SINDH MADRESSATUL ISLAM UNIVERSITY (SMIU)

Karachi, Pakistan

SDG 14

Life Below Water

Institutional Evidence Report

Item	Detail
Institution	Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), Karachi, Pakistan
Sustainable Development Goal	SDG 14 – Life Below Water
Evidence period covered	July 2023 – June 2024 and January – December 2025
Prepared for	Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), SMIU
Purpose	Preparation of evidence for the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings
Report date	October 2026
Source documents	SMIU Annual Report; SMIU Chronicle January–June 2025; SMIU Chronicle July–December 2025

1. Executive Summary

This report presents the evidence of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), located in Karachi, for SDG 14 – Life Below Water, drawn from the SMIU Annual Report and the SMIU Chronicles for 2025. It covers coastal and aquatic ecosystem action, education and stakeholder dialogue on coastal issues, and field learning at aquatic sites.

With WWF, SMIU's Department of Environmental Sciences organised beach clean-up events on 4 March 2024 and 26 September 2024 (the latter with Pakistan Beverages Limited), and the Department of Social and Development Studies held a seminar, mangrove plantation drive and beach clean-up at the WWF Wetland Center on 14 June 2024 under its MS Development Project "Green Coast and Biodiversity Preservation". A Plastic Recovery Bank with WWF is reported. In December 2025, 30 Environmental Sciences students conducted a water-quality, biodiversity and socio-economic study at Keenjhar Lake with WWF-Pakistan. Seminars and Congress panels in 2025 brought fishing-community and coastal-ecosystem voices to the campus.

Principal documented contributions

- Beach Cleanliness Drive at the WWF Wetland Center, Karachi, 4 March 2024, with Milkar Pakistan and Green Youth Movement Club ambassadors under DSA (AR p.37).
- Beach cleaning event with WWF and Pakistan Beverages Limited, 26 September 2024, to raise awareness about cleanliness, particularly in coastal areas (AR p.37).
- Seminar on Environment and Biodiversity Preservation, mangrove plantation drive and beach clean-up at the Wetland Center, Kiamari, 14 June 2024 (AR p.50, 91).
- Plastic Recovery Bank launched with WWF (AR p.37).
- Keenjhar Lake study tour with WWF-Pakistan: water-quality monitoring, ecological survey and socio-economic survey (30 students; statement of 8 December 2025) (CJD p.56).
- Seminar "Climate Risks and Challenges in Sindh" (11 June 2025) and 3rd Global Research Congress panels (17–18 December 2025) with a fishing-community representative and speakers on the Indus Delta, mangroves and coastal zones (CJJ p.62; CJD p.65, 68, 69).

2. Introduction and SDG Context

SDG 14 seeks to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. For universities in coastal cities, the relevant targets include reducing marine pollution including land-based debris (14.1), protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2), and strengthening research capacity and knowledge transfer (14.a).

Universities contribute through marine and aquatic research, education on aquatic ecosystems, community conservation action, and responsible management of their own discharges and waste. Karachi's coastline, the Indus Delta mangroves and nearby wetlands make this a locally significant goal. SMIU's Department of Environmental Sciences and Department of Social and Development Studies are the units in which the documented activity is concentrated.

Evidence areas aligned to THE metric themes for SDG 14

THE metric theme (2025 methodology)	Weight	SMIU evidence presented in this report
Education related to aquatic ecosystems	15.3%	Wetland Center seminar and field visits, Keenjhar Lake study tour, coastal-themed seminar and panels – Sections 3.2 and 3.3.
Supporting aquatic ecosystems	19.4%	Beach clean-ups, mangrove plantation drive and Plastic Recovery Bank with WWF – Section 3.1.

3. SMIU's Institutional Contributions

Activities are grouped by theme. Each entry states the activity, date, responsible unit, documented participants or outcomes, the indicative SDG target, the source and page, and its potential relevance to THE.

3.1 Coastal and aquatic ecosystem action

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Beach Cleanliness Drive at the WWF Wetland Center, Karachi Students and faculty took part in a beach cleanliness drive organised by the Department of Environmental Sciences with "Milkar Pakistan" and Green Youth Movement Club ambassadors under the Directorate of Students' Affairs and Counselling. Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 4 March 2024 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences; DSA	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 14.1 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Evidence under "Supporting aquatic ecosystems"; link to marine/coastal environment documented by the title ("Beach").
Beach cleaning event with WWF and Pakistan Beverages Limited The Department of Environmental Sciences, WWF and Pakistan Beverages Limited organised a beach cleaning event to raise awareness about cleanliness, particularly in coastal areas. Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 26 September 2024 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 14.1 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Evidence; includes a private-sector partner.
Mangrove plantation drive and beach clean-up – MS Development Project "Green Coast and Biodiversity Preservation" Students and faculty of Social and Development Studies visited the Wetland Center, Kiamari, for a seminar on Environment and Biodiversity Preservation in collaboration with WWF (students presented projects and screened documentaries), then took part in a mangrove plantation drive and cleaning of the beach. Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 14 June 2024 **Unit:** Department of Social and Development Studies (Chairperson: Dr Subhash Babu); WWF	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 14.2, 14.1 **Source:** AR p.50, 91 **THE relevance:** Strongest coastal-ecosystem action item.
Clean-up drives near the wetland region (achievements list) The department reports beach clean-up drives near the wetland region of Karachi with WWF support. Evidence type: Supporting – undated summary	**Date/period:** 2023-24 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 14.1 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Supporting evidence.
Plastic Recovery Bank (SMIU and WWF) The Annual Report lists "Sindh Madressatul Islam University and WWF Launch Plastic Recovery Bank". Evidence type: Supporting – announced initiative	**Date/period:** As reported **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences (as listed)	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 14.1 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Potentially relevant to marine-debris prevention.

3.2 Education, awareness and stakeholder dialogue on coastal and aquatic issues

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Seminar "Climate Risks and Challenges in Sindh" Speakers from WWF, the fishing community and The Knowledge Forum discussed, among other topics, rising sea levels and extreme weather affecting the Indus Delta. Evidence type: Direct – activity (awareness)	**Date/period:** 11 June 2025 **Unit:** Department of Social and Development Studies; TKF	Fishing-community representative: Ms Fatima Majeed.	**Target:** 14.2, 14.a **Source:** CJJ p.62 **THE relevance:** Awareness with coastal-community voice; marine content is a part, not the sole focus.
Congress panel: Climate Change and Media Narratives in the Age of AI Panellists included Ms Fatima Majeed, recorded as a social worker and Chairperson of the Sindh Fisheries, who spoke on Indus Delta mangroves, sea intrusion and the effect of unregulated industrial waste discharge on marine ecosystems and coastal livelihoods. Evidence type: Direct – activity (awareness)	**Date/period:** 17 December 2025 **Unit:** Faculty of Social Sciences; Departments of Media and Communication Studies and of Social and Development Studies	The ecological statements are the speaker's.	**Target:** 14.1, 14.2 **Source:** CJD p.65 **THE relevance:** Supporting; engages a coastal community representative.
Congress panels on Karachi sustainability and local climate action Panellists referred to protecting Karachi's mangroves and coastal zones, a "Nature First" approach (CJD p.68) and sea intrusion in the Indus Delta (CJD p.69). Evidence type: Direct – activity (awareness)	**Date/period:** 17–18 December 2025 **Unit:** Faculty of Science; Faculty of Social Sciences (with TKF)	Marine and coastal content is one theme among many.	**Target:** 14.2 **Source:** CJD p.68–69 **THE relevance:** Contextual supporting evidence.

3.3 Field research, learning and community engagement at aquatic sites

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Keenjhar Lake study tour (with WWF-Pakistan) Thirty Environmental Sciences students, supervised by Mr Khalid Hassan and Mr Naeem Samo, conducted three focus areas: water-quality monitoring (surface and groundwater samples with GPS, on-site parameters, laboratory analysis planned in SMIU's Environmental Sciences Laboratory); ecological and biodiversity survey of the wetland; and a socio-economic survey in surrounding villages. They received a briefing from the head of a community-based organisation on wetland biodiversity and community conservation. Evidence type: Direct – activity (field study)	**Date/period:** Statement dated 8 December 2025 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences; WWF-Pakistan	30 students. Freshwater, not marine, ecosystem.	**Target:** 14.a, 14.2 **Source:** CJD p.56 **THE relevance:** Relevant to aquatic-ecosystem education and community engagement.

4. Key Achievements and Outcomes

Documented items relevant to SDG 14 are listed below.

Measure	Documented value	Period	Source
Dated beach clean-up events	2 (4 March 2024; 26 September 2024)	2024	AR p.37
Mangrove plantation drive with beach clean-up	1 (14 June 2024)	2024	AR p.50, 91
Plastic Recovery Bank	Launched with WWF	2023-24 listing	AR p.37
Keenjhar Lake study tour participants	30 students	December 2025	CJD p.56
Partner organisations named	WWF / WWF-Pakistan; Pakistan Beverages Limited; Milkar Pakistan	2024–2025	AR p.37; CJD p.56

5. Institutional Policies and Strategic Alignment

The table lists the structures, initiatives and commitments recorded in the source documents, with their status as reported.

Policy, strategy or commitment	Status	Source
Marine/coastal conservation commitment	General commitment through activities only	AR p.37, 50
Green Youth Movement Club participation in clean-ups	Ongoing activity (as listed)	AR p.37, 76
Partnerships with WWF and others	Active collaboration, no MoU in documents	AR p.37, 50; CJD p.56

6. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Partnerships recorded in connection with aquatic and coastal activity are listed below.

Partner / stakeholder	Nature of engagement	Date; source	Status
WWF / WWF-Pakistan	Beach clean-ups; Wetland Center seminar; Plastic Recovery Bank; Keenjhar Lake study; speaker at climate seminar	2024–2025; AR p.37, 50; CJD p.56; CJJ p.62	Active: repeated joint activity.
Pakistan Beverages Limited	Co-organiser of beach cleaning event	26 Sep 2024; AR p.37	One event.
Milkar Pakistan; Green Youth Movement Club ambassadors	Participants in beach cleanliness drive	4 Mar 2024; AR p.37	One event.
Community-based organisation, Ghulam Nabi Palari village (Keenjhar)	Briefed students on wetland biodiversity and community conservation	Dec 2025; CJD p.56	Engagement during field visit.
Fishing-community representative (Ms Fatima Majeed)	Speaker at seminar and Congress panel	11 Jun and 17 Dec 2025; CJJ p.62; CJD p.65	Repeat participation.
Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sindh Branch	Plastic-pollution seminar	26 Jun 2025; CJJ p.65	One event.

7. Evidence Matrix for THE Impact Rankings

The matrix lists the evidence items presented in this report against the SDG targets and the THE metric themes to which they relate. Potential THE indicators refer to the metric themes published in THE's Impact Rankings 2025 methodology.

Sr. No.	Activity / initiative	SDG target	Potential THE indicator	Evidence available	Source document	Page / section	Responsible department
1	Beach Cleanliness Drive, WWF Wetland Center	14.1	SDG 14 – Supporting aquatic ecosystems	Activity listing	AR	p.37	Dept of Environmental Sciences; DSA
2	Beach cleaning with WWF and Pakistan Beverages	14.1	SDG 14 – Supporting aquatic ecosystems	Activity listing	AR	p.37	Dept of Environmental Sciences
3	Mangrove plantation and beach clean-up (Wetland Center, Kiamari)	14.2, 14.1	SDG 14 – Supporting aquatic ecosystems; Maintaining a local ecosystem	Event report	AR	p.50, 91	Social and Development Studies
4	Plastic Recovery Bank	14.1	SDG 14 – Water-sensitive waste disposal / Supporting aquatic ecosystems	Title only	AR	p.37	Dept of Environmental Sciences
5	Climate risks seminar (coastal/fishing content)	14.2	SDG 14 – Education related to aquatic ecosystems (supporting)	Event report	CJJ	p.62	Social and Development Studies
6	Congress panels with coastal content	14.2	Supporting	Event reports	CJD	p.65, 68, 69	Faculties of Social Sciences and Science
7	Keenjhar Lake field study	14.a, 14.2	SDG 14 – Education related to aquatic ecosystems (freshwater)	Statement of study tour	CJD	p.56	Dept of Environmental Sciences

8. Conclusion

SMIU's documented contribution to SDG 14 is community-facing and educational: repeated WWF-supported beach clean-ups, a mangrove plantation drive, a wetland biodiversity seminar, a field study of the freshwater ecosystem at Keenjhar Lake, and seminars and panels that put fishing-community and coastal-ecosystem concerns before students, researchers and policymakers.

These activities, concentrated in the Departments of Environmental Sciences and of Social and Development Studies and carried out with WWF and other partners, reflect the University's engagement with the coastal environment of the city in which it is located.

9. References and Evidence Sources

Institutional documents

Abbrev.	Document	Pages cited
AR	SMIU Annual Report (internal title "SMIU Annual Report 2023-24"; period July 2023–June 2024).	p.36–37, 50, 62, 76, 91
CJJ	SMIU Chronicle, January–June 2025.	p.62, 65
CJD	SMIU Chronicle, July–December 2025.	p.56, 58, 65, 68–69