University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka







IN OUR HANDS

Sustainability Report 2024

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



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It is with immense pride and honor that I send this message to the Sustainability Report - 2024 of the University of Peradeniya.

The University of Peradeniya has been one of the two best-ranked universities in the country. The United States News and World Report has considered the University of Peradeniya as the only Sri Lankan university within the world's best 2000-odd universities while the university has also been ranked number 1 by Times Higher education impact ranking. This highlights the commitment of the university towards achieving the sustainable development goal 4 'Quality Education'. The University of Peradeniya has also been ranked number 1 in GreenMetric ranking for the year 2024 in Sri Lanka which highlights the commitment of the University of Peradeniya towards sustainability.

Blessed with more than 1900 acres of land, the university has retained a natural forest cover of over 64% with many other natural resources. There are many university academics at Peradeniya who are working toward sustainable development goals at national and international levels in many a field including energy and power, environment management, and poverty and hunger. The university has been working hard towards achieving sustainable development goals over the past few decades. Provision of residential facilities for nearly 70% of its student population, offering food at very low cost, and providing sports and recreation, health, and other facilities free of charge are a few examples. Coupling the university buildings and residential halls to municipality wastewater and sewerage management system, taking steps to re-commence the water supply project that had been stalled due to the global pandemic and the economic downturn. It is noteworthy to mention that plastic bottle collection for recycling was initiated across the university. Furthermore, the Hanthana Regreen Project of tree planting and river bank protection activities were also effectively continued in the year 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the statistical officer and her team for the elegant publication of the sustainability report.

Prof. Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor



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The University of Peradeniya's 2024 Sustainability Report reaffirms our unwavering commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Sri Lanka's largest and most diverse higher education institution, we recognise our responsibility to lead in sustainable practices, community engagement, and innovative responses to global challenges.

This report highlights our contributions across all 17 SDGs. To reduce economic barriers and enhance access, we support 65% of our undergraduates through financial aid and part-time employment opportunities, strengthening equity and social mobility. In line with Goal 2: Zero Hunger, we provide nutritious, subsidised meals and promote food security through sustainable agricultural practices.

Our commitment to Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being is reflected in free medical services, counselling, and sports facilities that nurture a thriving campus community. Through curriculum innovation, inclusive policies, and quality initiatives, we advance Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 5: Gender Equality, ensuring a supportive learning environment for all students.

We also prioritise environmental responsibility. Our water management, energy conservation, and renewable energy initiatives directly contribute to Goals 6 and 7, while our investments in career readiness, research, and infrastructure align with Goals 8 and 9. Furthermore, our programmes for climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource use underscore our dedication to Goals 13, 14, and 15.

Inclusivity remains at the heart of our mission. By addressing inequality (Goal 10) and promoting sustainable communities (Goal 11), we seek to create a more just and resilient society. Finally, recognising that real progress demands strong partnerships, we continue to strengthen collaborations with local authorities, industry, and international partners in pursuit of Goal 17.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our students, staff, and partners for their steadfast commitment. Together, we are building a future defined by sustainability, resilience, and equity.

Prof. Ranjith Pallegama
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

1. Introduction

The University of Peradeniya, established in 1942 as the successor to the University of Ceylon, is Sri Lanka's premier higher education institution. Nestled at the foothills of the Hantana Mountain Range, the university is celebrated not only for its breathtaking 700-hectare "Garden University" campus but also for its unwavering commitment to academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and societal impact.

In 2024, the University maintained a strong presence in major global ranking systems, securing the No. 1 position in Sri Lanka in the THE Impact Rankings, U.S. News & World Report University Rankings, and UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. Notably, the University achieved a world ranking of 192 in the UI GreenMetric rankings, placing it among the top 200 universities globally for sustainability. Across other systems, Peradeniya is ranked within the top 600–1400 worldwide, reflecting its growing reputation for innovation, sustainability, and inclusive education.

With nine faculties, four postgraduate institutes, and numerous research centers, the university fosters a multicultural and pluralistic academic environment where diverse perspectives converge to address global challenges. Its mission extends beyond academia—serving the nation, the region, and the world through knowledge dissemination, transformative education, and sustainable development initiatives.



2. A Legacy of Sustainability & Global Recognition

The University of Peradeniya has earned international acclaim for its sustainability leadership, securing the top position in Sri Lanka, 10th in South Asia, 101st in Asia, and 192nd globally in the 2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. With an impressive score of 8,050 out of 10,000 the university has been placed in the prestigious Gold Cluster, reflecting its exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship.

Key achievements in the GreenMetric rankings include with earned scores

- Setting & Infrastructure (SI): 1,300
- Energy & Climate Change (EC): 1,550
- Waste Management (WS): 1,125
- Water Conservation (WR): 750
- Sustainable Transport (TR): 1,600
- Education & Research (ED): 1,725

This remarkable progress—an 87-point global ranking improvement since 2023—is a testament to the university's strategic sustainability initiatives, spearheaded by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES).



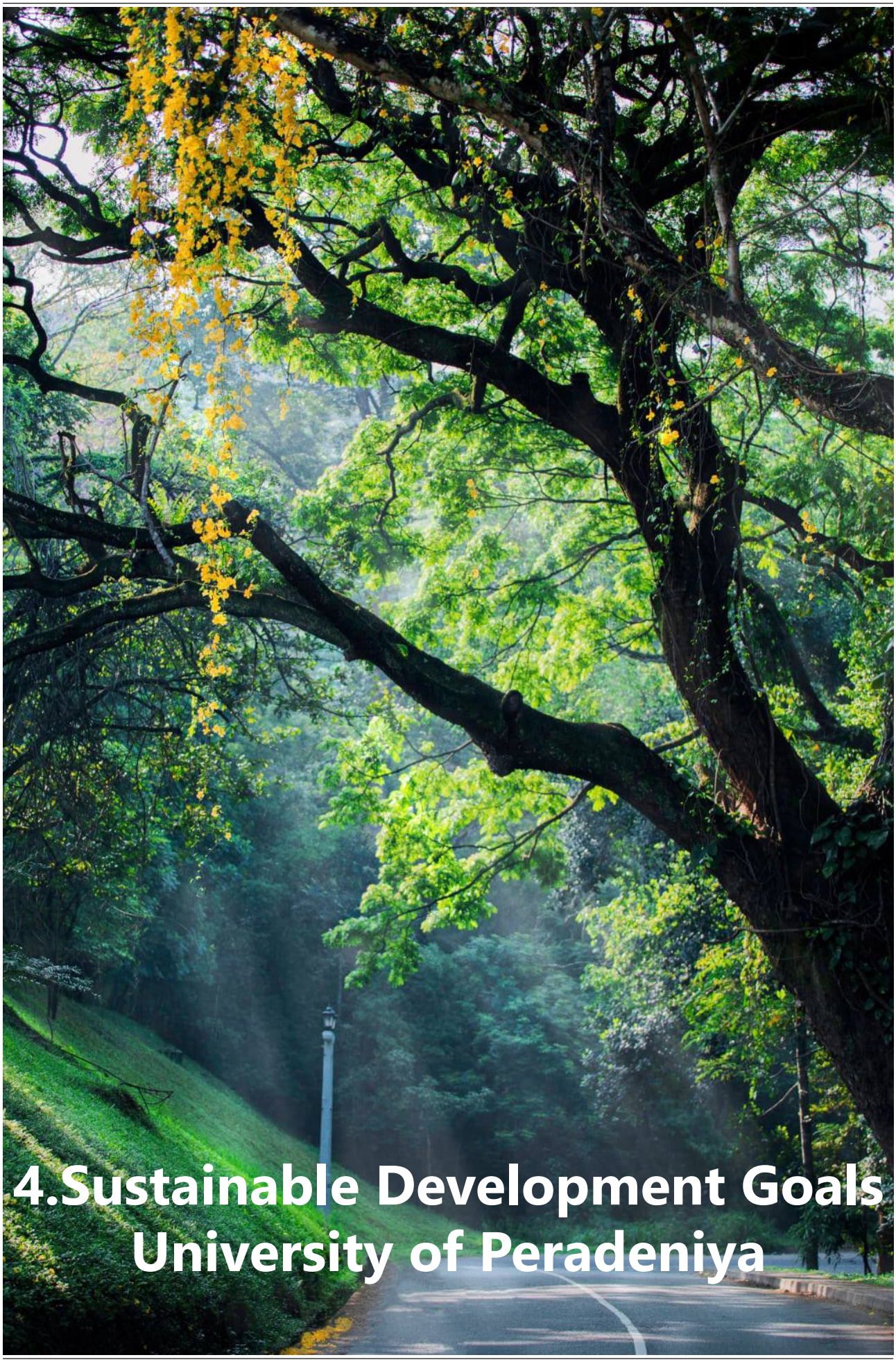
3. Vision for a Sustainable Future

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University of Peradeniya is dedicated to:

- Producing graduates who are academically proficient, socially responsible, and environmentally conscious.
- Advancing research that addresses climate change, resource efficiency, and equitable development.
- Strengthening community engagement through outreach programmes, green policies, and global partnerships.

As we present this 2024 Sustainability Report, we celebrate the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and partners in driving sustainable transformation. Moving forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to innovate, inspire, and lead—ensuring a greener, more equitable future for generations to come.
For more details on our GreenMetric achievements, visit: UI GreenMetric Rankings 2024.





4.Sustainable Development Goals University of Peradeniya

GOAL 1 No Poverty

The University of Peradeniya recognises education as a powerful instrument in breaking the cycle of poverty. In line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, the university is committed to ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent students from accessing and completing higher education. This commitment is reflected through extensive financial support schemes, welfare services, and initiatives aimed at enhancing employability and long-term economic resilience.





Financial Support for Students

In 2024, the University continued to provide substantial financial aid, benefiting a significant portion of its undergraduate population. A total of 8,804 students (65%) received support through the following schemes

- **Mahapola Scholarship Scheme:** Funded by the government, this programme supported 7,762 students with monthly stipends to cover living and academic expenses.
- **University Bursary Scheme:** Administered by the university based on financial need, this scheme assisted 833 students facing economic hardship.
- **Other Scholarships:** Contributions from alumni and donors enabled an additional 209 students to receive targeted financial assistance.

These multi-tiered financial aid mechanisms ensure equitable access to education for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP)

To support students while enhancing their employability, the Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP) offers part-time, on-campus traineeships. In September 2024, the Career Guidance Unit held the awarding ceremony for MMF Phase II of WSAP. Over 300 students applied, and selected students were placed in various university departments. Funded by alumni and donors, WSAP provides both financial support and valuable work experience, fostering responsibility, skill development, and career readiness.







Student Welfare and Support Services

Beyond direct financial aid, the University provides essential support services to enhance student well-being and reduce financial burdens

- **Subsidised Accommodation:** Over 55% of students were accommodated in 21 halls of residence and two Bhikku hostels, offering affordable housing on campus.
- **Free Medical Services:** The University Health Centre provided free medical care to 17,292 students in 2024.
- **Sports and Recreation:** The Physical Education Division offers free access to sports facilities and training, promoting physical and mental well-being.
- **Laptop Distribution:** In 2024, the university facilitated the distribution of used laptops to students in need, helping bridge the digital divide.

Employability and Community Impact

Beyond supporting students, the University contributes to poverty reduction through employment generation and impactful research

- **University as an Employer:** With 2,883 permanent staff in 2024, the university provides stable employment with benefits including free medical care, insurance, and loan schemes.
- **Community Services through Teaching Hospitals:** The University's teaching hospitals, including the Dental and Veterinary Hospitals, provide essential health services to the wider community.
- **Research for Economic Empowerment:** Notable research projects conducted in 2024 with potential community benefits include.
    - Development of algal-based biofertilizers for rice.
    - Use of potassium-solubilising microbes for enhanced crop growth.
    - Pre-breeding enhancement of stress-tolerant rice varieties, aiming to boost yields and reduce production costs for farmers.





Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its commitment to poverty alleviation through inclusive financial aid, welfare services, and strategic initiatives focused on employability and community development. Programmes like WSAP and data on scholarship distribution demonstrate a proactive approach to supporting students in need. The university's broader role—as a major employer and a centre for research and public service—further reinforces its contribution to addressing poverty at institutional and national levels. Going forward, the University remains dedicated to expanding these efforts and enhancing its impact on sustainable poverty reduction.

GOAL 2 Zero Hunger






The University of Peradeniya recognizes the fundamental human right to food security and actively supports Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger through a multifaceted approach. By ensuring access to affordable, nutritious meals maintaining high food safety standards conducting impactful research and engaging in community-focused initiatives, the university contributes to reducing hunger and promoting well-being both on campus and beyond.

Affordable and Inclusive Meal Options

In 2024, the University continued to provide affordable, diverse, and nutritious meal options through its on-campus dining facilities. These initiatives ensured that students and staff had consistent access to healthy food, supporting academic success and overall well-being. Meals were designed to accommodate a range of dietary preferences, fostering inclusivity and equity across the university community.

Food Safety and Quality Measures (2024)

The University upheld high standards in food safety and hygiene throughout its residential and dining facilities

- **Quality Monitoring Committees:** Food quality was routinely evaluated by committees comprising sub-wardens and student representatives within halls of residence.

- **Regular Inspections:** The Public Health Inspector, University Medical Officer, and Student Supportive Services and Welfare Systems (SSS&WS) Office conducted regular inspections to ensure compliance with food safety standards across all canteens and dining halls.

Research and Community-Focused Initiatives

The University contributed to national food security through research and initiatives aimed at improving agricultural practices and food system resilience:

- **Food Flow Mapping Project:** Led by the Faculty of Agriculture, this national-level project mapped the movement of seven major food commodities across all 25 districts of Sri Lanka. A technical report on the Colombo City Region Food System was released in 2024, offering data-driven insights into improving food distribution, affordability, and efficiency. The project was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, FAO, and IWMI, with funding from FAO's City Region Food Systems Programme and IWMI*'s Data* Analysis and Food Flow Mapping initiative.

- **Stress Tolerance Research in Rice:** The university's research into pre-breeding for biotic and abiotic stress tolerance in rice continued in 2024. The aim is to enhance rice production while reducing input requirements, thereby contributing to more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

On average, meals at university canteens are 54% more affordable than off-campus outlets.

Meal Item	Subsidized University Price	Regular Market Price (LKR)	Student Savings (LKR)
Vegetarian Mea	75	180	58%
Egg Meal	115	220	48%
Fish Meal	155	300	48%
Chicken Meal	165	350	53%
Noodles with Curry	120	225	47%
Dosa with Gravy	50	180	72%
String Hoppers	100	130	23%
Short Eats	40	100	60%
Plain Tea	15	40	63%

- **"Cultivation War" Initiative:** Initially launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative remained active in 2024, promoting sustainable living practices such as composting, organic fertiliser development, and tree planting within the university. It fostered physical well-being, environmental awareness, and food self-sufficiency among staff and students.











Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its commitment to Zero Hunger through accessible meal services, stringent food safety practices, and impactful agricultural research. Projects such as the Food Flow Mapping Initiative and stress-resilient rice research exemplify the University's role in shaping sustainable food systems at the national level. Meanwhile, on-campus efforts like subsidised meals and the "Cultivation War" initiative address immediate food security needs and promote a culture of sustainability. Collectively, these efforts highlight the University's holistic approach to combating hunger and enhancing food resilience across Sri Lanka.

GOAL 3 Good Health and Well-being

The University of Peradeniya is firmly committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being, recognizing that a healthy university community is fundamental to academic excellence and long-term societal impact. Through comprehensive healthcare, mental and physical well-being initiatives, research, environmental health management, and community outreach, the University fosters a supportive and health-conscious environment for students, staff, and the wider community.

Health and Safety Policy Framework

The University, through its internal quality assurance mechanisms, develops and enforces policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the health and safety of all stakeholders. Among these is the Health and Safety Policy, which outlines the responsibilities and protocols for creating a safe and healthy campus environment (Annexure).

Comprehensive University Health Services

The University Health Centre functions as a key institution providing accessible, round-the-clock healthcare services to nearly 40,000 individuals, including students, academic and non-academic staff, and their families. Operating similarly to a medium-scale government hospital, the Centre offers a broad spectrum of services free of charge. In 2024, it recorded 21,232 outpatient visits and 1,212 inpatient admissions.



Facilities and services include:

- Outpatient Department (OPD) and inpatient ward complex
- Clinical diagnostic laboratory
- Pharmacy and public health unit
- Physiotherapy Unit
- 24-hour university ambulance service
- Medical diagnostic and imaging services
- Preventive healthcare including vaccinations (Hepatitis B, ARV, TT) and NCD screenings
- Sports fitness examinations and thalassaemia screening for new students

Each student and employee is assigned a unique health file maintained until the end of their academic or employment tenure—making it the only known health service in Sri Lanka managing such extensive individual records at this scale.

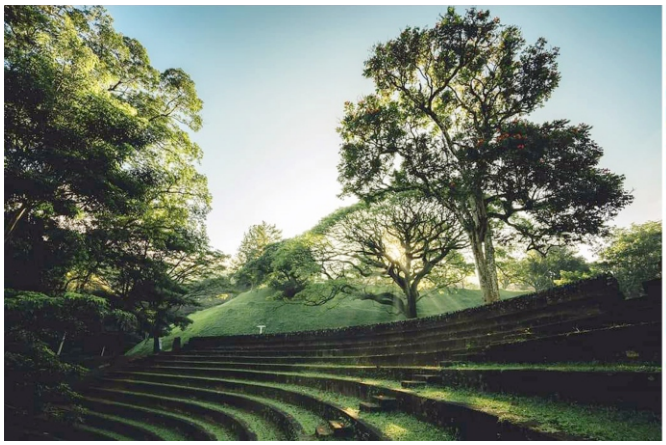
The Health Centre also facilitates:

- Medical boards and consultations
- Health education and awareness programmes
- Waste management and sanitation inspections
- Dengue prevention, pest control, and food and water safety monitoring
- A university-operated incinerator for medical and sanitary waste



Mental Health and Student Wellness

The University prioritizes student mental health through integrated services offered by both the Health Centre and the Counselling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU) Services include




- 24-hour access to professional counselling
- Individual and group therapy
- Referrals and follow-up care with Consultant Psychiatrists
- On-site support through the Intermediate Care Centre (ICC) for students discharged from psychiatric wards
- Wellness Learning Centre to support emotional regulation and relaxation

In 2024, no student suicides were reported, reflecting the growing success of the University's integrated mental health framework. Plans are underway to expand these services through the establishment of 'Yowun Piyasa', a dedicated student wellness space supported by UNICEF.
Health Promotion and Outreach Activities

The University implemented extensive outreach programmes in 2024, including

- Medical camps across all faculties for over 2,950 new entrants
- First Aid services during major university events such as convocations, sports meets, and student festivals
- Food and housing sanitation workshops for students and canteen owners
- HIV/AIDS awareness programmes targeting students in hostels and engineering faculties
- Public health education on mental health, nutrition, ethics, and communicable diseases

Through collaboration with local and national institutions, these programmes not only improve campus health but extend their impact to surrounding communities.

Advancing Clinical and Elderly Health Services

In 2024, the University expanded its contributions to national health advancement through the following initiatives.

- **National Clinical Pharmacy 'Train the Trainer' Workshop (July 2024):** Organised by the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, in collaboration with CASPPER, this workshop enhanced clinical pharmacy education with simulation-based training for university and national-level participants.

- **CAPAGE Project Launch (February 2024):** As part of the ERASMUS+-funded initiative, the University hosted the launch of CAPAGE (Promoting academic and professional excellence in healthcare to meet the challenges of ageing in Sri Lanka). The event included a community greening initiative at the Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya.





- **Recognition for Elderly Care:** Professor Chandrika Jayasinghe received a national award in 2023 for her contributions to improving elderly healthcare in Sri Lanka.

Research for Health and Environmental Well-being

The University also contributes to SDG 3 through its ongoing research agenda, with particular focus on health, environment, and agriculture. Notable research initiatives in 2024 included

- Development of algal-based biofertilizers and potassium-solubilising microbes to support sustainable agriculture
- Pre-breeding enhancement for stress tolerance in rice
- Studies in oral cancer prevention by the Centre for Research in Oral Cancer (CROC), in partnership with the National Cancer Control Programme
- Hosting of the International Conference of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (ICCES), facilitating dialogue on environmental health and resilience

Community Health Engagement

The University continued to extend its healthcare services to surrounding communities through

- Free medical camps and screenings
- Public health education campaigns on hygiene, reproductive health, and disease prevention
- Support for local hospitals and clinics through shared expertise
- Sustainable agriculture and nutrition programmes to enhance community food security
- Mental health outreach sessions conducted for the general public

Infrastructure Supporting Health and Well-being

The Physical Education Division maintains a wide range of sports and recreation facilities including

- Multiple sports fields and indoor stadiums
- A fully equipped gymnasium
- A swimming pool
- Expansive green spaces across the campus

These facilities encourage physical activity, social engagement, and mental wellness for students and staff alike.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 3 through a comprehensive and inclusive approach to health and well-being. From providing over 22,000 healthcare consultations to expanding mental health services, supporting elderly care, and delivering impactful research and outreach, the University demonstrated its role as a leader in advancing public health in Sri Lanka. These efforts continue to enhance the quality of life for the university community while contributing to national and global health objectives.

GOAL 4 Quality Education

The University of Peradeniya is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education by fostering inclusive, equitable, and high-quality learning environments. Through curriculum development, institutional reforms, global collaborations, digital innovation, and community outreach, the University plays a transformative role in shaping the future of education in Sri Lanka and beyond.



i. Enhancing Educational Opportunities

- **International Collaborations**
  The University marked 20 years of academic cooperation with the Royal Government of Bhutan by welcoming a new batch of Bhutanese students pursuing the MBBS programme under an enduring Memorandum of Understanding.
- **British Council Partnership**
  6.35Strategic discussions were initiated with the British Council to explore enhanced opportunities for student internships, learning initiatives, and shared academic resources.
- **Distance and Online Learning**
  The Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) introduced several new diploma programmes and submitted proposals for a new BSc degree. In line with the University's digital learning strategy, fully online courses are being developed with a projected investment of USD 2.5 million (2024–2028), targeting both national and international learners.

ii. Curriculum and Programme Development

- **Curriculum Revisions**
  Academic programmes were revised and introduced across faculties to reflect global educational trends. Notable additions include VLSI Design, Environmental Forestry, Agroecology, and a proposed joint PhD with RMIT University in Australia.
- **New Initiatives**
  Efforts are underway to establish a fully-fledged School of Law and a School of Education, which will enhance interdisciplinary academic offerings and contribute to national policy and teacher education.

iii. Quality Assurance and Institutional Excellence

- **Policy Reforms**
  The University Council approved several new policies to strengthen student engagement, assessment methods, quality assurance processes, and data privacy.
- **Internal Reviews**
  The Department of Law received an 'A' grade in the UGC Programme Review for its interdisciplinary, student-centred LL.B. curriculum an indication of institutional excellence and commitment to academic quality.





iv. Global Recognition and Rankings

- **International Visibility**
  The University actively pursued improvements in QS and Times Higher Education (THE) rankings. A new University website, enhanced faculty profiles, and digital engagement platforms were launched to support international visibility and collaboration.
- **Global Recognition of Faculty:**
  Several academics were recognised among the Stanford University Top 2% Scientists globally, underscoring the University's strong research culture and academic impact.



v. Inclusive Education and Equal Access

- **Inclusive Policies**
  The University continued its involvement in the Erasmus+ IncEdu Project, which focuses on enhancing accessibility for students with disabilities and promoting equity in higher education.
- **Scholarships and Mentorship**
  Financial support, mentorship programmes, and inclusive student services were provided to ensure underrepresented and disadvantaged students have equal access to quality education.

vi. Employability and Skills Development

- **Career Guidance and Internships**
  Industry collaborations and internship opportunities were expanded through initiatives such as the Dialog Connection Installer Programme, aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world skills.
- **Student Achievements**
  Students received national and international recognition, including awards in the Huawei "Seeds for the Future" programme and innovation awards at engineering competitions, reflecting the University's emphasis on skills-based learning.

vii. Teacher Training and Capacity Building

- **Clinical Pharmacy Educator Training**
  A National Clinical Pharmacy Workshop was conducted in partnership with Australian institutions, training educators through simulation-based teaching techniques.
- **Professional Development**
  In-service training was provided to dental surgeons and administrative staff, while HR development workshops on leadership, change management, and English language proficiency were offered to enhance institutional capacity.

viii. Educational Outreach and Community Engagement

- **Indoor Air Quality Campaign**
  In collaboration with the Education University of Hong Kong, over 600 schoolchildren and teachers participated in educational sessions on indoor air quality.
- **Support for Local Schools**
  Workshops, seminars, and teacher training programmes were conducted to improve the quality of education at the community level.
- **Awareness Programmes**
  The University hosted events promoting environmental health, gender equity, and social justice, such as the "Women's Histories of Sex Work" exhibition, reinforcing its role as a socially engaged institution.



ix. Strategic Infrastructure for Education

- **Smart University and Green Campus Vision**
  Strategic plans were initiated to transition Peradeniya into a Smart University, integrating digital classrooms, e-learning tools, and environmentally sustainable practices.
- **Infrastructure Expansion**
  The University invested in the construction and renovation of academic and residential facilities, including new laboratories, student accommodation, and training farms and hospitals, ensuring accessibility and sustainability.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya demonstrated its strong commitment to SDG 4 through inclusive education, innovation-driven curriculum development, strategic partnerships, and impactful outreach. By investing in digital transformation, infrastructure, and capacity building, the University continues to empower learners and educators while advancing quality education for all.



GOAL 5 Gender Equality



The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting gender equality and fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning and working environment for all. Through comprehensive policies, governance structures, and educational programmes, the University actively addresses sexual and gender-based harassment and violence (SGBV) while empowering all members of its community to participate equally in academic and professional life.

Policy Framework and Compliance

In alignment with national and international frameworks, the University's gender equality measures are guided by:

- Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20 of 1998
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1981)
- Sri Lanka Women's Charter (1993)
- University Grants Commission Circulars on Ragging and Gender-Based Violence (e.g., 04/2020, 12/2019, 02/2023)

Internal policies include

- University Policy and By-Laws on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence
- Faculty-level Gender Equity and Equality Policies
- Formation of Faculty Gender Committees and appointment of Gender Champions
- Code of Conduct for Academic Staff (By-Law No. 1 of 2017)

Governance and Support Mechanisms

- **Committee to Investigate Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence (CISGBHV):** Handles complaints and ensures due process.
- **SGBV Prevention Committee:** Oversees implementation of preventive strategies.
- **Handbook on SGBV Prevention:** Distributed to staff and students to raise awareness and promote safety.
- **Support Services:** The Centre for the Study of Human Rights offers counselling and assistance to survivors of gender-based violence.

Awareness and Educational Programmes

- **Orientation and Induction:** SGBV awareness integrated into student and staff orientation programmes.
- **Workshops and Webinars:** Faculty-wide training for academic and non-academic staff on gender sensitivity and policy implementation.
- **Gender Awareness Day 2024:** Organised by the Department of Sociology, with over 300 participants engaged in discussions on gender discrimination, violence, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

Education and Curriculum Integration

The University offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses that promote gender perspectives, including

- Gender Analysis in Micro and Macroeconomics (PGIHS)
- Gender and Development – Feminist Economics (PGIHS)
- Women's Fiction in English after 1800 (Faculty of Arts)
- Gender and Power; Gender and Politics (Political Science)
- Healthy Relationships (compulsory for Science undergraduates)

Gender Representation (2024)

Staff Distribution:

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Academic Staff	446	414	860	52%	48%
Academic Support	19	33	52	37%	63%
Non-Academic Staff	1464	648	2112	69%	31%
Total	1929	1095	3024	64%	36%

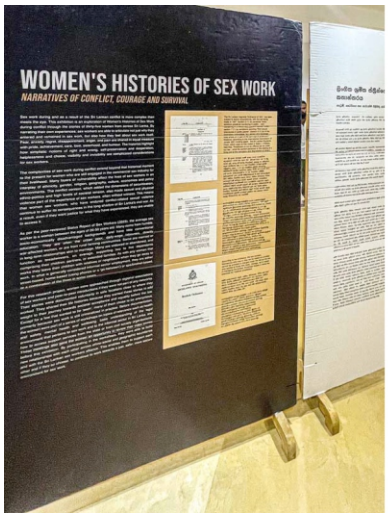
Student Gender

Faculty	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Agriculture	491	1010	1501	33%	67%
Allied Health Sciences	257	684	941	27%	73%
Arts	675	3707	4382	15%	85%
Dental Sciences	179	411	590	30%	70%
Engineering	1680	608	2288	73%	27%
Management	245	461	706	35%	65%
Medicine	635	816	1451	44%	56%
Science	1156	1349	2505	46%	54%
Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences	138	345	483	29%	71%
Total	5456	9391	14847	37%	63%

Outreach and Community Engagement

- University experts have served as national trainers in Ministries and public agencies on gender equality and human rights since 1993.
- Regular community training and awareness sessions on SGBV prevention are conducted in all three languages for diverse university audiences.








Notable Initiatives in 2024

- **Exhibition on Women's Histories of Sex Work:** Held in October 2024, the exhibition fostered awareness of marginalised women's experiences and featured interactive media, panel discussions, and educational materials on UOP's SGBV policy.
- **Appointment of First Female Acting Director – Student Accommodation Division:** Marking a milestone in leadership diversity, this appointment contributed to improved housing facilities for nearly 9,000 students.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its commitment to SDG 5 through robust policies, inclusive educational initiatives, and proactive community engagement. By fostering equity and respect, the University empowers all students and staff to contribute to a more just and gender-equal society.



GOAL 6

Clean Water and Sanitation

The University of Peradeniya is committed to ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for its community in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Through sustainable water management practices, effective sanitation systems, and research collaborations, the University safeguards the health and well-being of its students, staff, and the broader community.

Policy Framework and Compliance

The University's water and sanitation initiatives are guided by national and internal policies

- **National Policy on Protection and Conservation of Water Sources:** Ensures responsible use and preservation of water resources.
- **Internal Environmental Policy (2021):** Provides a framework for water conservation and sustainable resource management on campus.

Access to Safe Drinking Water (2024)

Ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water remains a priority

Water Supply and Monitoring

The University obtains its treated water from the Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka. In 2024, consumption totaled 1,769,892m^3, with a total mixed population of around 13700 (around 350 L/cap/day) distributed across campus and meeting stringent drinking water standards through regular monitoring and treatment. This figure appears high when compared to household consumption in Sri Lanka (typically 100–150 L/cap/day) or the World Health Organization's recommended minimum (50–100 L/cap/day). However, it is important to consider that university consumption goes beyond basic domestic needs, covering student residences, laboratories, canteens, administrative buildings, staff housing, agricultural fields, animal farms, and the maintenance of extensive landscaped grounds and green cover. The population is a mixture of residential and non-residential communities comprising of undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and non-academic staff. The per capita consumption is a very low figure in comparison to some of the garden universities across the globe where it goes beyond a figure of around 6,000 L/cap/day. However, many water reduction initiatives and awareness programs are initiated to reduce the water footprint.

Water Conservation Awareness

The university actively promotes responsible water usage

- **Awareness Programmes:** Educational programmes and campaigns are organised to raise awareness about water conservation among students and staff.
- **Sustainable Water Use Practices:** Community members are encouraged to adopt practices that minimise wastage and protect water resources.
- **Water reduction initiatives:** Metering projects at different units (faculties, hostels, and other entities) are in progress to ensure water responsibility. Flushing systems throughout the university are being modified to reduce water consumption.





Research and Innovation

China–Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology (JRDC)

- **Collaborative Research:** Conducts innovative research on sustainable water technologies with applications in Sri Lanka and abroad.
- **TRACE Partnership (2024):** Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TRACE to promote science, technology, and entrepreneurship. Planned initiatives include an Innovation Park, Common Production Facility, and Incubation Space, with support from the University's commercial arm to engage industry and entrepreneurs.
- Advanced capabilities of the JRDC offer a identifying and mitigating the factors contributing to waterborne ailments such as Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) emerged as a pressing issue in Sri Lanka.

Sanitation and Wastewater Management

The university implements systems for proper hygiene and cleanliness

- **On-campus Sewage Treatment:** Sewage is treated using sewage and soakage pits, following guidelines from the National Water and Drainage Board.
- **Connection to Municipal Sewerage System:** The university is partially connected to the Kandy Municipal Sewerage System, with ongoing efforts for full integration to improve wastewater management.

Waste Management

Effective practices are in place for responsible waste disposal

- **Garbage Collection:** Approximately 25,000 kg of waste is collected monthly and transported to disposal sites.
- **Incineration and Recycling:** An on-campus incinerator is used for clinical, sanitary, and plastic waste. Recyclable materials are separated and sold to external partners.
- **Empowering University of Peradeniya Undergraduates through PET Collection:** In 2024, the University of Peradeniya, through its Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES), partnered with Ceylon Cold Stores (CCS), a subsidiary of John Keells Holdings, to launch a significant PET bottle collection and recycling initiative. This programme, coordinated by CES as part of the university's broader waste management efforts, aims to empower undergraduates while promoting environmental responsibility.
- **Recycling and Reusing Laboratory Waste:** A new unit is being created to manage laboratory waste for recycling or reuse, aiming to generate revenue from these materials.

Community Well-being Initiatives

The university extends its commitment beyond campus

- **Outreach and Education:** Partnerships and initiatives raise awareness about sustainable water management and sanitation in the local community.
- **Collaborative Projects:** The university works with local authorities to address water resource challenges, sharing research findings from the JRDC.

Conclusion:

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya advanced SDG 6 through safe water provision, conservation awareness, effective sanitation systems, and innovative research partnerships. By integrating sustainable resource management with community outreach, the University contributes meaningfully to clean water and sanitation both locally and globally.

GOAL 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

The University of Peradeniya is committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Through education, policy, renewable energy projects, and community outreach, the University works to reduce its carbon footprint, promote renewable energy, and strengthen capacity for a sustainable energy future.

Policy and Institutional Commitment

Internal Policies

- Environmental Policy (2021) – Guidelines for energy efficiency and sustainable practices
- Internal Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022) – Promotes responsible energy use campus-wide

Compliance with National and International Frameworks

- Alignment with the Sri Lanka National Energy Policy (2019) to promote energy conservation and clean energy technologies
- Commitment to Sri Lanka's pledge for Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050 under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Education and Curriculum Integration

Clean and affordable energy topics are embedded into academic programmes to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to address global energy challenges. Key courses include

- **CP305:** Energy Systems Design
- **CP311:** Energy and Environmental Management in Process Industry
- **CP508:** Energy Technology for the Process Industry
- **EE404 / EE572:** Electric Power Systems
- **EE575:** Power Electronic Applications and Design
- **ME329:** Thermal Systems Design
- **ME330:** Energy Technology



Renewable Energy Expansion

1.2 MW Grid-tied Solar PV System (2024)

- First phase installed at three locations two sites in the Faculty of Engineering (total 820 kW) and one site at the Faculty of Arts – Department of Education (380 kW)
- Daily output exceeds 6,000 kWh, covering approximately 36% of the University's monthly electricity consumption (~500,000 kWh)
- An additional 300 kW system is under installation at the Faculty of Medicine, expected to raise coverage to 45%
- Equipment includes JA Solar Panels (590 W) and SOLAX™ inverters (50–125 kW)
- Executed by Hayleys Solar (Hayleys Fentons Ltd.) and completed in 90 days
- Expected to reduce annual electricity costs by at least one-third and enhance global sustainability rankings

Energy Conservation and Efficiency Initiatives

- Campus-wide installation of energy-efficient lighting systems
- Improved building insulation to reduce heating and cooling needs
- Smart building technologies for real-time management of lighting, ventilation, and energy loads
- Fire safety and energy waste minimisation training for residential students





Greening Infrastructure and Operations

Street and Communal Lighting Project (2024–2025)

- Replacement of conventional lights with solar PV-powered lamps, reducing grid dependency and operational costs (US$ 25,000 project value)

Green Electricity Vision (2024–2028)

- Rooftop solar potential exceeding 10 MW
- Strategic plan (US$ 1.5 million estimated investment) to install solar PV systems with hybrid inverters and battery storage, prioritising critical facilities such as laboratories, computing centres, and server rooms
- Goal of becoming a net-zero electricity consumer

Sustainable Transportation

- Promotion of cycling and walking, supported by campus infrastructure
- Mahailuppallama Campus serves as a model where cycling is the primary mode of commuting



Partnerships and Consultancy Projects

- In 2024, the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environmental for the consultancy project. "Developing/Adopting safety and Energy-efficient Standards for the Handling of Flammable/Toxic Refrigerants and Equipment in line with International Standards for the RAC Sector",funded with LKR 5 million

Community Outreach and Collaboration

- Sustainability outreach programmes to educate local communities on clean energy and conservation
- Collaborative research with national and international partners to develop locally relevant clean energy solutions

Recognition and Leadership

- Appointment of Professor T.M.W.J. Bandara (Department of Physics, Faculty of Science) as Chairman of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, contributing to national policy and practice in sustainable energy



Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya advanced SDG 7 through policy alignment, academic integration, renewable energy projects, energy efficiency measures, and community engagement. These efforts demonstrate the University's commitment to transitioning towards a clean energy future and contributing to national and global sustainability goals.



GOAL 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

The University of Peradeniya is committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Through education, training, ethical workplace practices, and community engagement, the University fosters skills development, supports fair labour standards, and promotes sustainable economic growth both within the University and in the wider society.

Policy Framework and Compliance

The University adheres to national labour laws and international frameworks to ensure fair labour practices, workers' rights, and decent working conditions, including:

- Labour Code of Sri Lanka
- National Minimum Wage of Workers Act No. 3 of 2016
- Trade Unions Ordinance
- Universities Act No. 16 of 1978

Education and Training for Decent Work

Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes incorporate ethical business practices, labour rights, and sustainable development principles. Examples include:

- **Faculty of Management:** Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) courses such as *Ethics in Human Resource Management*, *Business Law*, and *Employment Law*
- **Faculty of Allied Health Sciences:** B.Sc. (Hons) in Medical Laboratory Science – reporting 100% employability
- **Faculty of Arts:** Courses in *Industrial Sociology*, *Sociology of Family*, and *Economics of Labour Markets*
- **Faculty of Agriculture:** Courses such as *Business Psychology* and *Development Economics*
- **Faculty of Engineering:** A course *MA1100-Ethics and Sustainability* is introduced at the first year of the Engineering Degree Programme to educate the undergraduates on their professional responsibility towards ethical conduct and sustainable development.

Professional Development and Career Support





Staff Development Centre (SDC): Programmes for all staff categories to enhance professional capacity.

- **Career Guidance Unit (CGU):** Training workshops on decision-making, time management, CV writing, interview skills, leadership, and employability. Career coaching and a Certificate Course on Career Development are also offered.
- **Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP):** In 2024, traineeships were awarded under MMF Phase II (September) and NZ Phase II (October) for roles within the University.
- **Industry-Academia Engagement:** Events such as *Industry Day 2024* (Faculty of Science) and the *Accounting and Finance Industry Forum (AccFIN2)* connect students and graduates with private sector opportunities.

- **Technology and Digital Skills Development:** ITC training in Basic ICT Skills and the Diploma in IT (DITUP).
- **Entrepreneurship and Personality Development:** The *Business Career Advancement – Graduates Entrepreneurship Programme* and webinars on social entrepreneurship.
- **Faculty-Specific Initiatives:** English language training for executive officers (HRDU and DELT), workshops on teaching and learning (Medical Education Unit and Faculty of Management).
- **Sustainable Tourism Development:** The inaugural *National Sustainable Tourism Conference (NSTC 2024)* co-hosted by the Department of Geography.

Graduate Employability (2024)

Overall employability rate within 6 months of graduation: 71%

Faculty	Employability Rate
Faculty of Medicine	96%
Faculty of Dental Sciences	92%
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	96%
Faculty of Engineering	86%
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	88%
Faculty of Management	83%
Faculty of Science	72%
Faculty of Agriculture	69%
Faculty of Arts	49%

Community Well-being and Outreach

- **Community Career Development Programmes:** Certificate and diploma courses to improve employability.
- **Industry and Government Partnerships:** Training and local economic development initiatives.
- **Support for Local Entrepreneurs:** Training and technology demonstrations to strengthen small businesses and job creation.

Future Plans – CDP Report

To attract and retain academic talent, the University plans to enhance remuneration and staff facilities between 2025 and 2030. Proposed measures include expanded housing, improved loan schemes, school admission assistance, and streamlined administrative processes.








Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya advanced SDG 8 through strong policy compliance, academic programmes, professional development initiatives, and community engagement. By equipping students and staff with essential skills, promoting ethical labour practices, and supporting sustainable economic growth, the University contributes to both national development and the global decent work agenda.



GOAL 9 Innovation and InfrastruCture

The University of Peradeniya is committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Through strategic investments in physical and technological infrastructure, promotion of innovation, and industry collaboration, the University strengthens research capacity, supports entrepreneurship, and contributes to sustainable industrial development in Sri Lanka.

Policy Framework and Institutional Commitment

The University aligns its efforts with national priorities for industrial development and innovation, including

- Universities Act No. 16 of 1978
- Sri Lanka Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy
- National Policy on Industrial Development

Internal policies support infrastructure planning, technology transfer, and research commercialization.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- **Multidisciplinary National Innovation Center (MuNIC):** A hub for creativity and collaboration, supporting multidisciplinary research, technology transfer, and industry partnerships.
- **Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office (BLIITTO):** Facilitates knowledge and technology transfer, supports startups, and develops industry partnerships.
    - In 2024 Filed a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application, facilitated NDAs, signed a licensing agreement for an inverter and power control system, and advanced technology commercialization partnerships.
    - Signed MoUs with TRACE Expert City for the *University of Peradeniya Science Park* and with JICA and Japanese industry partners for research and incubation.
    - Conducted workshops, supported pre-acceleration programmes, and submitted a financial proposal for the *Pera Innovation Park*.

- **Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES):** Annual event recognising outstanding research achievements.
- **Maker Faire 2024:** Showcased microcontroller-based innovations and Internet of Everything (IoE) projects by students.
- **Open Business Ideation Summit:** Platform for students to present innovative business ideas.
- **Research Achievements:** Faculty and student recognition at MERCon 2024 and Techno 2024 for engineering and interdisciplinary innovations.

Infrastructure Development

- **Physical Infrastructure:** New lecture halls, laboratories, and research centres.
- **Vertical expansion of buildings:** to expand the capacity of buildings/laboratories many vertical expansions were carried out at the faculty of engineering as brown field development to avoid using green lands. The buildings were expanded from single-storey buildings to two-to-four-storey buildings 100% of the demolished material were repaired and/or reused at the same locations and other material were reused at different locations adhering to practices of sustainability.





Technological Infrastructure:

- Upgrading optic fibre network, expanding Wi-Fi coverage, and implementing high-speed connectivity (2024–2027, US$ 1.25 million).
- Establishing a Data Centre, Smart Classrooms/Labs, integrated ERP system, student information system, Smart LMS, digital library, and cybersecurity framework (2024–2028, US$ 1 million).

- **Transportation:** Shuttle services for students and staff plans for electric bicycles, scooters, and cars with charging stations (2024–2026, US$ 0.5 million).
- **Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MDRC):** Established in 2024 for Health-Science Research to integrate expertise from multiple faculties.





Human Capital Development

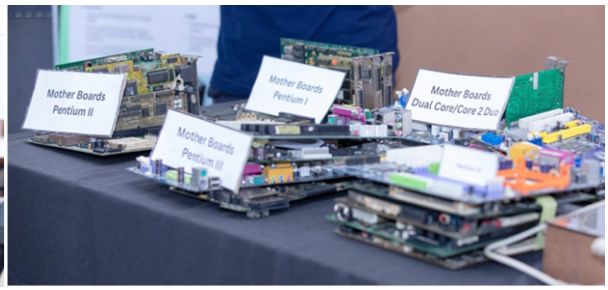
- **Career Guidance Programmes:** Entrepreneurship training and workshops on emerging technologies.
- **Human Resource Development Unit (HRDU):** Staff training programmes to enhance professional skills.

Research Excellence

- **Research Funding (2024):** Rs. 19.8 million in external research funding; Senate Research Committee support for academic projects.
- **Multidisciplinary Research Grants:** Awarded to 17 academic staff members.
- **Patents Secured:** Innovations in biostimulants, larvicidal agents, nano-fluorapatites, sand composites for water filtration, intelligent energy dispatch systems, and biofertilizers

Community and Industry Engagement

- Support for Local Industry: Technology transfer and industry partnerships to strengthen competitiveness.
- Entrepreneurship Support: Incubation services for local startups through BLIITTO and other University initiatives.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya advanced SDG 9 through strategic infrastructure investment, promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, strong industry partnerships, and high-impact research. By fostering a culture of innovation and building resilient infrastructure, the University contributes significantly to sustainable industrial development and economic growth in Sri Lanka and beyond.

GOAL10 Reduced Inequalities

The University of Peradeniya is committed to reducing inequalities and fostering an inclusive, respectful, and equitable environment in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10. Through policies, institutional structures, and outreach initiatives, the University promotes social justice, human rights, and equal opportunities, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Policy and Governance

Policy Alignment and Legal Compliance

The University operates in accordance with national and international equality frameworks, including the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996, ensuring dignity, rights, and equitable treatment for all individuals.

Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR)

The CSHR plays a central role in advancing equality and social justice through:

- **Research and Education**: Conducting studies and delivering educational programmes that strengthen understanding of human rights.
- **Advocacy**: Supporting marginalized populations and empowering students to champion equality and justice.
- **Public Engagement**: Organising events and dialogues that contribute to national and global discussions on equality.

Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence Prevention

The University's Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SGBVC) is dedicated to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment. Its work includes:

- **Awareness and Prevention:** Conducting training and outreach to prevent harassment and violence.
- **Complaint Resolution:** Implementing fair, transparent mechanisms to address grievances.
- **Support Services:** Offering assistance and counselling for affected individuals.

Promoting Inclusivity through Education and Culture

The University fosters diversity and inclusivity through programmes and events that celebrate pluralism, religious harmony, and cross-cultural understanding:

- **Pirith Chanting Ceremony (January 2024)** A multi-faith blessing ceremony with clergy from all four major religions, reflecting the University's commitment to cultural inclusion.



Multi-Faith Blessing and Cultural Harmony Ceremony (January 2024)
A spiritual event featuring clergy from all four major religions, symbolising the University's commitment to intercultural dialogue, peace, and inclusivity.

- **Support for Marginalised Groups:** Partnerships with local and national organizations to improve access to education, healthcare, and essential services.
- **Cultural Engagement:** Activities that strengthen mutual respect among diverse communities, contributing to national cohesion.

Key Initiatives and Events in 2024

- **English Language Programme for Executive Officers**
  Conducted by the Human Resource Development Unit with the Department of English Language Teaching, this programme enhanced executive staff communication skills, covering topics such as tense revision and telephone etiquette, supporting professional growth and equitable workplace advancement.

- **Exhibition – Women's Histories of Sex Work (14–16 October 2024)**
  Co-organized by the SGBVC and partners, this exhibition showcased photographs, narratives, and documentaries on the lived experiences of sex workers. It encouraged dialogue on consent, autonomy, and justice, and included a panel discussion, oral history workshop, and dissemination of the University's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harassment Prevention Policy handbook.

- **Musical Concert – සබාධක කරළිය (3 December 2024)**
  Celebrating World Disability Day, this event featured performances by 34 students with disabilities from the Faculty of Arts alongside guest artists. It promoted dignity, inclusion, and recognition of diverse talents, with strong support from University leadership.





- **Training of Trainers Workshop on "Learning to Live with Diversity" (February 2024)**
  Conducted by leading scholars and coordinated by the SGBVC with the UGC's Centre for Gender Equity and Equality, this workshop engaged 40 participants from all nine faculties to:

  - Raise awareness on cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity.
  - Promote a more inclusive and supportive academic environment.

Conclusion
In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its role in reducing inequalities through inclusive policies, targeted programmes, and cultural engagement. By aligning with legal frameworks, empowering marginalized groups, and fostering a culture of respect, the University continues to advance equality within higher education and the wider society.

GOAL 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities



The University of Peradeniya actively contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 by fostering sustainable, inclusive, and resilient campus environments. Through integrated planning, environmental governance, and strong engagement with students and communities, the University enhances quality of life both on campus and beyond.

Policy and Governance

Alignment with National and International Frameworks

The University aligns its sustainability initiatives with key global and national agreements, ensuring responsible and impactful action

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** – Biodiversity conservation is embedded in campus development and landscape management, with green infrastructure protecting endemic species and habitats.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** – Steps are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement climate adaptation strategies, contributing to resilient urban systems.
- **Internal Environmental Policy (2021)** – Guides sustainable campus development, including energy conservation, waste management, pollution control, and green infrastructure promotion.

Sustainable Campus Planning and Accessibility

- **Green and Open Spaces** – Extensive green areas, botanical gardens, and recreational spaces support ecological balance and wellbeing.
- **Accessible Infrastructure** – Ramps, lifts, and accessible restrooms ensure equitable access for persons with disabilities. The Special Needs Resource Centre plays a vital role in enabling full participation in academic and campus life.

Waste Management and Recycling

PET Bottle Recycling Programme

In 2024, the University, in collaboration with Ceylon Cold Stores (CCS) and coordinated by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), introduced a PET bottle recycling initiative:

- Ten collection bins distributed across faculties.
- Collection managed by selected student societies, with incentives of at least LKR 30,000 every two months.
- Bottles transported to certified recycling facilities for repurposing.
  This initiative promotes environmental responsibility, student participation, and behavioural change.

Environmental Education and Community Engagement

Inter-School Environmental Awareness Competition *(පරිසර තනු පැන පිළිතුරු)* – 15 August 2024

Organised by CES in collaboration with the Central Province Education Department, this competition at the PGIHS Auditorium involved 17 schools and over 200 participants:

- Aimed at improving environmental literacy among schoolchildren.
- Cash prizes of LKR 100,000, 75,000, and 50,000 awarded by the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP), sponsored by CCS.
- CES monitors sustainability projects at the winning schools.

Awarded Schools
1st Place – Dharmaraja College, Kandy
2nd Place – Wimaladharma National College, Atabage
3rd Place – Hemamali Girls' College, Kandy



Cultural Heritage and Preservation

UNESCO Recognition – Mahāwaṃsa Palm-Leaf Manuscript
On 17 July 2024, the Mahāwaṃsa manuscript in the University Library was added to the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.

- Comprising 238 palm leaves, it records Sri Lankan history from the 6th century BCE to 1815 CE.
- The UNESCO certificate was presented to the Chancellor by Director-General Audrey Azoulay at a special University ceremony.



Student Literary and Cultural Festival 2024 *(මාගේ දේශය අවදි කරනු මැන)*
Held from 9 October to 3 November 2024, the festival celebrated cultural expression through stage performances, literary discussions, art exhibitions, and traditional displays such as *valē kōlam*. The event encouraged creativity, cultural appreciation, and participation from diverse student groups.

Conclusion
In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its commitment to SDG 11 through sustainable campus planning, environmental education, inclusive infrastructure, and cultural preservation. By integrating policy compliance, community engagement, and heritage conservation, the University continues to contribute to creating sustainable, resilient, and inclusive communities.

GOAL 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting responsible consumption and production by aligning with national and international environmental policies, strengthening internal systems, and engaging the campus and broader community in sustainable practices.

Policy and Governance Compliance with National and International Frameworks
The University's sustainability initiatives are guided by key policy instruments that promote sustainable production and responsible resource use

- **National Policies:**
  - Environmental Policy (2003)
  - National Waste Management Policy (2019)
  - National Climate Change Policy (2011)
  - National Policy and Strategy for Cleaner Production (2005)
  - National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (2019)
  - National Drinking Water Policy (2009)
  - National Wetland Policy and Strategy (2006)
  - Sustainable Development Act (2017)
  - Marine Pollution Prevention Act (2008)

- **Internal Mechanisms:**
  - **Environmental Policy (2021)** – Outlines strategies to minimize environmental impacts across University operations.
  - **Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022)** – Provides guidance to reduce material and energy use in all University activities.

Sustainable Operations and Waste Management

- **Sustainable Procurement** – Prioritizing products and services with low environmental impact and ethical sourcing.
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling** – Separation and recycling of PET plastic, paper, and e-waste; food waste reduction and composting in student cafeterias.
- **Chemical Waste Storage Facility** – Newly established facility for safe handling and disposal of hazardous waste.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades** – Enhanced incineration facility with lightning protection and perimeter fencing to improve safety and pollution control.





PET Bottle Recycling Initiative

In 2024, the University launched a PET bottle recycling programme in collaboration with Ceylon Cold Stores (CCS), coordinated by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES)

- Ten PET collection bins placed across faculties.
- Collection managed by student societies, with financial incentives provided every two months.
- Collected bottles sent to authorized recycling centres.

This initiative promotes responsible waste management while encouraging student participation in practical sustainability actions.



Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Mobility

- Energy Conservation – LED lighting introduced in University buildings to reduce electricity consumption.
- Eco-Friendly Transportation – Shuttle buses provided for campus travel; staff and students encouraged to use public transport, cycle, or walk.

Curriculum and Awareness

- Curriculum Integration – Courses on sustainability, circular economy, and responsible business practices prepare students to contribute to sustainable development.
- Awareness Programmes – Seminars, workshops, and campaigns on responsible consumption foster an environmentally conscious campus culture.

Community Engagement

- Local Collaboration – Waste management awareness programme conducted with the Kandy Municipal Council to promote best practices among local businesses.
- Outreach and Training – Community workshops and public lectures organised to encourage sustainable living practices beyond the campus.









Highlighted Initiative – Zero Plastic Trail Campaign

On 25 October 2024, CES and the Environmental Management Committee of the Faculty of Arts, along with student societies, organised an Awareness and Shramadana Campaign as part of Sri Lanka's *Zero Plastic Trail*.

- Over 100 students and staff participated in clean-up activities, waste reduction efforts, and awareness programmes.
- The campaign promoted plastic-free living and strengthened collaboration between the University and its stakeholders.
- A formal agreement was signed between the Vice-Chancellor and CCS to distribute collection bins to student societies, with a structured process for plastic waste disposal and incentives for participation.

Conclusion

Through coordinated efforts in policy alignment, sustainable operations, energy efficiency, education, and community engagement, the University of Peradeniya continues to advance SDG 12. Initiatives such as PET recycling, sustainable procurement, and the Zero Plastic Trail campaign demonstrate the University's proactive approach to responsible consumption and production both on campus and in the wider community.



GOAL 13

Climate Action

The University of Peradeniya is committed to addressing climate change through policy-aligned action, energy conservation, sustainable resource use, and active engagement with students and the wider community. These initiatives advance Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 by enhancing climate resilience and reducing environmental impact across all University operations.

Policy and Governance

Compliance with National and International Frameworks

The University's climate initiatives are aligned with

- National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka (2012)
- National Environmental Policy (2022)
- National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (2019)
- National Environmental Act
- Paris Agreement (2016)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Internal Policies

- **Environmental Policy (2021) –** Guides efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience.
- **Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022) –** Promotes efficient resource use and waste reduction across University operations.

Programmes and Initiatives

- **Energy Efficiency –** Campus-wide LED retrofitting and energy conservation measures have reduced electricity consumption and emissions.
- **Sustainable Procurement –** Preference for suppliers with environmentally responsible and ethical practices.
- **Waste Reduction –** Recycling, composting, and food waste management initiatives promote circular economy principles.
- **Sustainable Transport –** Shuttle buses, cycling lanes, and pedestrian pathways reduce vehicular emissions.
- **Curriculum Integration –** Climate change and sustainability concepts embedded in academic programmes.
- **Awareness and Engagement –** Campaigns, workshops, and University-wide events to promote climate literacy.



Student and Community Engagement

- **PET Recycling Initiative –** Collaboration with Ceylon Cold Stores engages student societies in PET bottle collection and recycling.
- **Waste Management Awareness –** Community training sessions in partnership with local authorities.
- **Tree Planting Campaigns –** Marking key events to promote urban greening and biodiversity. Re-Greening Hantana programme, Air Cleaning plants programme initiated on the world environmental day, etc. are some examples.
- **Youth Climate Projects –** Participation in international initiatives such as the *Climate Tank Accelerator* and COP-linked events.

Capacity Building and Research

- **Workshops for Environmental Officers –** Conducted by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) with the Central Provincial Council, covering biodiversity and climate change.
- **Student Climate Leadership –** Erasmus+ training programmes and fellowships through projects such as the Climate Tank Accelerator.
- **One-Day Field Workshop on Ecological Techniques (2024) –** Practical training in fauna and flora sampling for undergraduates, postgraduates, and professionals, led by experts from the Department of Zoology and the Department of Botany.

Major Collaborations and Achievements in 2024

Student Societies for Climate Change Awareness (SSCCA)
On 15 October 2024, the University signed an MoU with *Seeds of Peace* (USA) to establish the SSCCA under the Climate Tank Accelerator Project. Coordinated by CES, the programme





- Engaged 37 student societies from the University - the highest number from any single institution.
- Provided online climate change training to student groups, with four teams advancing to the second phase.
- Offered opportunities for fully funded fellowships in the U.S. for winning teams from South Asia.

Annual Inter-School Environmental Awareness Competition (2023)
Held on 15 August 2024 with 17 participating schools, this event promoted environmental responsibility among schoolchildren.

- Winners: Dharmaraja College (1st), Wimaladharma National College (2nd), Hemamali Girls' College (3rd).
- Sponsored by the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) and Ceylon Cold Stores PLC.



UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2024

- 1st in Sri Lanka
- 10th in South Asia
- 192nd globally

The University achieved high scores in energy, waste management, transport, and education.
Future Plans

- Waste-to-Energy and Biogas Plants (2025–2030) – Converting University-generated waste into electricity and cooking gas, or implementing solar-powered incinerators for non-recyclable waste.



Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya demonstrated strong commitment to climate action through policy compliance, campus sustainability initiatives, collaborative research, and international partnerships. By fostering climate education, promoting low-carbon operations, and empowering students as leaders, the University continues to strengthen its role in building a resilient, low-emission future.

GOAL 14 Life Below Water

The University of Peradeniya is committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 by conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources. Through education, research, conservation initiatives, and community engagement, the University works to protect aquatic ecosystems and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.

Policy and Governance

Compliance with National and International Frameworks

The University's aquatic conservation efforts align with

- **Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance –** Safeguards biodiversity, including aquatic species.
- **Forest Ordinance –** Protects forest ecosystems linked to aquatic environments.
- **Plant Protection Act –** Prevents invasive plant species from impacting water bodies.
- **CITES –** Regulates international trade in endangered aquatic species.
- **Ramsar Convention –** Promotes conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) –** Protects marine and freshwater biodiversity.
- **Bonn Convention –** Conserves migratory aquatic animals.
- **National Policy on Protection and Conservation of Water Sources –** Guides sustainable water resource management.

Internal Policy

- **Environmental Policy (2021) –** Commits to minimizing water pollution and promoting practices that preserve aquatic biodiversity.

Education and Training

The University integrates aquatic biodiversity and conservation into its academic and training programmes:

- **Undergraduate Degrees –** Honours programmes in Botany, Zoology, and Environmental Science include modules on aquatic ecosystems.
- **Postgraduate Programmes –** MSc courses in Environmental Science, Oceanography, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Biodiversity Conservation address marine and freshwater protection.
- **Short Courses and Workshops –** The Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and other units conduct specialised training for students and the public on aquatic ecosystem conservation.

Conservation Programmes and Initiatives

- **Mahaweli River Bank Conservation –** In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority, bamboo planting along the Mahaweli River helps reduce erosion, improve water quality, and support both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.
- **Water Body Conservation –** Ongoing programmes monitor water quality, manage fisheries, and protect habitats in rivers and lakes.






Community Engagement and Well-being

The University extends its aquatic conservation efforts to local and regional communities through.

- **Community Outreach –** Public lectures, seminars, and workshops promoting water conservation and pollution reduction practices.

- **Collaborative Projects –** Joint initiatives with local authorities, environmental agencies, and international partners to restore and manage aquatic habitats sustainably.

- **Awareness Campaigns –** Workshops and seminars highlighting biodiversity threats and conservation strategies.
- **Habitat Restoration –** Community based projects such as tree planting and eco-friendly agriculture to reduce harmful impacts on waterways.
- **Community Wildlife Projects –** Support for local sanctuaries and promotion of sustainable resource use.

Conclusion

By combining education, research, conservation, and community participation, the University of Peradeniya demonstrates a strong commitment to SDG 14. Its initiatives contribute to the long-term protection of aquatic biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources, ensuring benefits for both ecosystems and communities.



GOAL 15 Life on Land

The University of Peradeniya is committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 by protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Through education, research, conservation, and community outreach, the University plays a vital role in biodiversity protection and sustainable land management.





Policy and Governance

Alignment with National and International Frameworks

The University's conservation actions are guided by

- **Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance –** Safeguards wildlife and biodiversity.
- **Forest Ordinance –** Supports forest conservation and ecosystem services.
- **Plant Protection Act –** Prevents the spread of invasive and harmful plant species.
- **National Invasive Alien Species Policy –** Guides the control of invasive species.
- **CITES –** Regulates trade in endangered species.
- **Ramsar Convention –** Protects wetlands.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) –** Promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- **Bonn Convention –** Protects migratory species and their habitats.
- **University Environmental Policy (2021) –** Provides a framework for sustainable land and ecosystem management.

Education and Training

- **Undergraduate Degrees –** Botany, Zoology, and Environmental Science programmes include modules on biodiversity and land management.
- **Postgraduate Programmes –** MSc in Biodiversity, Environmental Science, and Environment Management focus on sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Workshops and Short Courses –** Offered by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), providing training in ecosystem monitoring and pollution management.

Key Conservation Initiatives

1. **Regreen Hantana Project** (Launched 23 November 2024)
   In line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this project aims to restore 2 hectares of degraded land in the Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA). Activities included:
   - Enrichment planting by students, staff, and international participants.
   - Site cleaning by the University Explorer's Club.



- Seedling transplantation by the Hantana Conservation Society.
- Data collection training for undergraduates.
- Removal of polythene waste by the University Health Centre.

2. **Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA)**
   HEPA covers 274 hectares managed by the University, which also oversees 490 hectares of vegetation. Efforts include boundary demarcation, restoration projects, environmental monitoring, and community awareness programmes.
3. **Save the Next Generation**
   Annual reforestation in the Knuckles Conservation Area by the Botanical Society, in collaboration with the Forest Department and Noritake Lanka Porcelain (Pvt.) Ltd., promoting forest restoration and sustainable land use.

4. **Biodiversity Baseline Survey – Hantana**
   A planned survey to document species diversity for long-term monitoring and informed conservation planning.
5. **Bamboo Planting for Mahaweli River Bank Conservation (1 May 2024)**
   Conducted by the Zero Plastic Society with the Mahaweli Authority and Bank of Ceylon to protect river ecosystems and reduce erosion.

Community Engagement

- **Environmental Awareness –** Public lectures, workshops, and seminars on biodiversity and sustainable land management.
- **Habitat Restoration –** Community-led tree planting, creation of wildlife sanctuaries, and promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Research and Knowledge Sharing

- **Collaborative Conservation –** Partnerships with government, community, and international stakeholders for biodiversity protection.
- **Sustainable Agriculture –** Research and outreach promoting eco-friendly farming practices that balance conservation with local livelihoods.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya demonstrated its commitment to SDG 15 through integrated education, conservation, research, and community engagement. By safeguarding habitats, promoting biodiversity, and supporting sustainable practices, the University contributes to preserving life on land for present and future generations.

GOAL 16 Peace, Justice Strong Institutions

The University of Peradeniya is committed to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive institutions in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Through strong internal governance, inclusive education, human rights advocacy, and active community engagement, the University promotes democratic values, justice, and the rule of law.

Policy and Governance

Institutional Framework and Legal Compliance

The University ensures alignment with key national and international legal instruments:

- **National Laws –** Constitution of Sri Lanka; Right to Information Act (2016) Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Act (1998); Bribery Act (1954).
- **International Conventions –** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Institutional enforcement of anti -** ragging, anti-harassment, and inclusive access policies.

Governance, Integrity, and Accountability

- **Administrative Bodies –** University Council, Senate, and Faculty Boards ensure accountability and inclusive representation.
- **Oversight Mechanisms –** Audit and Management Committee, Grievance Committees, and the Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) maintain ethical standards and continuous improvement.
- **Key Policies –** Policy against Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment; Policy on Disability Inclusion; Anti-Ragging Policy; Student Grievance Handling Framework.

Education and Training

Curriculum Integration

- **Faculty of Arts –** Political Science courses on human rights, public policy, conflict resolution, and governance; Law courses on constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights.
- **Faculty of Management –** Modules on public sector accounting, cross-cultural management, and negotiation techniques.
- **Postgraduate Programmes –** MA/MSW in Human Rights, Development Practice, and Social Work through PGIHS.
- **Short Courses –** Certificates and Diplomas in Human Rights (Centre for the Study of Human Rights); Diploma in Forensic Medicine (Faculty of Medicine).





Research and Scholarly Contributions

- Peer-reviewed publications in journals such as *Third World Quarterly* and *Contemporary South Asia*.
- Faculty-led research on democratic transition, legal reform, and civic participation.
- University-hosted journals - Srilanka Journal of the Humanities Peradeniya Law Journal Sri Lanka Journal on Forensie, Science and Law.

Public Outreach and Civic Awareness

- **Law Week –** Annual event offering free legal advice, public awareness campaigns, and rural legal education.
- **Workshops and Seminars –** Topics include electoral processes, rule of law, and access to justice, in partnership with government bodies, civil society, and the Bar Association.
- **Local Governance Training –** Conducted by the Department of Political Science for local government representatives and civil society leaders.

Human Rights Advocacy and Social Justice

- **Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) –** Public education campaigns, youth leadership training, and school outreach on legal literacy.
- **Department of Political Science –** Voter education, peace building, and governance advocacy.
- **Inter-University Human Rights Debate (2024) –** UoP students placed as national runners-up.

Creative and Cultural Engagement

- **Exhibition – Women's Histories of Sex Work (October 2024) –** Multimedia displays, panel discussions, and documentary screenings addressing stigma, autonomy, and consent, organised with civil society partners and the University Harassment Prevention Committee.

Distinguished Lectures and Policy Dialogue

- **Vice Chancellor's Lecture Series –** In 2024, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, former Chairman of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, delivered a lecture on "Safeguarding Electoral Integrity in Transitional Democracies."





Partnerships and Global Engagement

- **IncEdu Project (Erasmus+) –** Strengthening disability inclusion in higher education.
- Collaborations with the University of Ottawa (language policy and law) and North South University, Bangladesh (governance research).
- Membership in networks such as the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to promote good governance and accountability.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its contribution to SDG 16 through strong governance structures, inclusive education, community outreach, and international partnerships. By promoting peace, justice, and institutional integrity, the University plays a leading role in advancing democratic values and sustainable development in Sri Lanka and beyond.

GOAL 17

Partnerships for the Goals

The University of Peradeniya advances Sustainable Development Goal 17 through strategic partnerships at local, national, and international levels. By fostering multi-stakeholder collaborations, the University strengthens its capacity to address global challenges while contributing to Sri Lanka's development priorities. These partnerships combine policy alignment, academic cooperation, industry engagement, community involvement, and transparent governance to deliver meaningful impact.

Policy and Governance

Partnership initiatives are guided by

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as the overarching framework.
- Sri Lanka's National Policy Framework on International Relations, ensuring consistency with national priorities.
- Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy, promoting research commercialization.
- International agreements, including the Paris Agreement and commitments under the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The University maintains a rigorous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) framework with defined objectives, monitoring mechanisms, and regular evaluation of outcomes against SDG targets. Progress is reported transparently through platforms such as the UI GreenMetric Rankings, where the University ranked 1st in Sri Lanka for sustainability partnerships in 2024.

International Academic Collaborations

- MoU with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Board of Investment Sri Lanka (2024) to develop green industrial parks.
- Research partnerships with the Indian Institute of Technology Dhanbad on renewable energy and geosciences.
- JICA Chair Programme, delivering hybrid lectures to over 500 participants on Japan's modernization strategies.
- Student exchange programmes with more than 15 universities through Erasmus+ and Commonwealth networks.















Industry and Innovation Partnerships

- PET bottle recycling programme with Ceylon Cold Stores, with 10 collection bins on campus managed by student societies.
- Collaboration with Hemas Manufacturing through the Science–Industry Interaction Cell to provide undergraduate internships.
- FOUNTAIN and SECRA projects with Raigam Group and Mid-Sweden University, modernizing Sri Lanka's agro-industry sector.

Government and Defence Engagement

- Extended MoU with the Centre for Defence Research and Development for research in radiofrequency technologies.
- £149,320 Ocean Country Partnership Programme, funded by the UK Government, for sustainable seafood research.
- Waste management training for local businesses in collaboration with the Kandy Municipal Council.





Community and Alumni Networks

- Partnership with the Sarvodaya Institute offering over 500 internship opportunities.
- Active involvement of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) in fundraising and mentorship.
- Public seminars and workshops on partnership-building and sustainable development.

Future Directions (2025–2030)

- Development of waste-to-energy plants using biogas and solar technologies.
- Construction of staff housing through USD 1.5 million public–private partnerships.
- Expansion of international research consortiums in climate and health sciences.

Conclusion

Through these diverse partnerships, the University of Peradeniya creates synergies that advance sustainable development locally and globally. By combining academic excellence with practical collaboration, the University delivers measurable benefits to communities and contributes meaningfully to achieving SDG 17.



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