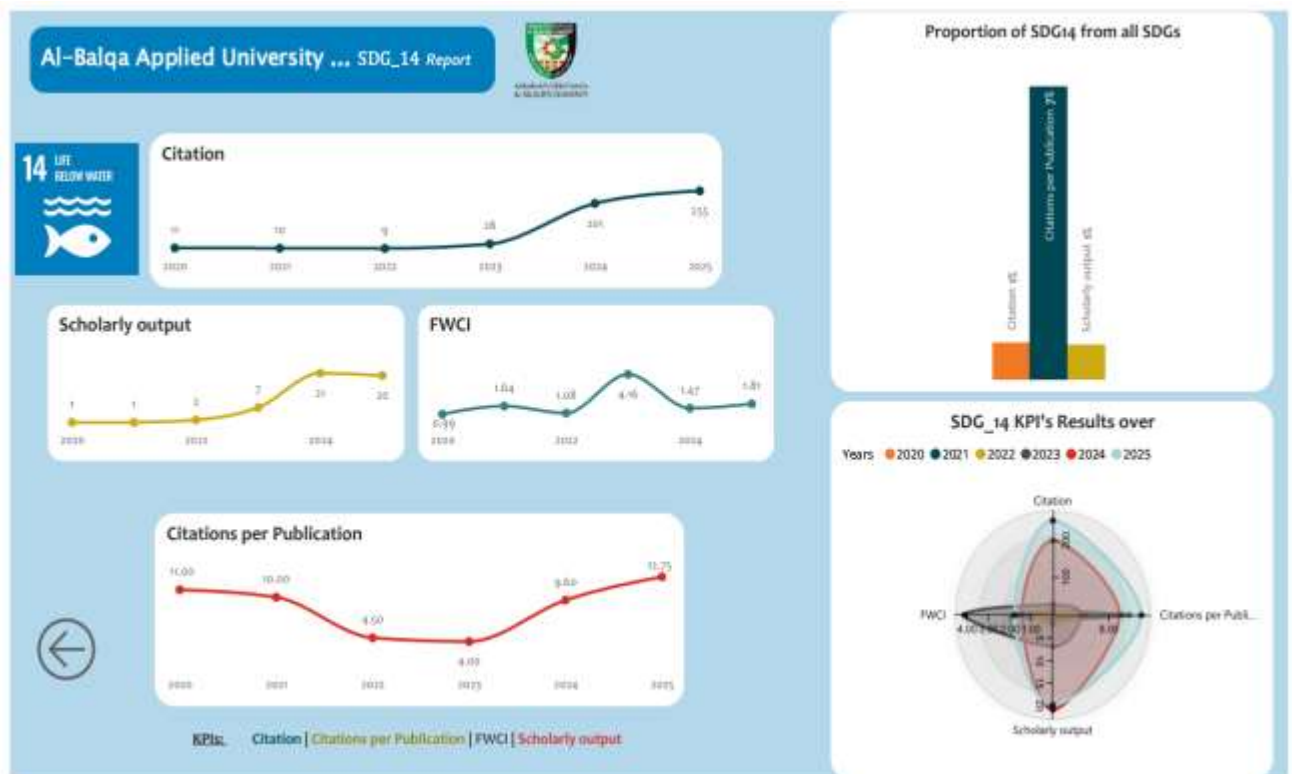
PRACTICES

BAU has established a dedicated policy for Food from Aquatic Ecosystems, designed to ensure the provision of food for the university community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This policy emphasizes the preservation of biodiversity as a cornerstone for maintaining marine sustainability.

In alignment with its commitment to **Conserving and Sustainably Using the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development**, BAU has outlined the following key objectives:

1. **Advancing Scientific Research:** Supporting and fostering research initiatives in fields related to marine and aquatic ecosystems.
2. **Promoting Education on Aquatic Ecosystems:** Integrating education programs focused on life below water to raise awareness and understanding of marine conservation.
3. **Reducing Water Pollution:** Actively working to prevent water pollution as a means to support and sustain aquatic ecosystems.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



Analysis of SDG 14 indicators demonstrates steady progress in scholarly contributions addressing ocean health and marine resource sustainability. While scholarly output and citations have improved, FWCI values indicate room for enhancing research influence. Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and focusing on critical issues such as marine pollution, ocean acidification, and biodiversity protection will help align efforts with global targets. These trends affirm the university's commitment to supporting sustainable ocean management through impactful research

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