UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
SRI LANKA

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023



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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



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

The University of Peradeniya has been one of the two best-ranked universities. 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. I am happy to note that the University of Peradeniya currently offers 649 environmental sustainability related courses both at undergraduate and graduate level.

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, and establishing an incinerator to safely burn off solid waste are some of the attempts made by the university in the recent past by the university.

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

Professor Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor



The University of Peradeniya's 2023 Sustainability Report reflects our steadfast commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Sri Lanka's largest and most diverse higher education institution, we understand our responsibility to lead in sustainable practices, community engagement, and innovative solutions to global challenges.

Throughout this report, you will find the university's contributions across each SDG, from Goal 1: No Poverty to Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. Our efforts to reduce economic barriers and improve accessibility have helped 65% of our undergraduates through financial aid and part-time employment programmes, reinforcing our commitment to equitable education and social mobility. In line with Goal 2: Zero Hunger, we offer nutritious, subsidized meals and emphasize food security through sustainable agricultural practices.

The University's health and wellness services reflect our dedication to Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, providing free medical care, counselling, and sports facilities to foster a thriving campus. Through high-quality education initiatives, curriculum enhancements, and inclusive policies, we contribute to Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 5: Gender Equality, ensuring every student can access a supportive learning environment.

Our dedication to Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation and Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy, can be seen in our sustainable water management practices, energy conservation, and integration of renewable energy solutions across campus. Aligned with Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, we support students' career readiness, foster research that drives economic growth, and invest in innovative infrastructure.

Environmental stewardship remains central to our mission. With programmes dedicated to Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, and Goal 15: Life on Land, we have expanded conservation efforts, increased environmental research, and promoted sustainable practices on campus and within our local communities. In support of Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities, we foster inclusivity and support underrepresented groups, while our initiatives around Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities promote responsible urban development and local engagement.

Finally, we recognize that sustainable progress requires strong alliances. In alignment with Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals, we continue to collaborate with local authorities, international partners, and industry leaders, fostering solutions that extend beyond our campus.

I sincerely thank our students, faculty, staff, and partners for their unwavering dedication to this shared mission. We are building a future that embodies sustainability, resilience, and equity.

Prof. Ranjith Pallegama
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

University of Peradeniya an Overview for the Sustainability Report 2023

Introduction

The University of Peradeniya, established in 1942, is Sri Lanka's pioneering higher educational institute. Situated at the foothills of the Hantana Mountain Range, the university is renowned for its commitment to academic excellence, research, and community service. Beyond its picturesque setting, the University of Peradeniya is a leader in promoting sustainability, striving to balance academic achievement with environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability.

Vision and Mission

The University of Peradeniya's vision is to be a leading institution of higher learning, contributing to sustainable development and addressing the challenges faced by society. Its mission is to create, disseminate, and apply knowledge, fostering innovation and creativity while prioritizing sustainability. The university aims to produce graduates who are not only academically proficient but also socially responsible and environmentally conscious.

Academic Excellence

With nine faculties—Agriculture, Allied Health Sciences, Arts, Dental Sciences, Engineering, Management, Medicine, Science, and Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science —the University of Peradeniya offers a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. It serves over 14181 students with a faculty of approximately 1,000 academic staff . The university's dedication to interdisciplinary research and collaboration highlights its role in addressing global challenges, including those related to sustainability.

Research and Innovation

The University of Peradeniya leads pioneering research in critical areas such as environmental conservation, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and public health. Through its research centers and institutes, the university develops innovative solutions that advance sustainable development locally and globally. This commitment to sustainability is also evident in its academic output, with over 1,500 publications on sustainability topics between 2020 and 2023, contributing significantly to global knowledge on pressing environmental and societal issues.

Commitment to Sustainability

The University of Peradeniya has embedded sustainability into its core strategies and operations, demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic viability.

Sustainability Dashboard Goal:

Subject	Year & Present age
Reduction in Electricity Usage	25% reduction by 2030.
Waste Diversion Rate	100% by 2030.
Reduction in Water Usage	40% reduction by 2030.
Sustainable Transportation	80% by 2030.
Renewable Energy Production	100% by 2042.
Reduction in GHG Emissions	30% reduction by 2030.
Forest Cover	Maintaining over 50% forest cover by 2024.
Reduction in Fuel Usage	50% reduction by 2024.

These targets highlight the university's proactive approach to minimizing its environmental footprint while fostering a sustainable campus environment.

Key Sustainability Initiatives

- Energy Efficiency: The university has undertaken several measures to improve energy efficiency, including the installation of energy-efficient lamps, appliances, and equipment, as well as optimization of energy use across campus facilities.
- Water Conservation: Water-saving efforts include leak detection and repair, the installation of water-efficient fixtures, and minimizing water wastage.
- Waste Management: The university is committed to reducing, reusing, and recycling waste through initiatives such as composting food waste, recycling paper, plastic, and metal, and donating unwanted items to charity.
- Sustainable Transportation: The promotion of sustainable transportation options, such as shuttle buses and public transportation for students and staff, is a key focus.
- Education and Awareness: The university prioritizes sustainability education, offering a range of sustainability-focused courses and hosting events to raise awareness among students and staff.

University Governance and Sustainability

The governance structure of the University of Peradeniya emphasizes transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Various committees and units oversee the university's sustainability initiatives, ensuring alignment with its sustainability goals. These bodies play a crucial role in implementing the university's sustainability strategies and setting an example for other institutions in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Education and Research in Sustainability

The University of Peradeniya is a hub for sustainability education and research. In 2023, the university offered 2,876 courses related to sustainability, reflecting its commitment to integrating sustainability into its academic programs. The university also engages in extensive community outreach, promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices beyond its campus borders. Additionally, over 1,500 trees were planted between 2020 and 2023, further demonstrating the university's commitment to environmental conservation.

Looking Forward Towards the Future

The Path Ahead As the University of Peradeniya continues to grow and evolve, it remains unwavering in its commitment to sustainability. Future plans include expanding sustainability initiatives, strengthening collaborations with international partners, and further integrating sustainability into all aspects of university life. By leading in sustainable practices and education, the University of Peradeniya is well-positioned to make significant contributions to both local and global communities, ensuring a more sustainable future for all.





GOAL 01

NO POVERTY





The University of Peradeniya recognizes the transformative role of education in breaking the cycle of poverty. Committed to ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder academic aspirations, the university takes a multifaceted approach to addressing poverty through financial support, student welfare programmes, and initiatives to enhance employability.

Financial Support for Students

The University of Peradeniya offers a robust financial aid system to support students facing economic hardships. In 2023, 8,944 students—representing 65% of the undergraduate population—benefited from various scholarship and bursary schemes. Through collaborations with the Sri Lankan government and donor organizations, the university provides comprehensive financial support to students.

Mahapola Scholarship Scheme

A government-funded programme offering a monthly stipend to students.

Bursary Scheme

A university-funded initiative providing financial aid to students experiencing economic hardship.

Other Scholarships

Scholarships funded by donors and alumni awarded to deserving students.

Breakdown of Scholarship Recipients (2023)

- Mahapola Scholarships: 7,278 students
- Bursary Scheme: 819 students
- Other Scholarships: 847 students

Targeted Scholarships and Studentships

The university also offers targeted scholarships to underprivileged and deserving students:





AAUP Working Student Assistantship Program (WSAP)

Provided part-time job opportunities to 133 students, offering both financial support and practical work experience.

- **Rajitha Kariyawasam Studentship :** Supported 15 students with monthly allowances.
- **Tennyson and Vinitha Scholarship :** Offered allowances to 10 students, including those with special needs.
- **Mosvold Martinus Foundation Scholarship :** Provided monthly allowances to 75 underprivileged students.
- **Lesley Gunawardena Scholarship :** Supported 42 students across eight faculties with financial contributions totaling Rs. 200 million.
- **AAUP New Zealand Chapter Sponsorship :** Assisted 33 students with monthly stipends.
- **University Studentship :** Provided allowances to 150 first-year students.

Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP)

The university offers part-time job opportunities through the WSAP. In 2023, 133 students, including 97 in non-engineering fields and 36 in engineering, gained financial support and career skills through this programme. Additionally, the university initiated a programme to create part-time job opportunities for undergraduates in private sector companies across Sri Lanka.

Student Welfare and Support Services

Beyond financial aid, the University of Peradeniya prioritizes student well-being through the following initiatives:

Affordable Accommodation

The university offers subsidized on-campus housing to alleviate accommodation costs. Currently, there is a capacity to accommodate 65% of the student population across 21 halls of residence and two bhikku hostels on the main campus. Additionally, the agriculture sub-campus in Mahailluppallama provides housing for first-year agriculture students during their six-month practical training period. Due to limited resources, the university faces challenges in providing hostel facilities to all eligible students.

Free Medical Support

The university's Health Centre offers free medical services to all students. In 2023, 23,847 students accessed healthcare services.

Free Sports and Recreation Facilities

The Physical Education Division provides various sports and recreational opportunities, with 26 competitive and five recreational sports available. The division also offers educational programmes on nutrition, fitness, and sports science.

Facilitated Distribution of Used Laptops

The university promotes digital access for students by distributing used laptops to those in need.

Employability and Graduate Outcomes

The University of Peradeniya is committed to improving graduate employability as a pathway to poverty reduction:

Career Guidance Unit (CGU)

In 2023, the CGU conducted 87 career guidance programmes, assisting students in their career planning and development.



Quality Assurance

The university implements rigorous quality assurance practices to ensure the excellence of its education programmess.

Curriculum Development

Entrepreneurial skills are integrated into degree programmes to enhance students' employability.

High Graduation Rates

The university boasts over 98% graduation rates across all degree programmes.

The University as an Employer

As a major employer in the region, the University of Peradeniya contributes to poverty alleviation by providing jobs and comprehensive benefits. In 2023, the university employed 3,024 permanent staff and 788 temporary/contract staff. Employee benefits include:

Free and Prioritized Medical Treatment

Employees have access to free healthcare at the university's Health Centre.

Agrahara Health Insurance

In 2023, 2,092 employees were enrolled in the Agrahara health insurance scheme, with 61 new members and 387 claims processed.

Access to Loans

Employees can access distress loans, provident fund loans, transport loans, and computer loans, contributing to their financial stability.

Community Impact

The university's teaching hospitals-Peradeniya Teaching Hospital, Dental Hospital, and Veterinary Hospital-provide free or subsidized healthcare services to the broader community. These healthcare services contribute to poverty reduction by improving community health and well-being.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to addressing poverty through a comprehensive approach that includes free tuition, accommodation, financial support, student welfare initiatives, and job creation. By investing in its students and staff, the university empowers individuals and contributes to broader societal development. Ongoing efforts to expand these initiatives will continue to strengthen the university's impact on poverty reduction in the community.

GOAL 02

ZERO HUNGER

The University of Peradeniya recognizes food security as a fundamental human right and actively contributes to achieving SDG 2: Zero Hunger through various initiatives. By providing affordable and accessible food options, conducting research, and educating the wider society, the university ensures that its community, as well as the broader public, has reliable access to nutritious and safe meals, fostering academic success and societal well-being.

Food Accessibility and Affordability

Subsidized Meals

The university offers meals at significantly reduced prices to all members of its community, ensuring students and staff can access affordable, nutritious food.

Cafeteria Facilities

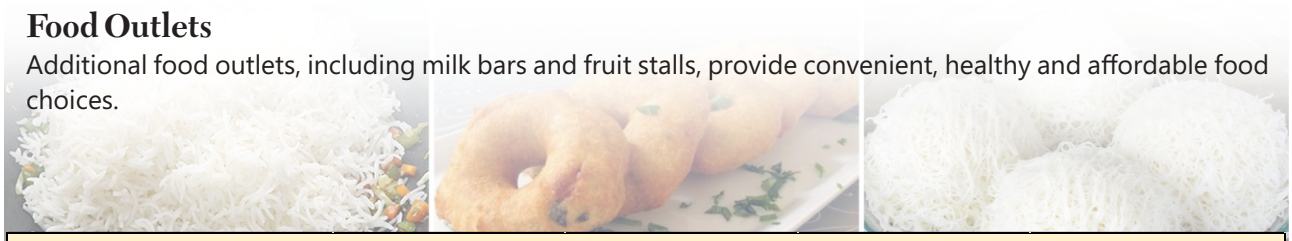
On-campus canteens provide a wide range of food options at prices up to 54% lower than market rates. These canteens are managed by Hall Food Committees comprising students, academic, and non-academic staff to ensure quality and affordability.

Diverse Dietary Needs

The university caters to various dietary preferences by offering vegetarian and pescatarian options.

Food Outlets

Additional food outlets, including milk bars and fruit stalls, provide convenient, healthy and affordable food choices.



Prices of Meals Served at University of Peradeniy

On average, meals served in university canteens are 54% more affordable than those available at regular food outlets off-campus.

Meal	Subsidized meal prices at the University canteens		Regular meal prices at similar food outlets	
	LKR	**US$**	**LKR**	**US$**
Vegetarian Meal	60	0.18	200	0.61
Egg Meal	140	0.43	250	0.77
Pescatarian Meal	160	0.49	350	1.08
Chicken meal	190	0.58	380	1.17
Noodles with a curry	140	0.43	260	0.80
Dosa with Gravy	80	0.25	200	0.61
String hoppers with Sambol	100	0.31	150	0.46
Short Eats	50	0.15	110	0.34
Plain tea	10	0.03	40	0.12

Exchange rate 1 USD = Rs. 325.29 | 2023.10.19

Source: General Services Division, UoP

The Kiosk Cafeteria

The KIOSK cafeteria, established within the Faculty of Agriculture, cultivates a student-oriented community kitchen. It offers affordable meal options to students, ensuring hunger is not a barrier to their academic pursuits. It also provides part-time job opportunities to students facing financial constraints, fostering empowerment and self-reliance.









Food Quality and Safety

- **Quality Control:**
  Food committees, comprising sub-wardens and students, monitor food quality and hygiene in the halls of residence.

- **Regular Inspections:**
  The Public Health Inspector, University Medical Officer, and Student Supportive Services and Welfare Systems (SSS&WS) Office conduct regular inspections to maintain high food safety standards.

Community Well-being

Cultivation War Initiative

The university's "Cultivation War" initiative, initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, promotes physical and mental health through activities like composting, organic material development, and tree planting.

Research and Development

The university conducts cutting-edge research on food safety and nutrition, focusing on diverse areas. This research helps inform national policies, develop products and improves public awareness about the importance of food safety through media and publications.

Education and Media Outreach

The university plays a key role in educating the public on food safety and nutrition through media engagements, public lectures, and publications. These outreach activities help raise awareness about healthy eating habits, food hygiene, and sustainable agricultural practices, making a broader societal impact.







Supporting Local Agriculture

The university extends its impact beyond campus by collaborating with local farmers to improve agricultural practices. Training programs and workshops on sustainable farming, soil management, and organic food production are provided to nearby communities, contributing to enhanced food security in the region.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's efforts in providing affordable, accessible, and nutritious food, coupled with a strong emphasis on food safety and quality, demonstrate a commitment to achieving SDG 2: Zero Hunger. By fostering a culture of food security and well-being, the university contributes to the overall health and development of its community.

GOAL 03

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL - BEING

The University of Peradeniya is committed to fostering a healthy and supportive environment for its community. Through a comprehensive approach that includes preventive care, curative services, mental health support, and community outreach, the university strives to enhance the overall well-being of its students, staff, and faculty, while also contributing to the health of the wider society.

University Health Centre

The University Health Centre provides a range of medical services, including consultations, vaccinations, and treatment for common illnesses. In 2023, the centre handled 29,800 patient visits, reflecting its critical role in maintaining the health of the university community.

- **Non-communicable Disease Screening Programme**
  In 2023, the Health Centre conducted a screening programme for non-communicable diseases for staff members aged over 35. A total of 593 employees were examined, with all necessary investigations provided free of charge. This program is aimed at identifying and managing chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, ensuring long-term health and well-being for staff.

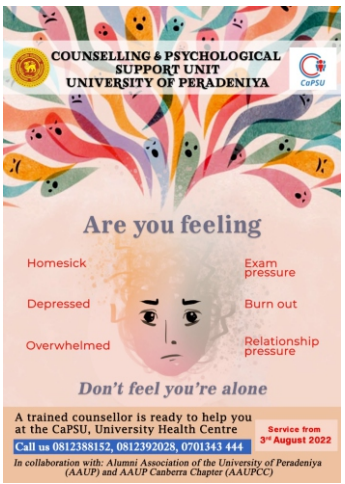
- **Medical Clinic**
  A medical clinic was established to provide ongoing healthcare services to diagnosed patients in 2023. The clinic operates once a month, offering regular medical consultations and examinations for university employees to ensure they receive timely and effective healthcare.

Physical Education and Sports

The Physical Education Division promotes physical activity through intramural sports, fitness programmes, and competitions. The campus boasts state-of-the-art sports facilities, including gyms, sports fields, tennis and badminton courts, and a swimming pool. These facilities, along with the serene green spaces and gardens, contribute significantly to the mental and emotional wellness of students, staff, and faculty, fostering a balanced and thriving campus community.

Counseling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU)

The CaPSU offers essential mental health services, including individual counseling, group therapy, and crisis intervention. The unit provides an on-campus counseling service with a dedicated phone line (070 1 343 444) for immediate assistance or to schedule appointments. Two qualified mental health counselors are available during working hours, and walk-in sessions are encouraged. After hours, students can approach the Chief Medical Officer or another medical officer, with a nurse on call available after 4 pm. For severe mental health crises, students may be referred to the Teaching Hospital in Peradeniya for urgent psychiatric support.



Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

The Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, established by the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, offers routine laboratory tests at affordable prices. This facility plays a crucial role in early diagnosis and treatment, while also providing practical exposure for students. The laboratory performs a range of tests, including blood glucose levels, lipid profiles, liver function tests, and urine analysis.

Medical Imaging Centre

The Medical Imaging Centre, part of the Department of Radiography/Radiotherapy, provides X-ray services using advanced digital image processing technology. The centre serves both the university community and the general public, offering professional services by SLMC-registered radiographers, ensuring patient safety and care.

Physiotherapy Service Unit

The Physiotherapy Service Unit offers comprehensive physiotherapy services for out-patients, utilizing advanced techniques and modern equipment. This facility supports physical rehabilitation for orthopedic, neurological, pediatric, and other related conditions. The service also provides students with hands-on training in patient care and rehabilitation techniques.

Center for Research in Oral Cancer (CROC)

The Center for Research in Oral Cancer (CROC), established by the Faculty of Dental Sciences, focuses on comprehensive research on oral cancer. In collaboration with the National Cancer Control Programme of Sri Lanka, CROC raises awareness about the dangers of smokeless tobacco and areca nut use, contributing to the introduction of legislation to regulate these harmful products.



University Pharmacy (Rajya Osusala)

The University Rajya Osusala, a joint collaboration between the Department of Pharmacy and the State Pharmaceutical Corporation of Sri Lanka, offers community pharmacy services, including medication counseling. It serves as a teaching, training, and research centre for students, with plans to establish a regional pharmacovigilance centre to further ensure the safety and effectiveness of medications used by the community.







Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to SDG 3 beyond campus boundaries, playing a pivotal role in improving the health and well-being of the surrounding community:

Health Outreach Programmes

The university collaborates with local health authorities to offer free medical camps, health screenings, and vaccination drives in local and distant communities including families of staff. These programs focus on early detection of non-communicable diseases, maternal health, child nutrition, and elderly care.

Public Health Education

The university's faculty and students actively engage in public health education campaigns, addressing key issues such as nutrition, hygiene, disease prevention, and reproductive health. These efforts are carried out through workshops, seminars, and media outreach, ensuring that critical health knowledge reaches underserved populations.

Collaboration with Local Health Services

The university works closely with local hospitals and clinics, offering expertise in specialized medical areas such as radiology, physiotherapy, and diagnostics. This collaboration strengthens healthcare services in the region and provides students with opportunities for practical experience.

Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Programs

Recognizing the link between health and nutrition, the university's Faculty of Agriculture leads community projects focused on sustainable farming, food security, and nutrition education. These initiatives help local farmers adopt better agricultural practices, ensuring access to healthy, nutritious food for both the campus and surrounding communities.



Mental Health Outreach

To address mental health challenges in the wider community, the university extends its psychological services by offering free mental health awareness sessions, group counseling programs, and crisis intervention services. These efforts aim to reduce stigma around mental health and provide support to those in need.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya demonstrates a strong commitment to SDG 3 by providing accessible healthcare, promoting mental and physical well-being, and addressing public health challenges both on campus and in the wider community. Through its comprehensive health services, research, and outreach programs, the university contributes significantly to the overall health and well-being of both its internal community and the society at large.

GOAL 04 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University of Peradeniya remains committed to delivering high-quality education, ensuring accessibility, and enhancing its global recognition. Through a series of strategic initiatives, the university continues to advance its academic offerings, improve infrastructure, and support the holistic development of students and staff.

Enhancing Global Recognition

In 2023, the University of Peradeniya strengthened its global presence through several initiatives aimed at elevating its international standing:

International Rankings

The university pursued recognition in prestigious international rankings, such as the QS World University Rankings and THE World University Rankings, to enhance its global standing and attract international students and faculty.



Digital Infrastructure

A revamped university website was launched, providing improved accessibility and integration with social media platforms. This upgrade enhances the university's online presence and makes information more accessible to a global audience.

Faculty and Student Society Websites

G Suite accounts were provided to non-academic staff, and new faculty and student society websites were developed to foster communication and collaboration within the university community.

Faculty Profile Enhancement

Efforts were made to strengthen faculty profiles by updating Google Scholar accounts and increasing alumni engagement, enhancing the university's research visibility and academic reputation.

Achieving Institutional Excellence

In 2023, the University of Peradeniya reaffirmed its commitment to institutional excellence:

UGC Institutional Review

The university achieved a Grade A (81.9%) in the 2023 Institutional Review conducted by the University Grants Commission (UGC), underscoring its dedication to maintaining high standards in education and continuous improvement.

Strengths and Areas for Improvement

The review highlighted the university's research output, qualified faculty, and well-developed infrastructure while noting areas for improvement, such as enhancing student participation in quality assurance and international collaboration.

Strengthening Programme Quality

The University of Peradeniya consistently seeks to improve its academic programmes

Programme Reviews

In 2023, the Faculty of Science's BSc (Hons) programmes underwent a rigorous evaluation, receiving "A" grades for its programmes and an overall "Very Good" rating (83.7%-87.7%), reflecting the university's commitment to delivering high-quality education.

Quality Assurance Initiatives

To maintain the highest standards of education, the university implemented several quality assurance measures.

Quality Assurance Manual

In 2023, the university published its Quality Assurance Manual online, consolidating all relevant policies and documents in a single, accessible location.

Assessment Practices

A new Manual of Procedure for Conduct of Undergraduate Examinations was introduced to enhance the university's assessment practices.

Council-Approved Policies

Several new policies were approved, including

- Establishment of a Deputy Director for the Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA).
- Amendments to internal quality assurance system by-laws.
- Policies on student engagement in quality assurance, student progression, and privacy.
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various university activities.
- Implementation of a "Semester Assessment Record" to improve continuous assessments.

Curriculum and Programme Development

Curriculum development remained a priority in 2023, with the university focusing on diversifying and aligning curricula with international standards:

Curriculum Revisions

Various faculties and postgraduate institutes undertook significant syllabus revisions, including

- Revision of nglish courses in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- Enhanced research focus in postgraduate programs in Civil Engineering.
- Curriculum updates in Engineering, Management, and several other faculties, including the introduction of new MSc courses in Environmental Forestry and Agroecology.
- Introduction of new research courses and establishment of ePortfolio practices at the university.

Distance Learning Achievements

The Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) made significant progress in expanding distance learning opportunities:



New Diploma Courses

The university introduced a new Diploma course in Laboratory Technology, along with the restructuring of the Bachelor of Arts Degree program to better cater to distance learners.

Student Enrollment

The new Diploma course saw a marked increase in enrollment, and the university is awaiting approval for a new BSc degree programme, which will further expand its distance learning offerings.

Enhancing Employability Skills

The University of Peradeniya continued to prioritize employability skills for its students:

Dialog Connection Installer Programme

An introductory training session was held for undergraduates interested in the Dialog Connection Installer part-time opportunity, enhancing practical skills and improving job readiness.

Capacity Building Initiatives

The university invested in capacity-building initiatives to further support the development of its students and staff:

Dental Surgeons Training of dental :

An in-service training workshop was conducted for dental surgeons in the Kandy District to improve their professional skills and knowledge.

Inclusive Education Project:

The university participated in the Erasmus+ CBHE project "Developing Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities (SWDs) in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu)," aiming to improve accessibility for students with disabilities.

Conformity to Sri Lankan Qualifications Framework (SLQF), Subject Benchmark Statements and Accreditation

The University of Peradeniya ensures that its curricula adhere strictly to the Sri Lankan Qualifications Framework (SLQF), a standardized system that enhances the transparency and comparability of qualifications. By aligning with SLQF guidelines, the university maintains academic integrity and global standards. In addition, the national and internations Subject Benchmark Statements are considered in desiging and revising curricula. Further, all programme, where relevant, undergoes the accreditation process.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

The University of Peradeniya continues to be a leader in academic excellence:

Distinguished Faculty and Research

The university's distinguished faculty and cutting-edge research contribute to its recognition as a leading institution in Sri Lanka and South Asia.

Graduate Success

Graduates from the university continue to excel in their respective fields, contributing significantly to society through leadership and innovation.

Equal Opportunities in Education

The university is deeply committed to promoting gender and social equality in education:

Inclusive Policies

A range of inclusive policies ensures that all students, regardless of gender or social background, have equal access to educational resources.

Scholarship and Mentorship Programmes

These programmes provide support to underrepresented groups, bridging gender and social gaps in education.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya plays an active role in contributing to community well-being through education outreach and support:

Educational Outreach Programmes

The university engages in numerous outreach programs in local communities, providing workshops, seminars, and educational resources on various subjects, including sustainable development, digital literacy, and agriculture.

Support for Local Schools

The university collaborates with local schools to enhance the quality of education, providing teacher training, mentoring programmes, and educational resources.





Scholarships for Underserved Communities

Scholarship programs are offered to students from underserved communities, promoting equal access to higher education.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 4 is demonstrated through its continuous efforts to enhance the quality of education, support inclusive policies, and maintain global recognition. By prioritizing curriculum development, distance learning, and quality assurance, the university ensures that its students receive an education that equips them for success. Additionally, the university's community outreach and well-being initiatives contribute to educational development and empowerment in the wider society.

GOAL 05

GENDER EQUALITY



University of Peradeniya's Commitment to Gender Equality

The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to promoting gender equality and creating a learning and working environment free from sexual or gender-based harassment and violence (SGBHV). Through comprehensive policies, support systems, and awareness programs, the university fosters a culture of respect and inclusivity, ensuring the well-being of all members of its community.

University of Peradeniya's Commitment to Gender Equality

In 2023, the University of Peradeniya continued its commitment to gender equality by implementing and adhering to national and international frameworks

National and International Agreements The university complies with key legal frameworks, including:

- 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
- National Committee on Women (NCW) 1994

Internal Policies and Circulars

The university established and strengthened its internal policies to address gender equality

- University Policy on Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence, University of Peradeniya and By-laws Promulgated under the Policy on Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence
- Faculty Policies on Gender Equity and Equality (e.g. Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Science)
- Adoption of UGC Commission Circulars No 04/2020 on "Complaints on Ragging and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) made by Students and Staff Members to the Universities/Campuses/Institutes"
- Adoption of UGC Commission Circulars No 12/2019 on "Strategies/Actions to be implemented to combat Complaints on Ragging and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in State Universities and Higher Education Institutes"
- Adoption of UGC Commission Circulars No 02/2023 on "Common Directives/Guidance on Non-Evidence, Anonymous Complaints and Discontinuation of Investigations at Universities"
- Formation of Faculty Level Gender Committees and Gender Champions-SGBV Prevention Committee,
- UoP (No. VC/LD/CO/SGBV/2022/1 dated 07/09/2022)
- Code of Conduct for academic staff in the University of Peradeniya (By-Law No 1 of 2017)

Policy Framework and Governance

Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy

The university has established a robust policy outlining procedures for preventing, reporting, and addressing sexual harassment and violence.

Committee to Investigate Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence (CISGBHV)

This committee is responsible for handling complaints, conducting investigations, and recommending appropriate actions.

Handbook on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence

This comprehensive guide educates the university community about harassment, violence, and available support resources.

Awareness and Prevention

SGBV Prevention Committee

Oversees the implementation of gender-based violence prevention strategies.

Webinars and Workshops

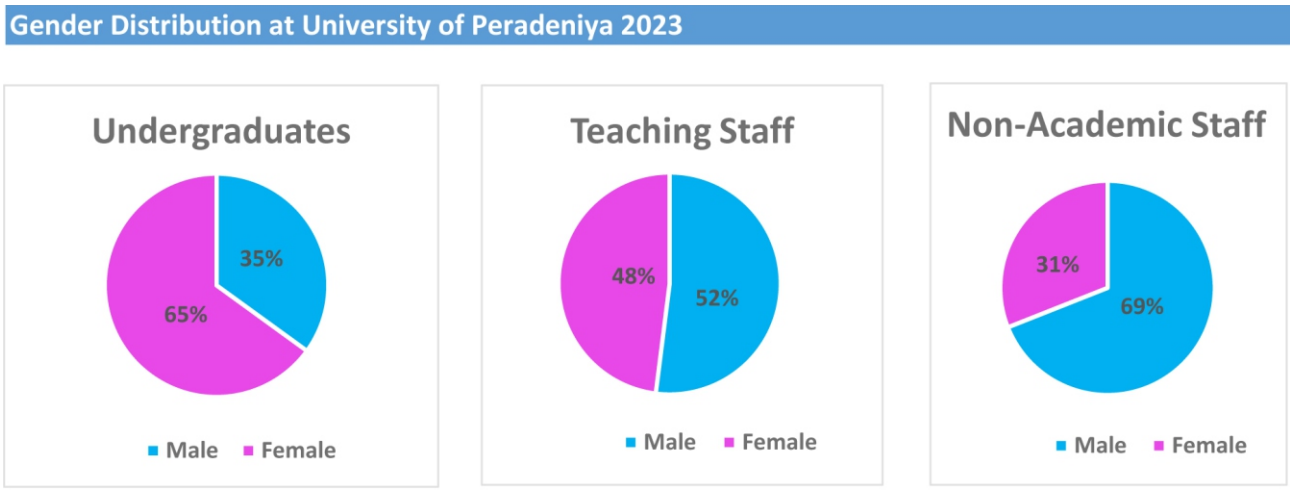
Regular awareness programmes are conducted to educate students and staff about gender equality, consent, and bystander intervention.

Support Services

The Centre for Study of Human Rights provides counseling and support to survivors of gender-based violence.

In 2023, the university continued to strive toward gender balance among its staff and student populations. The detailed gender representation is as follows:

Gender Representation (2023)



Source: UoP Statistic Handbook 2023

Detailed Gender Representation (2023)

The university is committed to achieving gender equality in both staff and student populations.

Gender Representation in Staff (2023)

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Academic Staff	446	414	860	51.9%	48.1%
Academic Support	19	33	52	36.5%	63.5%
Non-Academic Staff	1464	648	2112	69.3%	30.7%
Total	1929	1095	3024	63.8%	36.2%

Gender Representation of Students (2023)

Faculty	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Agriculture	485	980	1465	33.1%	66.9%
Allied Health Sciences	240	603	843	28.5%	71.5%
Arts	723	3834	4557	15.9%	84.1%
Dental Sciences	148	354	502	29.5%	70.5%
Engineering	1317	479	1796	73.3%	26.7%
Management	230	451	681	33.8%	66.2%
Medicine	556	771	1327	41.9%	58.1%
Science	1148	1365	2513	45.7%	54.3%
Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences	123	329	452	27.2%	72.8%
Total	4994	9187	14181	35.2%	64.8%

Programmes and Initiatives

- A session on SGBV is part of the Induction Programme conducted by the Staff Development Centre (SDC) twice a year. Every year, Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Violence Committee (SGBVC) Representatives are invited to conduct a session for Faculty Orientation Programmes for incoming first-year students.
- SGBVC is in the middle of an ongoing training programme on SGBV Policy and Bylaws for Non-academic Members of the University of Peradeniya staff.
- SGBVC has conducted training sessions for academic staff in many faculties.
- SGBVC of UOP conducted a training session for Faculty-level SGBV Committees (18/05/2023).
- The University Centre for Study Human Rights offers a Diploma and Certificate course which includes Women's rights.
- As mentioned above, the Faculty of Science has a compulsory, one-credit course for all first-year undergraduates of the Faculty. It is currently in NC.

Education

- Several Faculties in the University of Peradeniya offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses related to gender through both the faculties and the PGIs. A sample of such programme and courses are given below:
  Gender Analysis in Economics (GAE) is an initiative of the Postgraduate Institute in Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) at the University of Peradeniya to promote Postgraduate Teaching and Research in Gender Analysis in Economics.
- ECN634 Gender Analysis in Microeconomics
- ECN635 Gender Analysis in Macroeconomics

- ECN633 Gender and Development – Feminist Economics perspectives
- ENG 612: "Women's Fiction in English after 1800"
- Undergraduate courses- Political Science – Gender and Power and gender and politics
- Faculty of Science offers a first-year 1-credit undergraduate course on Healthy Relationships. The course addresses issues of how to form and sustain healthy relationships and dynamics.

Outreach Activities

UoP experts have been serving as trainers at international, national and local levels since 1993 in the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Local Government, Education and Higher Education and Labor, National Police Commission, Human Rights Commission, Child Authority, Sri Lanka Local Government Authority, Agrarian Research Training Center, Sri Lanka foundation Institute, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration etc.

Awareness Programs

Awareness-raising sessions on SGBV Prevention are conducted in all three languages for all segments of the University community - students, academic, administrative and non-academic staff. Some of these sessions are ongoing. Some sessions are conducted on a regular basis every year: e.g. session at the Orientation Session for first years and Induction Programme for new academic staff at SDC.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya actively contributes to the well-being of the wider community through gender equality initiatives:

Training and Capacity Building

University experts provide training and capacity-building programs for national organizations such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Human Rights Commission, and Sri Lanka Local Government Authority, promoting gender equality at local, regional, and national levels.

Awareness Programmes

The university conducts ongoing awareness sessions on gender-based violence prevention in all three languages for students, academic, administrative, and non-academic staff, ensuring that the entire university community is informed and engaged in promoting gender equality.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya demonstrates its commitment to SDG 5 through its comprehensive policies, awareness initiatives, and educational programs that promote gender equality. By fostering an inclusive environment, the university ensures that all students and staff have equal opportunities to succeed. Additionally, its outreach efforts and contributions to the wider community help advance gender equality at both national and local levels.





GOAL 06

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The University of Peradeniya is committed to providing access to clean water and sanitation for its community, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Through sustainable water management practices, sanitation systems, and research, the university ensures the well-being of its students, staff, and the broader community.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya adheres to national policies and international standards to ensure sustainable water management and sanitation practices:

National Policy on Protection and Conservation of Water Sources

The university follows the National Policy on the protection and conservation of water sources, catchments, and reservations in Sri Lanka to ensure the responsible use and preservation of water resources.

Internal Policies

The university's Environmental Policy 2021 provides a framework for water conservation and sustainable resource management on campus.

Access to Safe Drinking Water

Ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water is a top priority for the university:

Water Supply and Monitoring

The University of Peradeniya obtains its water supply from a nearby water treatment facility operated by the Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka. In 2023, the university consumed a total of 1,795,041 (Liters) units of treated water, which is distributed across the campus and meets stringent drinking water standards.

Regular Monitoring and Treatment

The water supply is regularly monitored and treated to ensure it adheres to high-quality standards, safeguarding the health and well-being of the university community.

Water Conservation Awareness

The University of Peradeniya actively promotes water conservation through educational initiatives:

Awareness Programmes

The university organizes educational programs and campaigns to raise awareness about water conservation, encouraging responsible water usage among students and staff.

Sustainable Water Use Practices

Community members are encouraged to adopt sustainable water use practices to minimize wastage and protect water resources.

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

The University of Peradeniya is involved in cutting-edge research to develop innovative solutions for sustainable water management:

Collaborative Research

In partnership with China, the university operates the China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology, focusing on sustainable water technologies. This research aims to address global water challenges through the development of innovative solutions that can be implemented locally and internationally.

Sanitation and Waste Management

Maintaining a clean and healthy campus environment is a key priority for the University of Peradeniya. The university has implemented effective sanitation and waste management systems to ensure proper hygiene and cleanliness.

Sewage and Wastewater Management

The university adheres to national guidelines for sewage and wastewater treatment:

On-campus Sewage Treatment

The university uses sewage and soakage pits for on-site wastewater treatment, in line with the guidelines of 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 to fully integrate the campus's sewage system for improved wastewater management.

Waste Management

Effective waste management practices are in place to ensure the responsible disposal of waste generated on campus:

Garbage Collection

The university collects an average of 25,000 kg of waste monthly, using dedicated vehicles to transport waste to disposal sites.

Incineration and Recycling

An on-campus incinerator is used for the disposal of clinical, sanitary, and plastic waste. Recyclable materials, such as paper and plastic, are separated and sold to external recycling partners, reducing the university's environmental footprint.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to clean water and sanitation beyond the campus, contributing to the well-being of the broader community:

Outreach and Education

Through partnerships and outreach initiatives, the university helps raise awareness about sustainable water management and sanitation practices in the local community.

Collaborative Projects

The university works with local authorities to address water resource challenges in nearby regions, sharing research findings and practical solutions developed through the China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 6 is evident in its efforts to provide access to clean water, promote water conservation, and implement effective sanitation systems. By prioritizing sustainable water resource management and engaging in innovative research, the university contributes not only to the well-being of its community but also to the advancement of global solutions for clean water and sanitation.

GOAL 07

AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY



The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Through comprehensive education, research, and infrastructure initiatives, the university strives to reduce its energy footprint while empowering its community with the knowledge and skills needed for a sustainable energy future.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya adheres to national policies and international standards to ensure responsible and sustainable energy practices:

Sri Lanka National Energy Policy (2019)

The university aligns its energy initiatives with the national framework, focusing on energy conservation, efficiency, and the promotion of clean energy technologies.

Internal Policies and Circulars

The university has established internal policies that support its commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability:

Environmental Policy (2021)

This policy guides the university's sustainability efforts, including energy usage and environmental conservation.

Internal Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022)

This circular emphasizes the reduction of energy wastage across campus, promoting responsible energy consumption among staff and students.

Education and Curriculum Development

The University of Peradeniya offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses that focus on affordable and clean energy in relevant programs. These programs equip students with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to contribute to a sustainable energy future. Key courses include:

- CP508: Energy Technology for the Process Industry
- CP305: Energy Systems Design
- CP311: Energy and Environmental Management in Process Industry
- EE404/EE572: Electric Power Systems
- EE575: Power Electronic Applications and Design
- ME330: Energy Technology
- ME329: Thermal Systems Design These courses reflect the university's commitment to integrating energy education into its academic offerings, ensuring that students are prepared to address energy challenges in the global landscape.

Seminars, Workshops, and Guest Lectures

The University of Peradeniya regularly organizes events that focus on energy efficiency and clean energy:

Collaborative Events

Seminars, workshops, and guest lectures are hosted by the Electrical & Electronic Engineering Society, the IEEE Student Branch, and the IEEE Power & Energy Society Chapter at the university. These events feature both local and international experts, providing students and staff with insights into the latest advancements in energy technology and sustainability.

Energy Conservation Initiatives

The university has implemented several energy conservation measures to reduce its energy consumption and promote sustainability:

Energy-Efficient Lighting

The installation of energy-efficient lighting systems across campus has significantly reduced electricity consumption, contributing to a more sustainable energy footprint.

Building Insulation

Improved insulation in campus buildings helps reduce the need for excessive energy use for heating or cooling, thereby improving energy efficiency.

Smart Building Technologies

The university utilizes smart systems that automatically adjust lighting, ventilation, and other energy demands based on real-time needs, optimizing energy usage across campus.

Recent Solar Power Projects

The university initiated several solar power projects and with ecompletion, that will provide almost 25% of energy requirement of the University

Sustainable Transportation

The University of Peradeniya promotes eco-friendly commuting options to further reduce its environmental impact:

Cycling and Walking

The university encourages cycling and walking by providing dedicated bicycle parking facilities, promoting active and sustainable modes of transportation.

Mahailuppallama Campus Case Study

This campus serves as a model for sustainable transportation, demonstrating the effectiveness of cycling as a primary mode of commuting for staff and students.

Fire Safety and Energy Waste Minimization Training

To ensure both safety and sustainability, the university provides comprehensive training programs that cover:






Fire Safety and Energy Waste Minimization

These training sessions, designed for residential students, emphasize responsible energy use alongside fire safety protocols. The program demonstrates the university's holistic approach to sustainability education and safety, ensuring that the campus community is well-informed and engaged in energy conservation practices.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to affordable and clean energy extends beyond the campus, contributing to the well-being of the local community:

Sustainability Outreach

Through educational programmes and outreach activities, the university shares its expertise in energy conservation and clean energy practices with the wider community, promoting sustainable energy use in local households and institutions.

Collaborative Research

The university partners with national and international institutions to conduct research on clean energy technologies and their applications in the local context, furthering Sri Lanka's transition to sustainable energy systems.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 7 is evident in its efforts to promote energy efficiency, clean energy education, and sustainable transportation. Through comprehensive policies, innovative infrastructure, and community engagement, the university not only reduces its energy footprint but also empowers its community to lead in the transition to affordable and clean energy. By integrating sustainability into all aspects of university life, the University of Peradeniya is contributing to a more sustainable future for both the campus and the broader society.



GOAL 08

DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting decent work and economic growth in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8. Through its educational programs, training initiatives, and workplace practices, the university fosters the development of skills, ethical labor practices, and sustainable economic growth, both within the university community and in the wider society.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya adheres to national labor laws and international frameworks to ensure fair labor practices, workers' rights, and a decent work environment:

- Labor 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

Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

The University of Peradeniya offers a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for decent work and economic growth. These programmes emphasize ethical business practices, labor rights, and sustainable economic development:

Faculty of Management

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

Courses such as Ethics in Human Resource Management (HRM 2105), Business Law (MGS 3101), and Employment Law (HRM 3101) provide students with a strong understanding of the legal and ethical frameworks surrounding employment.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The B.Sc. Hons Medical Laboratory Science program boasts 100% employability, contributing directly to sustainable economic growth in Sri Lanka.

Faculty of Arts

Courses like Industrial Sociology and Sociology of Family train students to conduct research on labor issues, while Economics of Labour Markets (ECN4061) promotes an understanding of labor economics.

Faculty of Agriculture

Courses such as Business Psychology and Development Economics emphasize the role of psychology and economics in fostering decent work and economic growth.

Regular Short Courses, Diploma, and Training Programmes

The University of Peradeniya provides continuous professional development through various training programmes and certifications

Staff Development Centre (SDC)

Offers continuous professional development programs for all staff categories, including a Certificate Course in General and Financial Administration for Assistant Registrars and Assistant Bursars to enhance institutional progress.





Career Guidance Unit (CGU)

Organizes unique training programs throughout the academic lifecycle to prepare students for their future careers. These include workshops on decision-making, time management, CV writing, interview skills, leadership, and employability skills development. The CGU also offers career coaching and a Certificate Course on Career Development to equip undergraduates with employability skills.

Industry-Academia Engagement

The Accounting and Finance Industry Forum (AccFIN2) fosters links between academia and industry, helping students gain insights into real-world business and economic issues.

Technology and Digital Skills Development

The Information Technology Center (ITC) provides short-term training programs on Basic ICT Skills, while the Diploma in Information Technology (DITUP) equips students and staff with essential digital skills for the modern workforce.

Personality Development and Entrepreneurship

The Robarosiya Certificate Awarding Ceremony recognizes achievements in personality development, while entrepreneurship programs, such as the Business Career Advancement - Graduates Entrepreneurship Programme, prepare students for careers as innovators and business leaders.

Faculty-Specific Initiatives

The Medical Education Unit and Faculty of Management conduct workshops and webinars on teaching, learning, and soft skills development, ensuring that faculty members and students are equipped for the future of work.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya contributes to the well-being of the broader community by promoting decent work and economic growth through education, training, and outreach initiatives:

Community Career Development Programmes

The university offers certificate and diploma courses in language, IT, psychology, and management to enhance the job market readiness of both students and community members.

Outreach and Industry Engagement

The university collaborates with industry experts, businesses, and governmental organizations to provide training and opportunities for local economic growth. Programs such as the Career Guidance Unit's workshops and industry forums bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical employment skills.

Support for Local Entrepreneurs

The university actively supports local entrepreneurs by offering training and exhibitting technology, contributing to economic development and job creation within the region.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 8 is reflected in its comprehensive educational programs, continuous professional development initiatives, and engagement with industry and the community. By equipping students with essential skills for decent work, fostering ethical labor practices, and contributing to sustainable economic growth, the university plays a key role in preparing its community for the evolving global workforce. Furthermore, its outreach programs and collaboration with local industries enhance the economic well-being of the wider society, ensuring that the benefits of education and economic development extend beyond the university campus.





GOAL 09

INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The University of Peradeniya is committed to advancing SDG 9 through strategic investments in infrastructure, fostering a culture of innovation, and contributing to industrial development. By supporting multidisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, and technological advancements, the university plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable industrial growth and infrastructure development in Sri Lanka.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Peradeniya actively promotes innovation and entrepreneurship through various initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between academia and industry:

Multidisciplinary National Innovation Center (MuNIC)

MuNIC serves as a vibrant hub of creativity and collaboration, bringing together experts from diverse fields to solve complex challenges, foster innovation, and develop practical solutions. The center supports groundbreaking research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and industry partnerships, ensuring that innovative ideas are translated into real-world applications.

Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office (BLIITTO)

BLIITTO plays a critical role in facilitating the transfer of knowledge, technology, and innovation from the university's research to the broader business community. The office provides support for startups, encourages entrepreneurship, and fosters partnerships between academia and industry, contributing to the sustainable development of the region.





Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES)

PURES is an annual event that recognizes and celebrates outstanding research contributions from faculty and students. The event promotes a culture of innovation within the university and highlights its role in addressing global and local challenges through research.







Infrastructure Development

The University of Peradeniya has invested significantly in both physical and technological infrastructure to support its academic, research, and industrial development goals:

Physical Infrastructure

Recent expansions include the construction of new lecture halls, laboratories, and research centers, enhancing the learning and research environment for students and faculty.

Technological Infrastructure

The university has established a robust optic fiber network and widespread Wi-Fi coverage across the campus. This infrastructure supports online learning, research, and collaboration, providing seamless connectivity for both academic and administrative activities.

Transportation

The university offers shuttle services and transportation for field trips, improving accessibility within the campus and to external locations, facilitating research and fieldwork for students and staff.





Human Capital Development

Recognizing the importance of human capital in driving innovation and economic growth, the University of Peradeniya focuses on the professional development of its students and staff:

CareerGuidancePrograms

The university offers entrepreneurship training and workshops on emerging technologies to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in the evolving job market. These programs are designed to foster creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking.

Human Resource Development Unit (HRDU)

The HRDU plays a key role in enhancing employee capabilities and performance. Through training programs and workshops, the unit ensures that staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to the university's mission of promoting innovation and industrial growth.





Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to industry, innovation, and infrastructure beyond the campus by engaging with the wider community and contributing to regional development:

Supporting Local Industry

Through partnerships and exhibitions, the university helps foster innovation and technology transfer, supporting regional economic growth and job creation. The university's research and innovation provides local industries with access to cutting-edge technology, expertise and solutions.

Entrepreneurship Support

The university offers incubation support to local entrepreneurs and startups, helping them develop sustainable business models that contribute to the local economy. Through BLIITTO and other initiatives, the university actively promotes entrepreneurship as a means of driving economic growth.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 9 is reflected in its efforts to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure development. By investing in state-of-the-art facilities, fostering human capital, and supporting industry partnerships, the university contributes to sustainable industrial development and economic growth. Additionally, its outreach efforts and collaboration with local industries help ensure that the benefits of innovation and infrastructure development extend beyond the campus, contributing to the well-being of the wider community.









GOAL 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to reducing inequalities and fostering an inclusive environment, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10: Reduce Inequalities. Through initiatives that promote social justice, equality, and human rights, the university plays a vital role in addressing inequalities in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya ensures that its operations and policies comply with national and international legal frameworks aimed at reducing inequalities and protecting human rights:

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996

The university adheres to this key piece of legislation, which is fundamental in promoting and protecting human rights within the country.

Centre for the Study of Human Rights - University of Peradeniya

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights at the University of Peradeniya is a pioneering institution dedicated to advancing human rights in Sri Lanka. The Centre serves as a hub for research, education, and public engagement on human rights issues. Its activities include:

Research and Education

The Centre conducts research and organizes educational programs and workshops that promote a deep understanding of human rights principles and social justice.

Advocacy for Vulnerable Populations

Through its advocacy initiatives, the Centre supports vulnerable populations, empowering students and scholars to become agents of positive change within their communities and beyond.

Public Engagement

The Centre actively engages with the public, fostering a broader societal understanding of human rights issues and contributing to local and global discussions on equality and social justice. by facilitating critical conversations and research on human rights, the Centre embodies the university's commitment to social responsibility and the protection of fundamental rights.

Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SGBVC)

The University of Peradeniya has established the Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SGBVC) to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all. The university is committed to preventing all forms of harassment or violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. The SGBVC's responsibilities include:

Awareness and Prevention

The committee works proactively to raise awareness about sexual and gender-based violence and to prevent such incidents through educational programmes and outreach initiatives.

Complaint Resolution

The SGBVC has established fair and transparent procedures for addressing complaints, ensuring that victims receive the necessary support and assistance.

Support Systems

The university upholds the dignity and equality of every individual by offering comprehensive support systems for those affected by sexual or gender-based violence, reinforcing a culture of respect and inclusivity.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to reducing inequalities to the innere and wider community through outreach programs and inclusivity efforts:

Pirith Chanting Ceremony (January 2023)

The university organized a Pirith Chanting ceremony at the Senate Building to invoke blessings for the university community at the start of the new year. Clergy from all four major religions participated, symbolizing the university's commitment to religious harmony and cultural inclusivity. The event, attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans, and staff members, was also streamed live, allowing the broader community to partake in the celebration.



Supporting Marginalized Groups

The university collaborates with local and national organizations to support marginalized and underrepresented groups, promoting equal access to education, healthcare, and resources.

Cultural Inclusivity

Through events and initiatives that celebrate diversity, the university fosters a sense of unity and mutual respect among different religious and cultural groups, contributing to broader social cohesion in Sri Lanka.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 10 is evident in its efforts to promote equality, inclusivity, and human rights. By adhering to national and international legal frameworks, supporting vulnerable populations, and fostering a culture of respect, the university actively works to reduce inequalities. Through research, education, and community engagement, the University of Peradeniya not only contributes to social justice on campus but also plays a significant role in advancing equality in the wider society.

GOAL 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES



The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting sustainability on campus and fostering sustainable living practices among its students, staff, and the wider community. These efforts align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Through strategic initiatives in campus planning, community engagement, and sustainable transportation, the university is leading by example in building sustainable communities.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya ensures its sustainability initiatives comply with key international agreements focused on biodiversity and climate change:

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD emphasizes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including in urban environments. The university integrates biodiversity considerations into its campus planning and design to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

As part of its alignment with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the university undertakes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, contributing to more sustainable urban settlements.

Internal Policies and Circulars

The University of Peradeniya has established internal policies to guide its sustainability efforts:

Environmental Policy 2021

This policy provides the framework for sustainable campus development, energy efficiency, and the responsible use of resources, supporting the university's commitment to SDG 11.

Sustainable Campus Planning and Design

The University of Peradeniya has implemented various measures to ensure that its campus is both sustainable and accessible

Green Spaces

The campus features abundant green spaces, parks, and recreational areas that contribute to a healthy and enjoyable environment for students, staff, and visitors. These spaces help reduce the campus's carbon footprint and provide a natural habitat for local biodiversity.

Accessibility

The university has improved accessibility for people with disabilities by installing ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms. It has also established a Special Needs Resource Centre to support students with special needs, promoting inclusivity and equal access to education and resources.

Safe and Inclusive Communities

The University of Peradeniya fosters a safe and inclusive campus environment through the following initiatives

Campus Security

The university has implemented robust security measures, including surveillance systems, emergency response protocols, and trained security personnel, ensuring a secure environment for all campus members.

Diversity and Inclusion

The university promotes diversity and inclusion through various student societies, clubs, and organizations representing different cultures and backgrounds. In 2023, there were 102 registered student societies, reflecting the vibrant and diverse campus culture.

Community Engagement

The university actively engages with the local community through outreach programs, volunteer initiatives, and partnerships. These efforts foster a strong sense of belonging and collaboration between the university and the broader community.

Sustainable Transportation Systems

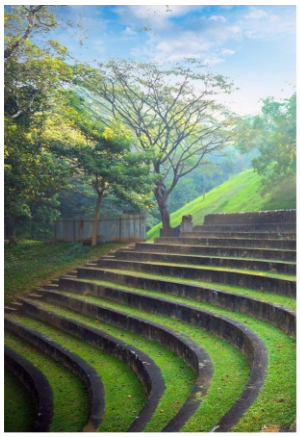
The University of Peradeniya has implemented sustainable transportation solutions to reduce the environmental impact of commuting and travel:

Public Transportation Access

The university is conveniently located near public transportation options, making it accessible for students, staff, and visitors and reducing reliance on private vehicles.

Cycling and Walking Paths

Dedicated cycling and walking paths have been developed to encourage eco-friendly commuting options on campus.







Carpooling and Parking Management

The university has introduced carpooling systems and parking management strategies to reduce traffic congestion and emissions, contributing to a cleaner and more efficient campus environment.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 11 extends to the well-being of the surrounding community:

Local Partnerships

The university collaborates with local authorities and organizations to address urban challenges such as environmental conservation, waste management, and sustainable urban development.

Educational Outreach

The university engages the wider community through sustainability education programs, workshops, and seminars, raising awareness about the importance of building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's efforts to support SDG 11 are evident in its sustainable campus planning, inclusive community initiatives, and commitment to environmental conservation. Through these actions, the university not only enhances the quality of life for its students and staff but also contributes to the creation of more sustainable and resilient communities. By prioritizing green spaces, accessibility, and sustainable transportation, the university serves as a model for sustainable urban living and continues to make significant contributions to local and global efforts in sustainable development.



GOAL 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION



The University of Peradeniya is committed to promoting responsible consumption and production in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12. By adhering to national and international environmental policies, implementing sustainable practices, and engaging with the community, the university strives to minimize its environmental impact and foster a culture of sustainability among students, staff, and the wider community.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya complies with key national and international environmental policies to promote responsible consumption and production:

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

Internal Policies and Circulars

The university has established internal policies that reinforce its commitment to sustainability and responsible consumption:

Environmental Policy (2021)

This policy provides a framework for reducing the university's environmental impact, promoting sustainability in all university operations.

Internal Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022)

This circular emphasizes the importance of reducing waste across campus, guiding staff and students in minimizing material and energy consumption.

Programmes

The University of Peradeniya has implemented several initiatives to support SDG 12 and promote sustainable consumption and production:



Sustainable Procurement

The university prioritizes sustainable procurement practices by selecting suppliers and products that adhere to ethical and eco-friendly standards. This includes sourcing products with minimal environmental impact and fair labor practices.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The university has developed waste reduction and recycling programs to encourage students and staff to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials, minimizing waste generation on campus.

Energy Efficiency

To reduce electricity consumption, the university has retrofitted light fixtures with energy-efficient LED bulbs, promoting energy conservation across campus.

Sustainable Transportation

Staff and students are encouraged to use eco-friendly transportation options, such as walking, cycling, and public transportation. Shuttle buses are provided for commuting between the university and training facilities to reduce the campus's carbon footprint.

Curriculum Integration

Concepts related to sustainability and responsible consumption are incorporated into the university's curriculum. Courses on sustainable development, the circular economy, and responsible business practices are offered to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a sustainable future.

Awareness and Engagement

The university regularly organizes awareness campaigns, seminars, and workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff about responsible consumption and production, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

Community Engagement and Waste Management

The University of Peradeniya actively engages with the local community to promote responsible consumption and effective waste management:

Kandy City Cleaning Day

In collaboration with the Kandy Municipal Council, the university organized a city-wide cleaning program involving students from the Geographical and Botanical Societies. This initiative fostered civic responsibility and environmental stewardship among students and contributed to the cleanliness of Kandy city.

Community Awareness Programme

The university partnered with the Kandy Municipal Council to conduct a waste management awareness programme for local businesses. The program aimed to strengthen the city's waste management practices through training and capacity-building initiatives, promoting responsible waste disposal and recycling.









Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to responsible consumption and production beyond the campus, contributing to the well-being of the broader community through outreach and educational initiatives:

Collaborative Projects

The university works closely with local governments and businesses to address environmental challenges, providing expertise and support for sustainable consumption and waste management practices.

Educational Outreach

Through public lectures, workshops, and community programs, the university raises awareness about sustainable consumption, encouraging individuals and businesses to adopt responsible practices that contribute to environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's efforts to support SDG 12 are evident in its comprehensive approach to responsible consumption and production. Through sustainable procurement, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and community engagement, the university plays a leading role in promoting environmental stewardship on campus and beyond. By integrating sustainability into its operations and curriculum, the university ensures that its students and staff are equipped to contribute to a more sustainable future.

GOAL 13

CLIMATE ACTION

The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, which emphasizes urgent action to combat climate change and mitigate its impacts. The university has implemented a variety of initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainability, and building climate resilience. These efforts are supported by national and international agreements, internal policies, and programmes that encourage responsible climate action.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya aligns its climate action initiatives with key national and international frameworks that address environmental sustainability and climate resilience:

National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka (2012)

Provides a framework for adaptation, mitigation, and building climate resilience.

National Environmental Policy (2022)

Outlines the government's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development.

National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (2019)

Supports sustainable practices that reduce environmental impact.

National Environmental Act

Legal framework guiding the university's environmental management practices.

Paris Agreement (2016)

International treaty aimed at limiting global warming, supported by the university's energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Framework for international cooperation on climate change, aligned with the university's climate programs.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

International agreement promoting biodiversity conservation, supported by the university's environmental sustainability initiatives.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Addresses land degradation, complementing the university's land management and tree-planting programmes.







Internal Policies and Circulars

The University of Peradeniya has established internal policies that focus on reducing its carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability:

Environmental Policy (2021)

Guides the university's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate resilience.

Internal Circular on Wastage Minimization (2022)

A directive focused on reducing waste generation and promoting resource efficiency.

Programmes and Initiatives

The University of Peradeniya has undertaken a range of initiatives aimed at promoting energy efficiency, sustainability, and climate action:

Energy Efficiency

The university has retrofitted light fixtures with energy-efficient LED bulbs and implemented energy conservation practices to reduce electricity consumption and lower carbon emissions.

Sustainable Procurement

The university follows sustainable procurement practices by choosing suppliers and products that adhere to eco-friendly standards, reducing the environmental impact of its operations.



Waste Reduction

Comprehensive waste reduction and recycling programs encourage students and staff to follow the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—minimizing the university's waste output.

Sustainable Transportation

The university promotes walking, cycling, and public transportation as eco-friendly commuting options. Shuttle buses are provided to reduce the reliance on personal vehicles, contributing to a lower carbon footprint.

Curriculum Integration

Concepts related to climate change, environmental conservation, and sustainable practices are incorporated into the curriculum across multiple disciplines.

Awareness and Engagement

The university organizes awareness campaigns, seminars, and workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff on the importance of climate action and sustainable living.

Student and Community Engagement

The University of Peradeniya actively engages students and the wider community in climate action and environmental sustainability initiatives:

Kandy City Cleaning Day Programme

On March 11, 2023, students from the Geographical and Botanical Societies participated in a city cleaning program organized by the Kandy Municipal Council. The event aimed to promote environmental sustainability by cleaning key areas of the city. The program was supported by university leadership and coordinated by the Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and the Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office (BLIITTO).





Community Awareness Program

As part of International Week 2023, the CES, International Relations Office (InRO), and the Department of Botany organized a community awareness program focused on waste management in Kandy. The program included training sessions for 30 GreenTerns, equipping them with skills for effective waste management, which were then applied in local businesses to support the city's waste management plan.

Climate Change Education and Outreach

The university has organized numerous workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to educate local communities about the impacts of climate change and strategies for mitigation and adaptation. Collaborations with local schools introduce environmental education programs, including tree planting and community gardening projects.

Youth for Climate Action

This initiative encourages young people to engage in climate action. The university organized activities aligned with the COP26 UN Climate Summit, involving students in efforts to raise awareness about climate change and promote sustainable practices.

Household Waste Management for a Circular Economy

The university promotes sustainable household waste management through educational workshops, outreach programs, and research initiatives. These efforts focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials, promoting composting, and supporting waste collection and recycling efforts in local communities.

School Programs

The university collaborates with local schools to engage students in climate change education. These programs feature interactive workshops and environmental campaigns, with university professors and students serving as guest lecturers.

Tackling Climate Change Head-On (CCA-DRR)

Representatives from the University of Peradeniya participated in a global research training event co-funded by Erasmus+, focusing on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The initiative emphasized multidisciplinary collaboration and contributed to developing a research roadmap on building resilience to climate change.

Tree Planting for Independence Day

To commemorate the 75th Independence Day and the university's 80th anniversary, 80 saplings were planted along the Gampola and Galaha roads on university grounds. This tree-planting event reflects the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and was attended by key university staff, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 13 is reflected in its efforts to promote energy efficiency, sustainable procurement, waste reduction, and community engagement. By integrating climate change concepts into its curriculum, implementing green infrastructure, and fostering a culture of sustainability, the university actively contributes to climate resilience. Through collaborations with local and international partners, the university continues to lead in climate action, preparing both students and the community for the challenges posed by climate change.

GOAL 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. This goal emphasizes the protection of aquatic ecosystems, the reduction of marine pollution, and the conservation of marine biodiversity. Through various initiatives and educational programs, the university plays an active role in protecting life below water and promoting environmental sustainability.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya aligns its conservation efforts with key national and international agreements focused on the protection of aquatic ecosystems:

Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance

Provides legal protection for wildlife, including aquatic species, guiding the university's biodiversity conservation efforts.

Forest Ordinance

Supports the conservation of forest ecosystems, which are closely connected to aquatic environments, contributing to the preservation of water resources.

Plant Protection Act

Prevents the introduction and spread of harmful plant species that can impact aquatic ecosystems.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Regulates international trade to prevent threats to endangered aquatic species.

Ramsar Convention

An international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which are essential habitats for many aquatic species.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Focuses on biodiversity conservation, including marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)

Guides the university's efforts to protect migratory species, including aquatic animals.

National Policy on Protection and Conservation of Water Sources, their Catchments, and Reservations in Sri Lanka

Provides strategies for conserving water sources, essential for maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Internal Policies and Circulars

The University of Peradeniya has established policies that support its commitment to environmental sustainability and the conservation of aquatic ecosystems:

Environmental Policy (2021)

Environmental policy of UoP outlines the university's commitment to reducing water pollution and protecting aquatic ecosystems through sustainable practices.

Education and Training

The University of Peradeniya offers a variety of educational programs aimed at promoting the conservation of aquatic ecosystems:

Undergraduate Honors Degree Programmes

The university offers undergraduate honors degrees in Botany, Zoology, and Environmental Science, which include courses on aquatic biodiversity conservation.

Postgraduate Programmes

The university's postgraduate MSc programs in Environmental Science, Oceanography, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Biodiversity Conservation focus on protecting aquatic flora and fauna.

Specialized Courses and Workshops

In addition to undergraduate and postgraduate programs, the university offers specialized courses and workshops related to aquatic biodiversity conservation. These programs are available to students and the general public through the Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and other faculties and institutes.

Conservation Programmes and Initiatives

The University of Peradeniya has implemented several programmes to protect aquatic ecosystems and promote sustainability.



Mahaweli River Bank Conservation

In partnership with the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority, the university launched a Bamboo Tree Planting Programalong the banks of the Mahaweli River. This initiative aims to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and create a sustainable buffer zone that supports both terrestrial and aquatic species. Bamboo's rapid growth and ecological benefits make it an ideal choice for stabilizing riverbanks and conserving the river's delicate ecosystem.

Conservation Programmes

The university has established ongoing conservation programs targeting rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. These initiatives focus on protecting aquatic life through activities such as water quality monitoring, fishery management, and habitat protection. By maintaining the health of these ecosystems, the university contributes to the long-term sustainability of aquatic resources.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya extends its commitment to conserving aquatic ecosystems through community engagement and education:

Community Outreach Programmes

The university collaborates with local communities to promote water conservation and sustainable practices. Public lectures, seminars, and workshops are organized to raise awareness about the importance of protecting aquatic environments and to teach practical ways of reducing water pollution.

Collaborative Conservation Efforts

The university works with local authorities, environmental organizations, and international bodies to protect and restore aquatic habitats, ensuring that both local communities and aquatic species benefit from sustainable resource management.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 14 is reflected in its comprehensive approach to conserving aquatic ecosystems and promoting environmental sustainability. Through educational programs, research initiatives, and conservation projects, the university plays a key role in protecting life below water. By collaborating with local and international partners and engaging with the community, the university ensures that its efforts contribute to the long-term preservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of aquatic



GOAL 15

LIFE ON LAND



The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. This goal highlights the importance of conserving biodiversity, preventing land degradation, and ensuring the sustainable management of natural habitats. Through educational programs, research initiatives, and conservation projects, the university plays a significant role in preserving terrestrial ecosystems.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya aligns its efforts with national and international agreements aimed at protecting terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems:

Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance

Provides legal protection for wildlife, ensuring the conservation of terrestrial species.

Forest Ordinance

Supports the preservation of forest ecosystems, crucial for maintaining biodiversity.

Plant Protection Act

Focuses on preventing the spread of harmful plant species that can disrupt land ecosystems.

National Alien Invasive Action Policy

Guides the control and management of invasive species that threaten local biodiversity.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Regulates the trade of endangered species to prevent exploitation.

Ramsar Convention

Focuses on the conservation of wetlands, essential for supporting land-based species.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Emphasizes the conservation of biodiversity, including terrestrial ecosystems.

Bonn Convention

Aims to protect migratory species, including those that inhabit land ecosystems.

Internal Policies and Circulars

The University of Peradeniya has established internal policies that support its commitment to environmental sustainability and the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems:

Environmental Policy (2021)

This policy provides a framework for the sustainable management of forests, land ecosystems, and biodiversity conservation.

Education and Training

The University of Peradeniya offers a range of educational programmes that contribute to the conservation of land-based ecosystems:

Undergraduate Programmes

Honors degree programs in Botany, Zoology, and Environmental Science include courses on biodiversity conservation and land management.

Postgraduate Programmes

MSc programmes in Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management, Environmental Science, and Biodiversity Conservation focus on the preservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Specialized Courses and Workshops

The university offers specialized courses and workshops related to biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution, and ecosystem monitoring. These programs are available to both students and the public through the Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and other postgraduate institutes.

Conservation Programmes and Initiatives

The University of Peradeniya has implemented several conservation programs aimed at protecting terrestrial ecosystems and promoting environmental sustainability:

Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA)

The Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA) is a 274-hectare natural sanctuary known for its rich biodiversity. The university oversees 490 hectares of vegetation within HEPA and actively engages in conservation efforts, including boundary establishment, research, restoration projects like Regreen Hantana, awareness programs, and environmental monitoring to preserve this vital ecosystem.





Save the Next Generation

This annual reforestation programme in the Knuckles Conservation Area is conducted by the university's Botanical Society in collaboration with Noritake Lanka Porcelain (Pvt.) Ltd., the Forest Department of Sri Lanka, and local communities. The programme focuses on restoring degraded lands and promoting sustainable land management practices.

Biodiversity Baseline Study

A planned Biodiversity Baseline Survey at Hantana aims to document species diversity and provide a foundation for future conservation efforts. This initiative will enhance the university's ability to monitor ecosystem health and support long-term biodiversity conservation strategies.

Community Outreach Activities

The University of Peradeniya extends its conservation efforts through active community engagement and education:

Environmental Awareness and Education

The university conducts workshops, seminars, and public lectures to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. These initiatives engage local communities in conservation practices and promote hands-on participation in environmental protection activities.

Habitat Restoration Projects

The university participates in tree planting initiatives, the establishment of community-based wildlife sanctuaries, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. These projects aim to restore damaged ecosystems and create habitats that support local wildlife while encouraging community involvement in conservation.

Research and Knowledge Sharing

The University of Peradeniya is committed to advancing knowledge about terrestrial biodiversity and sharing its research findings with the wider community:

Seminar on World Migratory Birds

On May 11, 2023, the university held a seminar on the diversity and conservation of waterbirds in Sri Lanka's Northern Avifaunal Region, presented by Dr. Chamindz Wijesundara. Based on a five-year research project, the seminar highlighted the threats to waterbirds and ongoing conservation efforts in the region. This event contributed to raising awareness about avian biodiversity and the importance of protecting migratory species.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 15 extends to the well-being of the local community:

Collaborative Conservation Efforts

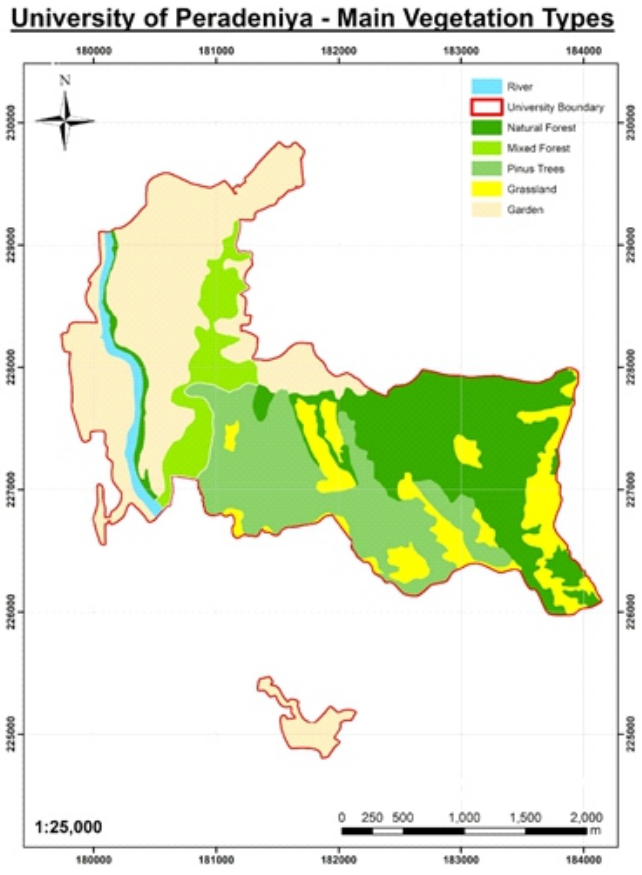
The university partners with local organizations, government bodies, and international environmental groups to protect biodiversity and restore ecosystems, ensuring that communities benefit from the conservation of natural resources.

Sustainable Agricultural Practices

The university promotes sustainable agricultural practices that protect ecosystems while supporting local farmers, helping to balance environmental sustainability with economic development.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 15 is evident through its comprehensive conservation programs, educational initiatives, and research efforts aimed at preserving terrestrial ecosystems. By engaging local communities, fostering environmental awareness, and promoting sustainable land management practices, the university plays a pivotal role in protecting biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of land resources for future generations.



GOAL 16 PEACE, JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The University of Peradeniya is dedicated to promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. The university's efforts encompass adherence to national and international laws, fostering strong institutional governance, and providing educational and outreach programs that support justice, human rights, and anti-corruption initiatives.

Compliance with National and International Laws

The University of Peradeniya ensures its operations are aligned with key national and international legal frameworks to uphold the principles of SDG 16:

Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Provides the legal framework for governance and the protection of fundamental rights.

Domestic Laws on Fundamental Rights

Includes the Right to Information Act (2016), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Act (2007), and the Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act (1998).

Bribery and Corruption Laws

Encompasses the Bribery Act of 1954 (as amended) and the UN Convention against Corruption (2003).

International Human Rights Instruments

Includes agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1996), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

Internal Policies and Governance Measures

The University of Peradeniya has established internal policies and governance structures to ensure the protection of human rights, inclusivity, and institutional transparency:

Policy on Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence

Aims to protect all university members from harassment and violence.

Policy on Students with Disabilities

Ensures inclusivity and accessibility for students with disabilities, fostering an equitable learning environment.

Policy on Curbing Ragging

Strictly prohibits any form of ragging or violence within the university community.

University Governance

The university's Senate and various committees promote transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation in decision-making processes.

Audit and Management Committee (AMC)

Oversees regular audits to ensure the integrity of the university's financial operations.

Grievance Committees
Provides confidential and fair grievance resolution for both staff and students, creating a safe and inclusive campus environment.

Educational Programmes
The University of Peradeniya offers a variety of educational programs that contribute to the promotion of peace, justice, and strong institutions:

Undergraduate Programmes

The Department of Political Science
offers courses in political science, public administration, human rights, and gender and politics.

The Department of Law
provides a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) program with courses in constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights law.

The Faculty of Management
offers a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program, with courses on conflict management, public sector accounting, and cross-cultural management.

Postgraduate Programmes

The Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) offers programs such as the Master of Human Rights and Multiculturalism (MHRM), Master of Social Work (MSW), and Master of Development Practice (MDP).

Certificate and Diploma Courses

- The Centre for the Study of Human Rights offers a Certificate Course in Human Rights and a Diploma in Human Rights.
- The Department of Forensic Medicine offers a Diploma in Forensic Medicine for Lawyers and Judges.

Research and Knowledge Sharing

The University of Peradeniya actively contributes to research and knowledge dissemination related to SDG 16 through academic publications

Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities (SLJH)
Publishes research on topics relevant to peace, justice, and institutional integrity.

Sri Lanka Journal on Forensic Medicine, Science, and Law
Focuses on forensic studies and legal issues, contributing to discussions on justice and law.

Peradeniya Law Journal
Launched in 2023, this journal offers insights into contemporary legal challenges and developments.

International Journals
Faculty members regularly publish in global journals such as Third World Quarterly and Contemporary South Asia, contributing to international discourse on governance, human rights, and justice.



Outreach and Awareness Programmes

The University of Peradeniya engages in various outreach and awareness activities to promote peace, justice, and institutional development:

Public Seminars and Workshops

The university hosts events on topics such as the rule of law, access to justice, human rights protection, and the prevention of ragging, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence.

External Partnerships

- The 'IncEdu' Project is a collaboration with Erasmus+ focused on developing inclusive education for students with disabilities in Sri Lanka.
- A partnership with the Canadian Embassy promotes inclusive language policies and supports the impartial implementation of the Official Language Policy in Sri Lanka.



Community Engagement

Departments, particularly within the Faculty of Arts, conduct outreach activities such as the 'Law Week' organized by the Department of Law and governance training programs by the Department of Political Science.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 16 extends beyond its campus, focusing on community engagement and the promotion of justice and inclusivity:

Law Week

A community-focused initiative by the Department of Law that provides free legal advice, workshops on legal literacy, and consultations with local communities.



Governance Training

The Department of Political Science offers training programs on governance quality, promoting transparency and accountability within local government bodies.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's dedication to SDG 16 is demonstrated through its efforts to promote peace, justice, and strong institutions. By fostering inclusive policies, providing educational programs on human rights and governance, conducting relevant research, and engaging with the community, the university plays a vital role in advancing justice and promoting institutional integrity. These efforts contribute to building a more peaceful, just, and inclusive society both locally and globally.







GOAL 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The University of Peradeniya actively fosters local, national, and international partnerships to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: Partnerships for the Goals. These collaborations enhance the university's ability to contribute to global sustainability efforts, strengthen capacity-building initiatives, and leverage resources for academic and research excellence.

Compliance with National and International Agreements

The University of Peradeniya aligns its partnership efforts with various national and international agreements that promote collaboration and sustainable development:

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The university's activities and partnerships are aligned with the UN's global agenda for sustainable development.

National Policy Framework on International Relations

The university complies with national policies that guide international collaborations, ensuring alignment with Sri Lanka's development priorities.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with International Institutions

Formal agreements with global universities and research institutions promote academic exchange, joint research, and capacity-building.

Sri Lanka's Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy

The university engages in partnerships that support national efforts in science, technology, and innovation, contributing to economic and social development.

Internal Policies and Governance Measures

The University of Peradeniya has established internal structures to manage and guide its partnerships, ensuring they are aligned with the university's strategic goals:

International Relations Office (IRO)

The IRO coordinates and manages international partnerships, ensuring that collaborations contribute to the university's strategic mission and SDG 17.





University Senate Committees on Partnerships

Oversees and guides the development of partnerships, ensuring they are sustainable, mutually beneficial, and aligned with the university's mission.



University Research Council

Supports research collaborations and partnerships aimed at advancing innovation and development.

Multidisciplinary National Innovation Center (MuNIC)

Serves as a hub for innovation and industry partnerships, contributing to national development goals.

Educational Programmes

The University of Peradeniya offers programs that foster partnership skills and global cooperation, contributing to SDG 17:

Master of Development Practice (MDP)

This programme equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in international development work, with a strong emphasis on building effective partnerships for sustainable development.

Outreach and Awareness Programmes

The university engages in a variety of outreach activities to promote SDG 17 and raise awareness about the importance of partnerships for sustainable development::

Public Seminars and Workshops

The university hosts seminars and workshops on topics such as global partnerships, the role of international organizations in development, and the benefits of academic collaboration.

Capacity-Building Programs

Training and workshops are conducted in collaboration with international partners to strengthen institutional capacities in Sri Lanka, focusing on knowledge-sharing and skills development.

Community Engagement Initiatives

The university works with local communities and NGOs to promote sustainable development through partnerships. These initiatives focus on capacity-building, resource-sharing, and the promotion of sustainable practices at the community level.

External Partnerships

The University of Peradeniya has established numerous partnerships with institutions worldwide, contributing to SDG 17 by fostering collaboration and promoting innovation:

Collaborations with Global Universities

The university engages in joint degree programs, student and faculty exchange initiatives, and collaborative research projects with universities across Europe, Asia, and North America, enhancing global academic cooperation.

Partnerships with International Organizations

The university works with UN agencies, international NGOs, and global networks to advance sustainable development goals through collaborative projects and initiatives.





University Governance Measures

The University of Peradeniya implements governance measures to ensure that its partnerships contribute to sustainable development and are effectively managed:

Strategic Planning for Partnerships

The university's strategic plan includes a strong focus on enhancing partnerships both locally and globally, supporting the achievement of SDG 17 and promoting long-term sustainability.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Partnerships

The university regularly assesses the impact and effectiveness of its partnerships to ensure they contribute to the university's mission and the broader goals of SDG 17.

Community Well-being

The University of Peradeniya's partnerships contribute to the well-being of the wider community by promoting sustainable development and capacity-building initiatives:

Local Collaborations

The university works with local communities and organizations to promote knowledge-sharing, sustainable practices, and innovation that benefits both the university and society at large.

Public-Private Partnerships

Through industry partnerships and government collaborations, the university supports projects that improve access to education, healthcare, and sustainable resources, contributing to national development and the community's well-being.

Conclusion

The University of Peradeniya's commitment to SDG 17 is evident in its robust network of partnerships at the local, national, and international levels. Through strategic collaborations with universities, governments, NGOs, and industry, the university enhances its capacity to contribute to global sustainability efforts. These partnerships strengthen research, innovation, and community engagement, ensuring that the university plays a key role in advancing sustainable development goals.



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