SINDH MADRESSATUL ISLAM UNIVERSITY (SMIU)

Karachi, Pakistan

SDG 15

Life on Land

Institutional Evidence Report

Item	Detail
Institution	Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), Karachi, Pakistan
Sustainable Development Goal	SDG 15 – Life on Land
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) for SDG 15 – Life on Land, drawn from the SMIU Annual Report and the SMIU Chronicles for 2025. It covers tree planting, biodiversity education and field survey, and campus sustainability.

The Department of Environmental Sciences reports tree-planting drives on a regular basis within the university and in nearby parks and community spaces; the University marked the start of its 2025 Independence Day celebrations with a sapling-planting ceremony at Henry Vines Garden (1 August 2025). Students visited the University of Karachi's Botanical Garden for the International Day for Biological Diversity (24 May 2024) and, in December 2025, 30 students conducted an ecological and biodiversity survey of Keenjhar Lake with WWF-Pakistan using direct observation, habitat assessment and bird, scat and track surveys. The International Conference on Green and Sustainable Environment (2024, 2025) and Congress panels on a sustainable Karachi address nature and ecosystems, and SMIU ranks 41st in Pakistan in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

Principal documented contributions

- Tree-planting drives organised on a regular basis within university premises and nearby areas, including local parks and community spaces (AR p.37).
- Tree plantation ceremony at Henry Vines Garden, 1 August 2025, at which the Vice Chancellor and a visiting English-language specialist planted saplings (CJD p.12).
- Study tour to the University of Karachi Botanical Garden for the International Day for Biological Diversity, 24 May 2024 (AR p.37).
- Keenjhar Lake ecological and biodiversity study with WWF-Pakistan (30 students): habitat assessment, bird, dung/scat and track surveys, visits to turtle ponds and a butterfly pollination garden, and a briefing on community conservation (CJD p.56).
- International Conference on Green and Sustainable Environment (3rd edition, theme "Valuing Nature: Reimagining Food and Environmental Sustainability") (CJD p.58); Congress panel promoting a "Nature First" approach (CJD p.68).
- UI GreenMetric World University Rankings: 41st in Pakistan, 6th in Sindh (CJD p.18).

2. Introduction and SDG Context

SDG 15 aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. University-relevant targets include conservation and restoration of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1), sustainable forest management and afforestation (15.2), halting biodiversity loss (15.5) and integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning (15.9).

Universities contribute through research and teaching on ecosystems, through responsible management of their own campus land and waste, through conservation action, and through community education. SMIU's campus is in the historic city centre, while a 100-acre campus is under construction at Education City, Malir, and a 10-acre campus is planned at Hawksbay (AR p.6; CJD p.25); how land and landscape are being managed at these sites is not documented.

Evidence areas aligned to THE metric themes for SDG 15

THE metric theme (2025 methodology)	Weight	SMIU evidence presented in this report
Education related to land ecosystems	23%	Botanical Garden tour, Keenjhar Lake biodiversity survey, seminars, conferences and Environmental Sciences programmes – Section 3.2.
Supporting land ecosystems through action	27%	Tree-planting drives and the 1 August 2025 plantation ceremony – 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 Tree planting and campus greening activities

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Tree-planting drives within the university and nearby areas The Department of Environmental Sciences reports organising tree-planting drives on a regular basis within university premises and nearby areas, including local parks and community spaces. Evidence type: Supporting – undated activity summary	**Date/period:** 2023-24 (regular) **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.2, 15.5 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Supporting evidence.
Tree plantation ceremony, Henry Vines Garden The 78th Independence Day celebrations began with a tree plantation ceremony in which the Vice Chancellor and Dr Ivan Eubanks (English language specialist, University College of the Cayman Islands) planted saplings as a symbol of growth, resilience and commitment. Evidence type: Direct – activity (ceremonial)	**Date/period:** 1 August 2025 **Unit:** Vice Chancellor's office; DSA (celebration programme)	The ceremony is symbolic rather than an ecological programme.	**Target:** 15.2 **Source:** CJD p.12 **THE relevance:** Supporting.
Mangrove plantation drive (cross-reference) Students and faculty of Social and Development Studies took part in a mangrove plantation drive and beach clean-up after a biodiversity seminar with WWF at the Wetland Center, Kiamari. Evidence type: Direct – activity (coastal)	**Date/period:** 14 June 2024 **Unit:** Department of Social and Development Studies; WWF	Reported in the SDG 14 report as a coastal ecosystem item.	**Target:** 15.2; 14.2 **Source:** AR p.50, 91 **THE relevance:** Cross-reference only to avoid double counting.

3.2 Education, field survey and awareness on terrestrial and inland ecosystems

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Botanical Garden study tour – International Day for Biological Diversity Department of Environmental Sciences students visited the Botanical Garden of the University of Karachi. Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 24 May 2024 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.5, 15.9 **Source:** AR p.37 **THE relevance:** Relevant to "Education related to land ecosystems".
Keenjhar Lake ecological and biodiversity study Thirty students, supervised by Mr Khalid Hassan and Mr Naeem Samo and organised with WWF-Pakistan, conducted a wetland ecosystem survey	**Date/period:** Statement dated 8 December 2025 **Unit:** Department of Environmental	30 students. samples were to undergo laboratory analysis.	**Target:** 15.1, 15.5 **Source:** CJD p.56 **THE relevance:** Relevant to "Education related to land ecosystems"; Inland

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
with direct observation, habitat assessment and dung/scat, bird and track surveys to identify and estimate wildlife populations; visited turtle ponds and a butterfly pollination garden; received a briefing from a community-based organisation on wetland biodiversity and community conservation. Water-quality and socio-economic surveys were conducted in parallel. Evidence type: Direct – activity (field survey)	Sciences; WWF-Pakistan		freshwater ecosystems fall under target 15.1.
Seminar on Environment and Biodiversity Preservation (cross-reference) Seminar held at the Wetland Center in collaboration with WWF where Social and Development Studies students presented projects and screened documentaries. Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 14 June 2024 **Unit:** Department of Social and Development Studies	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.5, 15.9 **Source:** AR p.50, 91 **THE relevance:** Supporting; primarily coastal.
Conference on Green and Sustainable Environment; panel on a sustainable Karachi ICGSE-2025 (Faculty of Science) on “Valuing Nature: Reimagining Food and Environmental Sustainability”; the earlier edition was held in February 2024. A Congress panel advocated protecting natural ecosystems under a “Nature First” approach, and a second panel referred to reviving indigenous tree species (speaker remarks). Evidence type: Direct – activity	**Date/period:** 28–29 February 2024; 17–18 December 2025 **Unit:** Faculty of Science; Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.5, 15.9 **Source:** AR p.36; CJD p.58, 68–69 **THE relevance:** Supporting.
Environmental education programmes The Department offers BS, MS and PhD Environmental Sciences and BS Climate Change; BS Environmental Sciences was accredited by NAEAC in May 2025. Food Science programmes (BS Food Science and Technology) are also offered. Evidence type: Direct – programme and accreditation data	**Date/period:** 2023-24; 2025 **Unit:** Department of Environmental Sciences	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.5 **Source:** AR p.35–36; CJJ p.19, 23 **THE relevance:** Supporting evidence.

3.3 Campus sustainability, land use and planning context

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
UI GreenMetric participation SMIU ranked 41st in Pakistan and 6th among Sindh public universities (808th worldwide). Evidence type: Direct – output (rank); category data absent	**Date/period:** Announced 2025 **Unit:** Environmental Sciences; QEC	Rank only.	**Target:** 15.9 **Source:** CJD p.18 **THE relevance:** Contextual; submission files may contain green-space data.
Green Youth Movement Club	**Date/period:** 2023-24	Activity recorded in the cited source.	**Target:** 15.5 **Source:** AR p.76; CJJ p.14 **THE relevance:** Needs club records.

Activity / initiative and description	Date; responsible unit	Participants, beneficiaries, outcomes	SDG target; source and page; THE relevance
Listed among events (executive council elections); described nationally as training environmental advocates. Evidence type: Supporting – activity	**Unit:** DSA / Directorate of Broadcasting and Media Training listing		

3.4 Classification of SDG 15 evidence

Category	Documented items	Nature of evidence
A. Tree-planting activities	Regular drives within the university and nearby parks (AR p.37); ceremonial sapling planting at Henry Vines Garden, 1 August 2025 (CJD p.12); mangrove plantation drive, 14 June 2024 (AR p.50, 91; presented in the SDG 14 report).	Documented activities
B. Biodiversity education and field survey	Botanical Garden study tour, 24 May 2024 (AR p.37); biodiversity seminar, 14 June 2024 (AR p.50); Keenjhar Lake survey, December 2025 (CJD p.56); ICGSE 2024 and 2025 (AR p.36; CJD p.58).	Education and survey activities
C. Campus sustainability	UI GreenMetric ranking (CJD p.18); Green Youth Movement Club (AR p.76).	Context and student engagement

4. Key Achievements and Outcomes

Documented items relevant to SDG 15 are listed below.

Measure	Documented value	Period	Source
Tree-planting drives	Organised on a regular basis	2023-24	AR p.37
Sapling-planting ceremony	1 event (Henry Vines Garden)	1 August 2025	CJD p.12
Biodiversity study tour / field survey	2 (Botanical Garden, 24 May 2024; Keenjhar Lake, December 2025)	2024–2025	AR p.37; CJD p.56
Keenjhar Lake study participants	30 students	December 2025	CJD p.56
UI GreenMetric position	41st Pakistan; 6th Sindh; 808th world	2025	CJD p.18
ICGSE editions	2nd (February 2024); 3rd (December 2025)	2024–2025	AR p.36; CJD p.58

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
Malir Campus Library green design	Planned	AR p.80
Environmental education commitment (Vice Chancellor)	General commitment	CJJ p.23

6. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Partnerships recorded in connection with terrestrial and inland ecosystems are listed below.

Partner / stakeholder	Nature of engagement	Date; source	Status
WWF-Pakistan / WWF	Keenjhar Lake study tour; Wetland Center seminar	Dec 2025; 14 Jun 2024; CJD p.56; AR p.50	Active: repeated joint activity.
Community-based organisation, Ghulam Nabi Palari village	Briefing on wetland biodiversity and community conservation	Dec 2025; CJD p.56	Engagement during field visit.
University of Karachi Botanical Garden	Study-tour host	24 May 2024; AR p.37	One visit.
Local parks and community spaces	Sites of tree-planting drives	2023-24; AR p.37	Not specified (authorities or owners not named).

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	Tree-planting drives (university premises and parks)	15.2, 15.5	SDG 15 – Supporting land ecosystems through action	Summary statement	AR	p.37	Dept of Environmental Sciences
2	Tree plantation ceremony, Henry Vines Garden	15.2	Supporting (ceremonial)	Event report	CJD	p.12	Vice Chancellor's office; DSA
3	Botanical Garden study tour	15.5, 15.9	SDG 15 – Education related to land ecosystems	Activity listing	AR	p.37	Dept of Environmental Sciences
4	Keenjhar Lake ecological survey	15.1, 15.5	SDG 15 – Education related to land ecosystems (inland wetland)	Statement of study tour	CJD	p.56	Dept of Environmental Sciences
5	Seminar on Environment and Biodiversity Preservation	15.5, 15.9	Supporting	Event report	AR	p.50, 91	Social and Development Studies
6	ICGSE 2024 and 2025	15.5, 15.9	Supporting	Conference reports	AR; CJD	AR p.36; CJD p.58	Faculty of Science
7	Environmental Sciences programmes	15.5	SDG 15 – Education related to land ecosystems	Programme listing; accreditation	AR; CJJ	AR p.35; CJJ p.23	Environmental Sciences

8. Conclusion

SMIU's documented contribution to SDG 15 comprises regular tree-planting by the Department of Environmental Sciences, a symbolic plantation at its 2025 Independence Day celebrations, biodiversity-themed study tours, and a wetland ecological and biodiversity survey at Keenjhar Lake carried out with WWF-Pakistan.

Supported by conferences and panels on green and sustainable environments and by its participation in the UI GreenMetric rankings, these activities show the University engaging students and the community in the protection of land and inland ecosystems around Karachi and in Sindh.

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.6–7, 35–37, 50, 76, 80, 91
CJJ	SMIU Chronicle, January–June 2025.	p.14, 19, 23
CJD	SMIU Chronicle, July–December 2025.	p.12, 18, 25, 56, 58, 68–69