SUSTAINABILITY REPORT - 2022



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA SRI LANKA

CONTENTS

01. Vice-Chancellor's Message
02. Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Message
03. No Poverty
04. Zero Hunger
05. Good Health and Well-Being
06. Quality Education
07.Gender Equality
08. Clean Water and Sanitation
09. Affordable and Clean Energy
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Decent Work and Economic Growth
12. Innovation Infrastructure
13. Sustainable Cities and Communities
14. Responsible Consumption and Production
15. Climate Action
16. Life Below Water
17. Life on Land
18. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



I am pleased to observe the launching of the inaugural sustainability report (2022) of the University of Peradeniya.

The University of Peradeniya is notable for being the most comprehensive national University and among the top 5% of the world's best Universities. Institutional devotion to achieving the SDGs has been quite impressive, although direct reference has not been made in the past as an institution about perseverance.

Universities' primary responsibility is to produce confident and good citizens who can successfully face global challenges; we provide equitable access and inclusive quality education for our internal and external students matching the targets and priorities set in Goal 4; "Quality Education." Other functions of the University, our academic programs, training imparted, established practices, and research orientation overlap well with the SDG goals such as Goal 12; Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Goal 20; Partnerships for the Goals. In achieving these goals, we have well-adopted policies and best practices to ensure Goal 04; No Poverty, Goal 05; Zero hunger, Goal 06; Good Health and Well-being, Goal 08; Gender equity, Goal 09; Clean water and sanitation, Goal 11; Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 13; Reduced Inequalities, Goal 19; Peace, justice, and strong institutions.

In the background, the University believes in expanding our commitment to achieving SDGs. More attention will be paid to the 5Ps of SDGs: People to end all forms of poverty and hunger and to ensure dignity and equality; Prosperity to ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony in nature; Planet to protect our planet, nature, resource, and climate for the future generations; Partnerships by implementing the agenda through a solid global partnership, and Peace by fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive society.

The report being launched today contains the efforts and commitment of the University to achieve SDGs with the participation of all university stakeholders, including its generous Alumni.

I appreciate the team effort in producing this report

Professor M D Lamawansa

Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor



It is with immense pleasure that I write this message to the first-ever Sustainability Report of the University of Peradeniya in 2023.

The University of Peradeniya has been ranked number 1 by the Times Higher Education ranking over the last four consecutive years while 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. 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 Times Higher Education Impact ranking signifying the commitment of the university towards achieving sustainable development goals.

Blessed with more than 1800 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 buildingsand residential halls to municipality wastewater and sewerage management system, and establishing an incinerator to safely burn off solid waste are some of the attempts made by the university in the recent past. The university has been attempting to increase the use of renewable energy.

Although the university was working towards sustainability in different ways, until recently there was no concerted effort to achieve sustainability. By identifying this gap, recently the university was able to establish a strong working group on sustainability. I am pleased to note that a dedicated website on sustainability will also be launched soon.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the leadership provided by the Vice-Chancellor and the team that has been working on sustainability for the hard work.

Professor Terrence Madhujith
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

University Overview: A Hub of Academic Excellence, Rankings, and Sustainable Practices

Introduction:

The University of Peradeniya, located in Sri Lanka, is a prestigious institution committed to academic excellence, research, and sustainable practices. With a rich history spanning several decades, the University has grown to become a leading center of higher education in the region.

Overview

Established in 1942, the University of Peradeniya has evolved into a vibrant academic community, fostering intellectual growth and innovation. The University is home to a diverse student body, with an enrollment of approximately 13750 students from various disciplines. This diverse community contributes to the dynamic learning environment and cultural exchange within the campus.

Faculty and Courses Offered

The University offers a wide range of disciplines through its nine faculties, providing students with opportunities for specialization and interdisciplinary studies. These faculties include:

Faculty of Agriculture
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Dental Sciences
Faculty of Engineering
Faculty of Management
Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Science
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences

These Faculties collectively offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programmes, empowering students to pursue their academic aspirations and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

University Rankings:

The University of Peradeniya has earned recognition for its academic excellence and research contributions, consistently ranking among the top universities in Sri Lanka and the region. The University's commitment to quality education and research has garnered it prestigious positions in various national and international rankings, reinforcing its standing as a hub for intellectual pursuits.

Some notable rankings include:

Times Higher Education (THE) University Ranking:

The University of Peradeniya holds the distinguished position of being ranked number 1 in THE University Ranking, reflecting its exceptional academic standards and research output.

Times Higher Education Impact Ranking:

The University also ranks number 1 in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, further emphasizing its commitment to addressing global challenges and making a positive societal impact through research and sustainability initiatives.



US News and World Report: The U.S. News and World Report placed the University of Peradeniya at 901st place in Best Global Universities and 240 in best universities in Asia in 2022. It has secured no.01 globally in Normalized citation Impact and 55th place for the most cited papers among the top 1% most cited worldwide universities.

University Infrastructure:

Spanning across a vast land area of 764 hectares, the University provides a serene and conducive environment for learning and research. It comprises numerous buildings, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories, and libraries, enabling students and Faculty to engage in their academic pursuits effectively.

Services Provided by the University

The University of Peradeniya is not only renowned for its academic excellence and commitment to sustainability but also for the diverse range of services it provides, which enhance education, healthcare, and community engagement. These services, including Teaching Hospital Peradeniya, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Dental Sciences, and University Pharmacy, play a vital role in promoting the well-being of students, patients, and the wider community. Through its sustainability initiatives and community outreach programs, the University actively collaborates with local organizations to address community needs and promote health and well-being.

The University of Peradeniya stands as a beacon of academic excellence and sustainability in the region. With its diverse student body, dedicated Faculty, and commitment to sustainable practices, the University continues to make significant contributions to education, research, and the community. By fostering a culture of sustainability, the University sets an example for other institutions and plays a vital role in shaping a more sustainable future.

GOAL 01

NO POVERTY

Introduction:

The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting sustainable development by actively contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of its dedication to addressing Goal 1 - No Poverty, the University has implemented various financial support schemes and welfare initiatives to ensure that all students have equal opportunities to access quality education without facing financial barriers.

Financial Support Schemes:

The University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the government, offers various financial support schemes to assist students in covering their education and living expenses. These schemes include the Mahapola Scholarship scheme, Bursary, and other scholarships. Their objective is to ensure that students have adequate financial resources to pursue their studies.

Scholarships in 2022:

In 2022, the University provided scholarships to support students' educational endeavours. Out of 13,731 undergraduates, 7,925 students (57.71%) received scholarships. The breakdown of scholarship recipients is as follows:

Mahapola: 5,731 students
Bursary: 2,150 students
Other scholarships: 44 students



GOAL 01

NO POVERTY



Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP):

The University provides part-time job opportunities through the Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP). In 2022, a total of 141 positions were offered to students, enabling them to gain work experience while pursuing their studies.

Facilities:

To enhance student welfare, the University offers various facilities:

- students who require hostels (accommodation) they can pay 3.3 US Dollers and reserved the rooms per year
- Free medical support to all students
- Free sports and recreation facilities to encourage healthy lifestyles and stress relief

Subsidized Food:

Meals are available at subsidized rates to ensure students have access to healthy options. These food options are available in almost all hostels and faculties, making it convenient for students to access nutritious meals without straining their budgets. There are also 33 canteens around the University where students can find these affordable food choices.

Breakfast:

No.	Item	Price (LKR)	Price (USD)
01	Vegetable Rice	80.00	0.42
02	Noodles	130.00	0.68
03	String Hoppers	90.00	0.47
04	Bread 1/4	70.00	0.37
05	Coconut Rotty	30.00	0.16
06	Those	40.00	0.21

Lunch:

No.	Item	Price (LKR)	Price (USD)
01	Vegetable Rice	80.00	0.42
02	Fish Rice	160.00	0.84
03	Chicken Rice	180.00	0.95
04	Egg Rice	140.00	0.74
05	Vegetable Fried Rice	200.00	1.05
06	Chicken Fried Rice	260.00	1.37

Dinner:

No.	Item	Price (LKR)	Price (USD)
01	Parata	40.00	0.21
02	Yeast Rotty	40.00	0.21
03	Those	40.00	0.21
04	Dhal Wade	20.00	0.11
05	Samosa	60.00	0.32
06	Vegetable Rotty	40.00	0.21

Please note that the USD prices are approximate conversions based on the current exchange rate.

GOAL 02

ZERO HUNGER

Cafeteria Facilities and Student Welfare

Cafeteria Facilities

The University provides meals highly subsidized prices for students, overseen by Hall Food Committees comprising academic staff, non-academic staff, and students. Suppliers for the canteen operation s are selected through open tenders and competitive prices to ensure quality and affordability. Meals at the canteens are served at rates up to 54% less than the market price, making them accessible for all students. Food preferences like vegetarian and pescatarian are also available to cater to different dietary needs.

The prices of meals provided to students can be found under Goal 1: No Poverty, showcasing the university's commitment to making food affordable and accessible.

Quality Control

To maintain the quality of food and hygiene in the canteens, Food Committees for Halls of Residence comprising of sub-wardens and students oversee the quality of service provided. The Public Health Inspector, University Medical Officer, and Student Supportive Services and Welfare Systems (SSS&WS) Office also visit canteens regularly to monitor food quality and hygiene standards.

Affordable Sales Outlets

The University also provides access to affordable food outlets like milk bars, fruit, and vegetable stalls, and the WUS (World University Service) Centre, which caters to the basic needs of students within the campus premises. Students can buy stationary, get a haircut, and even have their garments tailored at the WUS Centre.













GOAL 03

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL - BEING

Health and Safety Measures

The University of Peradeniya prioritizes the health and well-being for community members. The following measures and services are in place to ensure the safety and care of all:

Medical Facilities:

- The University Health Centre takes necessary precautions to safeguard the health of the community.
- The Intermediate Care Centre (ICC) can accommodate 300 patients and quarantine centres to provide prompt medical attention.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University established a Covid-19 Prevention Steering Committee and implemented vaccination programs against COVID-19.
- Vaccinations provided include HEP B, Chickenpox, ARV, Tetanus Toxoid, and Covid-19 (PFIZER).
- Services provided by Nuclear Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine and Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences are also available, contributing to comprehensive medical care.

Health Centre Services:

Sports Medical Examination: 210 examinations conducted.
Staff Medical Examinations for Confirmation: 116 examinations conducted.
Medical Boards: 3 boards held with 90 patients.
First Aid Duty: 25 instances of providing first aid.
Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Program: Conducted to address the prevention and management of NCDs.

Patient Services:

OPD Total Visits: 17,880 visits.
Ward Admissions: 377 admissions.

Clinic Services:

NCD Clinic: 634 patients treated.
Medical Clinic: 120 patients treated.
2022 CaPSU: 248 patients treated.



Laboratory Tests:

In the year 2022, a total of 6,875 laboratory tests were conducted, comprising 771 tests for students and 6,104 tests for employees at the University.

Pharmacy and Counseling Services:

'University Rajya Osusala': Pharmacy outlet providing state-of-the-art pharmacy services.

Counseling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU): Established to cater to the psychological needs of staff and students.

Amount spent on medications in 2022: Rs. 2,994,262.00.

GOAL 03

GOOD HEALTH AND WEL -BEING

Sports and Recreational Facilities:

The University offers various indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including tennis courts, a basketball court, cricket grounds, hockey and rugby fields, and a cinder track.
A fully equipped gymnasium and swimming pool built to international standards are available.
Exercise & Sports Science Diploma Course is offered to interest individuals






Staff and Student Welfare:

- Staff Welfare and Well-being Advisory Committee (SWWAC) and the Student Support Services and Welfare (SSS&WS) Office promote s the welfare and well-being of staff and students, respectively.
- Mental health care and counseling services are provided.
- Blood Pressure Measuring Programme for University staff.
- Agrahara Insurance Scheme for permanent staff.

The Teaching Hospital Peradeniya (THP) affiliated with the University provides comprehensive medical services, including diagnostics, surgeries, and consultations. The Dental Hospital offers a range of dental services, while the Faculty of Medicine trains healthcare professionals and conducts medical research, contributing to advancements in healthcare.

Additionally, the University's Veterinary Hospital provides veterinary services, ensuring the health and well-being of animals.





GOAL 03

GOOD HEALTH AND WEL -BEING

Spiritual Well-being:

Access to religious activities and spaces such as the Buddhist Vihare, Hindu Kovil, Mosque, and Catholic/Christian Churches.
Yoga and meditation programs are available.






Religious Spaces:

The University embraces diversity and recognizes the spiritual needs of its community members. As such, the University is equipped with places of worship, Temple, Kovil, Church and Mosque to cater to different religious beliefs.

Additional Services:

The University of Peradeniya also provides the following services to enhance health and well-being:

- Dengue Control Service: The University actively engages in dengue prevention and control programs to safeguard the community from vector-borne diseases.
- Pest Control Service: Regular pest control measures are implemented to ensure a hygienic environment within the campus premises.
- Vaccination Programs: The University conducts vaccination programs to protect the community from preventable diseases and to promote public health.

GOAL 04 QUALITY EDUCATION

- The University established a Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) to ensure the quality of its education.
- An Internal Institutional review (IIR) was conducted on a preliminary Self Evaluation Report (SER) compiled on the existing Institutional Repository (IR) manual, and the University has initiated a number of new activities to meet the expected standards.
- The QAC-UGC conducted Programme Reviews for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and the University has policies and procedures to design and develop curricula to produce graduates of relevance.

Inclusive and Accessible Education

- The University is committed to providing equal access to education to all, regardless of socio-economic status, gender, race, or religion.
- Implemented various programmes and policies to support students with disabilities, including accessible campus facilities and academic accommodations.
- Offer scholarships and financial assistance to ensure that education is accessible to all.





Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Innovation

- The University established several research centres and offices, University Research Council (URC), Multidisciplinary National Incubation Centre (MuNIC), Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO): that focus on interdisciplinary research.
- University offers various degree programmes and courses that provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to address societal challenges.

Community Engagement and Social Responsibility

- Established partnerships with local communities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to promote social and environmental sustainability.
- Offer several outreach programmes that provide opportunities for students and Faculty to engage in community-based research and service projects.

GOAL 05

GENDER EQUALITY

The University of Peradeniya is committed to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, both within the University community and in wider society. The University recognizes that promoting gender equality is essential for ensuring social justice, sustainable development, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Selection to the University, programmes, and specializations are purely based on merit, regardless of gender. Recruitment for staff positions are based on competence, and the University commits to ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in all aspects of employment.

The University has established a Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Committee and policy to address issues of gender-based violence at campus. The University Policy and By-laws against SGBV provide a framework for preventing and responding to incidents of SGBV.

To raise awareness of issues related to gender-based violence and empower women and girls, the University conducts webinars on GBV at the University.

The University also provides necessary support via the Centre for Study of Human Rights, which offers counseling and support services to survivors of gender-based violence.

The University Grievance Committee has been established to address complaints and grievances related to gender-based discrimination and harassment. The University also takes proactive steps to ensure gender-sensitive policies and practices are in place across all departments and faculties.

In line with this commitment, the following data regarding gender representation in faculties and staff for the year 2022 is provided:





Gender Representation in Staff (2022):

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Academic Staff	462	438	900	51.3%	48.7%
Academic Support	22	36	58	37.9%	62.1%
Non-Academic Staff	1565	644	2209	70.8%	29.2%
Total	**2049**	**1118**	**4167**	**49.2%**	**50.8%**

GOAL 05

GENDER EQUALITY

Gender Representation of Students (2022):

Faculty	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Agriculture	385	780	1165	33.0%	67.0%
Allied Health Sciences	224	553	777	28.8%	71.2%
Arts	787	3784	4571	17.2%	82.8%
Dental Sciences	145	323	468	31.0%	69.0%
Engineering	1631	549	2180	74.9%	25.1%
Management	230	438	668	34.4%	65.6%
Medicine	554	783	1337	41.4%	58.6%
Science	990	1141	2131	46.5%	53.5%
Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences	127	268	395	32.15%	67.85%
Total	**5073**	**8619**	**13692**	**37.05%**	**62.95%**

These numbers reflect the University's ongoing efforts to ensure equal education and employment opportunities for men and women. The University remains committed to fostering a gender-sensitive environment, promoting gender equality, and addressing gender-based discrimination and violence through the implementation of policies, support services, and awareness programmes.



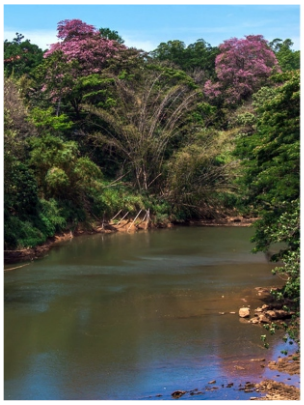
GOAL 06

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

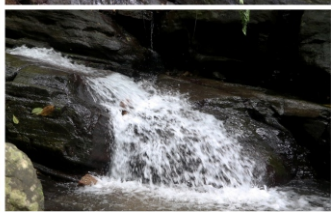
Access to Treated Drinking Water

The University ensures that treated drinking water is available for all students and staff. The water supply is regularly monitored and treated to maintain high-quality standards. In the year 2022, the University consumed a total of 6, 377, 446 Units of water.









Water Conservation Awareness

Steps have been taken to increase awareness of water consumption among its community. Educational programmes and campaigns are organized to encourage the responsible use of water and promote water conservation practices.

China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology

The China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre was established for Water Technology to facilitate research and innovation in water technology. This Centre focuses on developing and implementing sustainable solutions for water management.

Connecting to Municipal Sewerage System

The University has connected its drainage and black water systems to the Kandy Municipal Sewerage System to ensure that wastewater is properly treated and disposed of.





GOAL 06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

International Symposium on Water Quality and Human Health

The University also organized an international symposium on water quality and human health, which brought together experts worldwide to discuss the challenges and opportunities to ensure clean water for all.

Proper Waste Disposal and Toilet Facilities

The University ensures proper waste disposal and toilet facilities for its community. Properly maintained toilets and a solid waste management system help maintain a clean and healthy environment on campus.



Garbage Collection Vehicles:

In the year 2022, the University utilized tractor and lorry for the collection of garbage. The expenditure incurred for waste management activities related to these vehicles is as follows:

- Salary expenses for employees: Rs. 5,376,000.00
- Fuel expenses: Rs. 808,032.00
- Vehicle Maintenance Expenses: Rs. 117,030.00
- Total cost: Rs. 6,301,062.00

GOAL 07

AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

Solar Energy

The University of Peradeniya has implemented several initiatives to promote the use of solar energy on campus. This includes the installation of solar panels on buildings and streetlights to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.

A biogas plant has been established that converts organic waste into energy. This initiative not only provides a source of renewable energy but also reduces the amount of waste generated on campus.

Energy Conservation

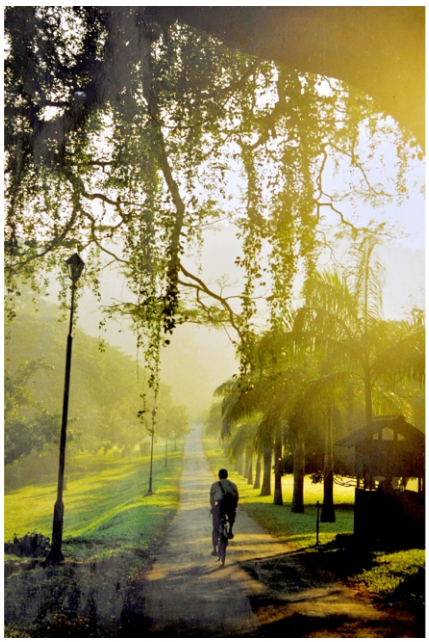
Several energy conservation measures are implemented to reduce energy consumption on campus. This includes the installation of energy-efficient lighting systems, building insulation, and the use of smart building technologies.

Sustainable Transportation

Sustainable transportation options are encouraged such as cycling, walking, and public transportation. The campus provides bicycle parking. At Mahailuppallama, the University of Peradeniya has taken additional steps to promote sustainable transportation. In this area, the use of bicycles is the primary mode of transportation. This initiative encourages the adoption of eco-friendly transportation methods, reducing carbon emissions and promoting a cleaner environment.

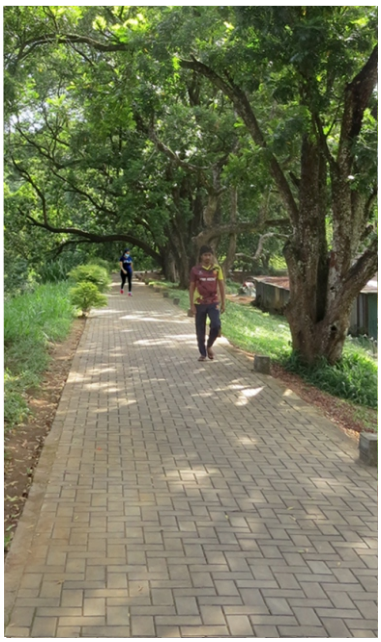
Curriculum and Education

Undergraduate subject courses on renewable energy, energy management, and sustainable development are offered. These programmes provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the energy challenges facing our society.









GOAL 08

DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Employment

The University provides employment opportunities to a diverse range of individuals, based on merit and competence. Recruitment and selection processes are transparent, and all employees are entitled to equal pay for equal work. The University also provides opportunities for career development, training and upskilling.



Research and Innovation

The University is committed to fostering research and innovation that contributes to economic growth and development. Faculty academic staff members and students engage in research in various fields, including agriculture, engineering, medicine, and social sciences. The University has partnered with local and international organizations to support research and development initiatives.



Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship and innovation among students and faculty members are encouraged. The University has established a Multidisciplinary and National Incubation Centre (MuNIC) to support the development of start-up ventures. The Centre provides mentoring, networking opportunities, and access to funding for entrepreneurs.

Community Engagement

The University is committed to engaging with the local community and promoting economic growth in the region. The University has established partnerships with local businesses and organizations to support community development initiatives. It also provides training and upskilling opportunities to community members.



Green Procurement

The University is committed to sustainable procurement practices, including the procurement of goods and services from local and small businesses. The University also promotes the use of environmentally friendly products and services.

GOAL 09

INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Establishment of the Multidisciplinary National Innovation Centre (MuNIC)

The MuNIC was established to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on developing solutions to local and global challenges. The Centre provides a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration between students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry experts

Establishment of Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO)

The BLII-TTO was established to be a centre of excellence in the region for entrepreneurship. The office provides support and guidance for startups and entrepreneurs, including mentorship, training, and access to funding.

Built area of the University

The University continued to expand its built area, providing new facilities and infrastructure to support academic and research activities. This includes new lecture halls, laboratories, and research centres.

Provision of Electricity, Water, and Internet Connectivity

The University ensures uninterrupted electricity, water, and internet connectivity to support academic activities and research.

Optic fibre network

The University has established an optic fibre network, providing high-speed internet connectivity to support online learning and research activities.

Mobile connectivity and Wi-Fi coverage for the University

The University provides mobile connectivity and Wi-Fi coverage to ensure students and Faculty can stay connected and access online resources.

University shuttle service

The University operates a shuttle service to transport students and staff Faculty.

Provision of transport for field trips

The University provides transport for field trips and research activities, ensuring that students and faculty can conduct research and gather data in various locations.





GOAL 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Key Indicators

- Female Undergraduates: 63%
- Female Staff (total): 35.3%
- Female Academic Staff: 48.4%
- Disabled Students: 0.1%
- Policy, by-laws and Programmes

Policy on Sexual or Gender-based Harassment and Sexual Violence

- The University has established a policy prohibiting sexual or gender-based harassment and sexual violence on campus. This policy ensures that all members of the University community are protected from such actions and have a safe environment in which to learn and work.
- By-laws Promulgated under the Policy on Sexual or Gender-based Harassment and Sexual Violence: We have developed by-laws that align with our policy on sexual or gender-based harassment and sexual violence. These by-laws provide a clear framework for addressing cases of harassment or violence on campus and ensuring that appropriate action is taken.
- In accordance with these by-laws, the Council of the University of Peradeniya shall appoint a committee known as the Committee to Investigate Sexual or Gender-based Harassment and Sexual Violence (CISGBHV).

Through the implementation of these by-laws and the establishment of the CISGBHV, the University of Peradeniya reaffirms its commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all members of the university community.

Celebrations of National and Religious Festivals

The University celebrates various national and religious festivals, including the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, Thai Pongal Celebrations, and Christmas Celebrations. These celebrations promote cultural diversity and inclusivity among students and staff.



Inclusive Policies

The University has implemented various policies to promote inclusivity and reduce inequalities. These policies include the provision of scholarships and financial assistance to underprivileged students, the provision of disability-friendly infrastructure and facilities, and the promotion of gender equality and

Awareness and Training Programmes:

The university conducts awareness and training programmes on diversity and inclusivity for students and staff. These programmes promote understanding and respect for different cultures, religions, and backgrounds.

Research and Education:

The University offers degree programmes and courses on social inclusion, multiculturalism, and diversity management. These programmes provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to promote inclusivity and reduce inequalities in society.

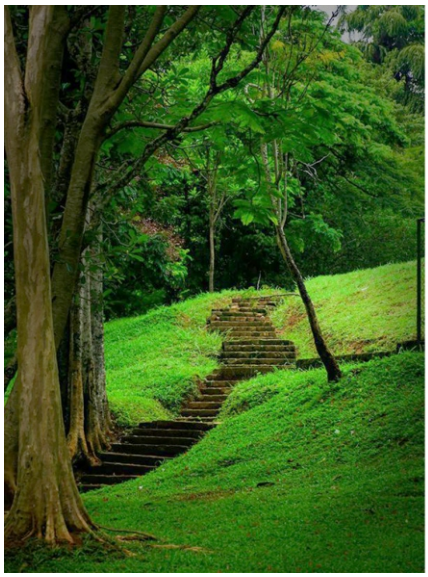
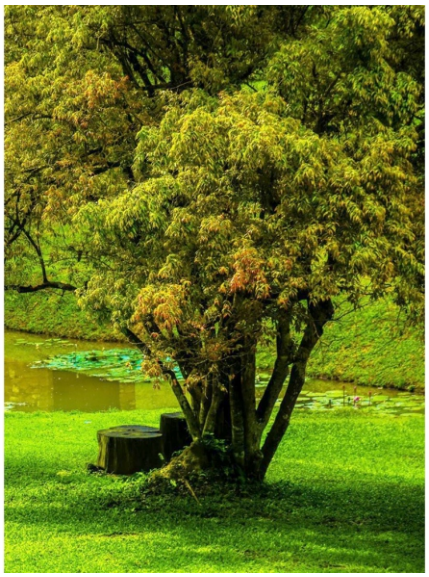
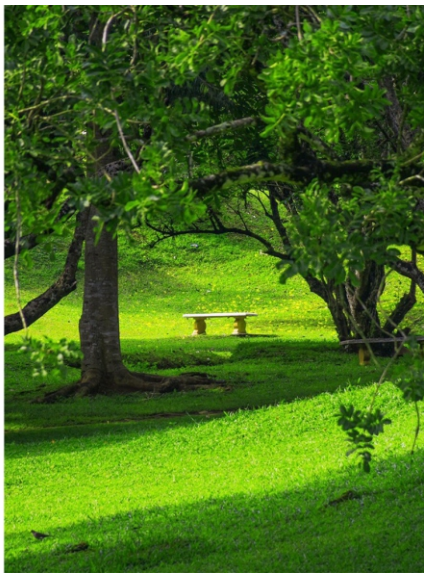
GOAL 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

The University has undertaken several initiatives to create a sustainable campus and to promote sustainable living among students, staff, and the wider community.

Initiatives taken

- **Shuttle Services:** The University provides shuttle services to students and staff, reducing the number of vehicles on campus and promoting sustainable transportation.
- **Green Buildings:** The University has constructed several green buildings, including the Faculties of Agriculture and Engineering, which incorporate sustainable design principles such as natural ventilation, energy-efficient lighting, and rainwater harvesting.
- **Recycling of Waste:** The University has implemented a comprehensive waste management system, including recycling paper, plastics, and glass, to reduce the amount of waste generated on campus and to promote responsible consumption.
- **Recycling of Water:** The University has implemented a water recycling system, which treats and recycles wastewater for non-potable uses such as irrigation and flushing toilets.
- **Composting:** The University has established a composting facility, which converts organic waste such as food waste and garden waste into compost, promoting sustainable waste management practices.
- **Production of Biogas:** The University has established a biogas plant, which converts organic waste into biogas for cooking and heating, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and promoting renewable energy.
- **Webinar on Green City Planning:** The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) at the University of Peradeniya organized a webinar on "Green City Planning: Challenges and Opportunities" on 05th June 2021, in collaboration with the International Relations Office (InRO). The webinar aimed to raise awareness about sustainable urban development and to promote sustainable city planning practices.

GOAL 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION



Introduction

The University of Peradeniya is committed to sustainable practices and aims to achieve Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. To that end, the University has implemented several initiatives, including

Chemicals and Toxicants

The University is minimizing the use of chemicals and toxicants by revisiting laboratory protocols and replacing methods that involve the use of hazardous chemicals. Additionally, the University has signed an agreement with INSEE Ecocycle Lanka (Private) Limited for the thermal destruction of chemical waste to minimize the harmful impact on the environment upon disposal.

Organic Waste Disposal

To reduce waste generation, the University sends most food waste to the piggery. The University make compost from their yard waste, which is rapidly increasing.

Solid Waste Management

The University manages solid waste through various practices, including the incineration of non-recyclables and the majority of recyclable non-biodegradable waste being recycled.

Virtual Cadavers

The University has implemented virtual cadavers as an alternative to traditional cadavers in the medical field. This approach reduces waste and the need for hazardous chemical disposal.

Polythene-Free Zone

The University has committed to being a polythene-free zone, which reduces plastic waste and its harmful impact on the environment.









GOAL 13

CLIMATE ACTION

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The University of Peradeniya has implemented measures to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In 2021, we conducted a greenhouse gas inventory, which found that our total emissions were 22,000 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent. This includes emissions from energy use, transportation, and waste disposal. The University has implemented the following measures to reduce the emission.

- Energy conservation measures, such as installing energy-efficient lighting and equipment.
- The use of renewable energy sources such as solar and hydropower.
- Encouraging sustainable transportation, such as cycling and carpooling.
- Improving waste management practices, such as recycling and composting.

Climate Resilience

The University recognizes the importance of building climate resilience to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The following measures have been taken to enhance our resilience:

- Developing a climate change adaptation plan that assesses the risks and vulnerabilities of our campus and identifies actions to reduce those risks.
- Conducting regular tree planting campaigns to increase our green cover and reduce the urban heat
- Promoting the use of climate-smart agriculture practices to increase the resilience of our agricultural research.



Education and Awareness

The following measures have been taken by the University to promote education and awareness:

- Incorporating climate change education into our curriculum across multiple disciplines.
- Organizing public lectures, seminars, and workshops on climate change topics.
- Engaging with the wider community through outreach activities such as tree planting campaigns and waste management programmes.

GOAL 14

LIFE BELOW WATER





Life below water is crucial to the health and well-being of our planet. It is home to a vast array of species and ecosystems, providing food, livelihoods, and recreation for millions of people around the world. The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources.

Research and Education

- The Faculty of Agriculture offers a B.Sc. in Animal Sciences and Fisheries Degree Programme
- researches fish health management.
- CADDAR provides diagnosis and treatment of fish diseases to the general public and conducts research on the health management of aquatic animals.
- Degree programmes and course modules are offered on aquatic life, providing students with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage aquatic resources.

Conservation Programmes

- The University has established conservation programmes that target rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- These programmes aim to protect and conserve the biodiversity of aquatic life and ecosystems.
- Our conservation efforts include monitoring water quality, managing fisheries, and protecting critical habitats.

Pollution Reduction

- The University has taken several actions to minimize water pollution, plastic waste, and other environmental threats.
- Implemented waste reduction initiatives, including recycling programmes and reducing the use of single-use plastics.
- Established partnerships with local communities to promote awareness and encourage responsible waste disposal.
- Installing waste segregation bins across our campus to promote proper waste disposal.
- Implementing a recycling programme to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.
- Organizing beach clean-up campaigns to remove litter and debris.

The University demonstrated its commitment to Goal 14 - Life Below Water by organizing a three-day workshop on conducting autopsies on sea turtles and cetaceans. This initiative aimed to share vital knowledge and skills for the conservation of marine life and ecosystems, fostering a deeper commitment to preserving life below water.

GOAL 15

LIFE ON LAND

Biodiversity Conservation

- The University of Peradeniya has established a significant vegetation cover, encompassing approximately 64.23% of the total land area (4,913,499 m^2 out of 7,644,512 m^2), contributing to biodiversity conservation efforts.
- The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) offers Master of Biodiversity Conservation and Management and Master of Biodiversity, Ecotourism & Environment Management Degree Programmes, which equip students with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage biodiversity.
- Developing and implementing biodiversity conservation plans for the University and surrounding areas.
- Collaborating Management with local communities to promote sustainable land use practices that protect habitats and prevent biodiversity loss.
- Conducting research on biodiversity conservation, including studies on the distribution and abundance of endangered species.

Sustainable Land Use

The University of Peradeniya recognizes the importance of sustainable land use practices in protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems.

Implemented the following measures to promote sustainable land use:

- Developing and implementing land-use plans that promote sustainable practices, such as agroforestry and sustainable agriculture.
- Promoting reforestation efforts to restore degraded lands and increase forest cover.
- Conducting research on sustainable land use practices and disseminating the findings to local communities.

The establishment of the Department of Environmental and Industrial Sciences at the Faculty of Science has introduced the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Environmental Science study programme (under the 2+2 structure), catering to the growing demand for graduates who are equipped to face environmental problems at both national and global levels.

The University has undertaken the following measures to promote education and awareness.

- Incorporating biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use practices into our curriculum across multiple disciplines.
- Organizing public lectures, seminars, and workshops on biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use topics.
- Engaging with the wider community through outreach activities such as tree planting campaigns and waste



GOAL 16

PEACE, JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

University Governance Measures

The University has established a Senate to promote transparency, accountability, and participation in decision-making processes. Public stakeholders are also engaged in the governance of the university through various committees and forums.

As part of its comprehensive commitment to human rights and social justice, the University has established a dedicated Centre for study Human Rights (CSHR). The CSHR work to protect and promote human rights development and in defending human rights in Sri Lanka, provide a source of legal support and strategic guidance for minorities. Through various educational initiatives, workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns, the Centre actively empowers students, faculty, and staff with knowledge of fundamental human rights principles, fostering a rights-based approach in all aspects of University life.

We work to protect and promote human rights development and in defending human rights in Sri Lanka, provide a source of legal support and strategic guidance for minorities.

Audit and Management Committee (AMC) and Internal Controls

To ensure the highest standards of accountability and integrity, the University has constituted an independent Audit and Management Committee. This Committee oversees the regular auditing of the University's financial operations and internal controls. These strict measures are carefully implemented to find and fix any possible financial mistakes, making sure everyone at the institution is open and accountable about their actions.

Grievance Committees for Staff and Students

The Grievance Committees have been established to address the concerns and complaints of both staff and students. This committee provide a confidential and supportive platform for resolving issues, ensuring that grievances are handled with the utmost sensitivity, fairness, and impartiality. The University works to create a safe and welcoming environment where everyone feels included. This helps to build a peaceful and fair community that values justice and equality.

Working with Government

The University works closely with the government to ensure that its operations align with national priorities and policies. The University also contributes to national development efforts by offering programs that address societal needs and challenges.

The University's academics work closely with the government, helping create better policies and strategies. They advise officials, serve on committees, and contribute to national development. This collaboration promotes transparency, fairness, and strong institutions for a better future.






GOAL 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Direct Involvement with Government and NGOs

The university directly collaborates with the government and NGOs to achieve the SDGs. Through joint projects, the University leverages its resources and expertise to address complex development challenges in Sri Lanka.

Publication of SDG Reports

The University regularly publishes SDG reports to document its progress towards achieving the SDGs. The reports serve as a valuable resource for stakeholders and provide a basis for informed decision-making.

Education for the SDGs

The University integrates the SDGs into its academic programmes to educate students on the importance of sustainable development. The SDGs are integrated into the curriculum across various faculties, ensuring that students have a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development and its relevance to their field of study.

Outreach Activities for Local/International Communities

The University engages in outreach activities targeting local and international communities to raise awareness about the SDGs. These activities include seminars, workshops, and community service programs that promote sustainable development practices and address specific SDGs.

SDG-related Curriculum

The University has developed SDG-related curriculum for various academic programmes. The curriculum incorporates practical applications of sustainable development principles and practices to equip students with the necessary skills to address SDGs in their future careers.









Sustainability Report - 2022

University of Peradeniya - Sri Lanka