



KAPADOKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK OFİSİ

# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITY REPORT

## 2024-2025



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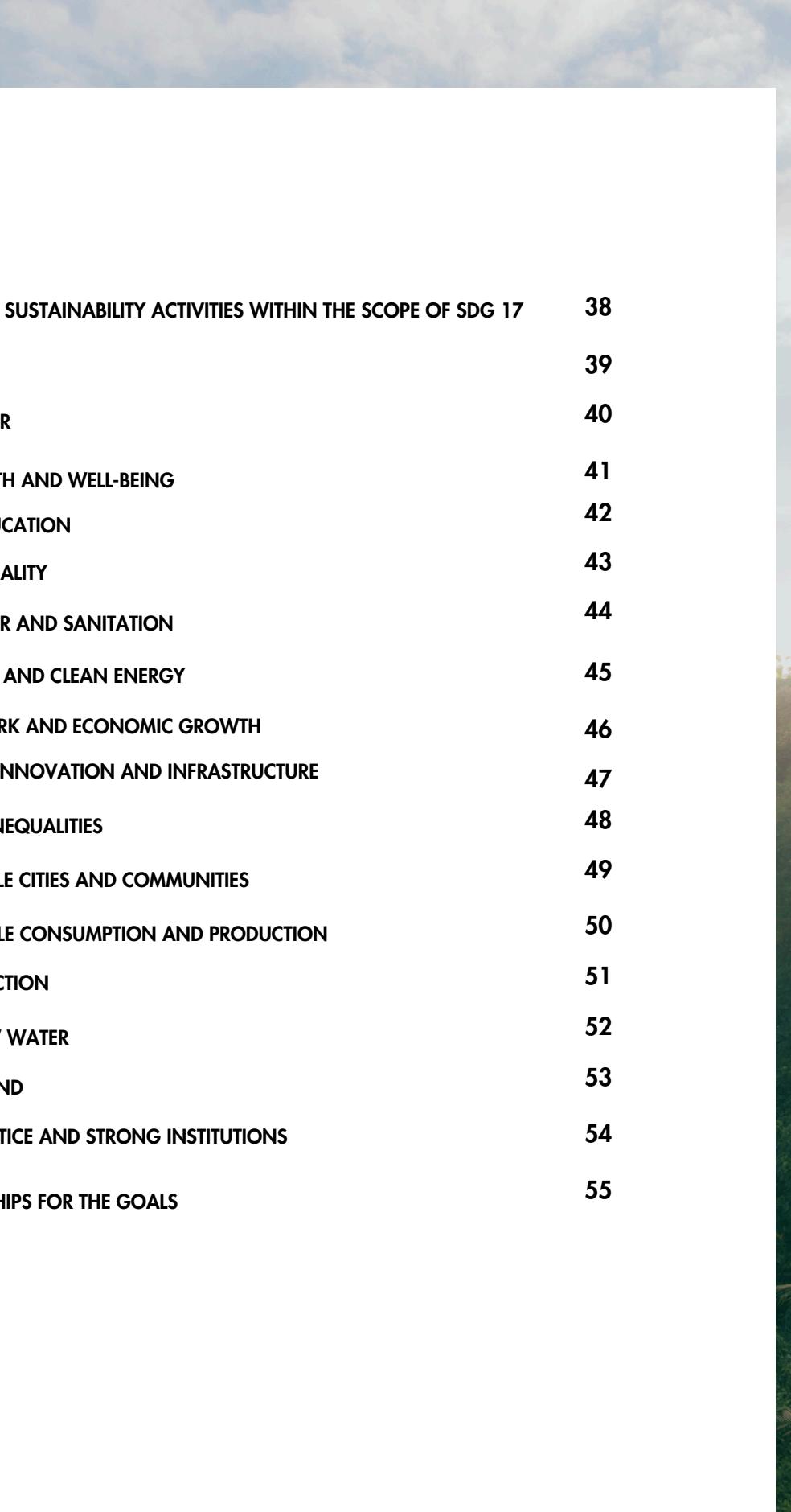
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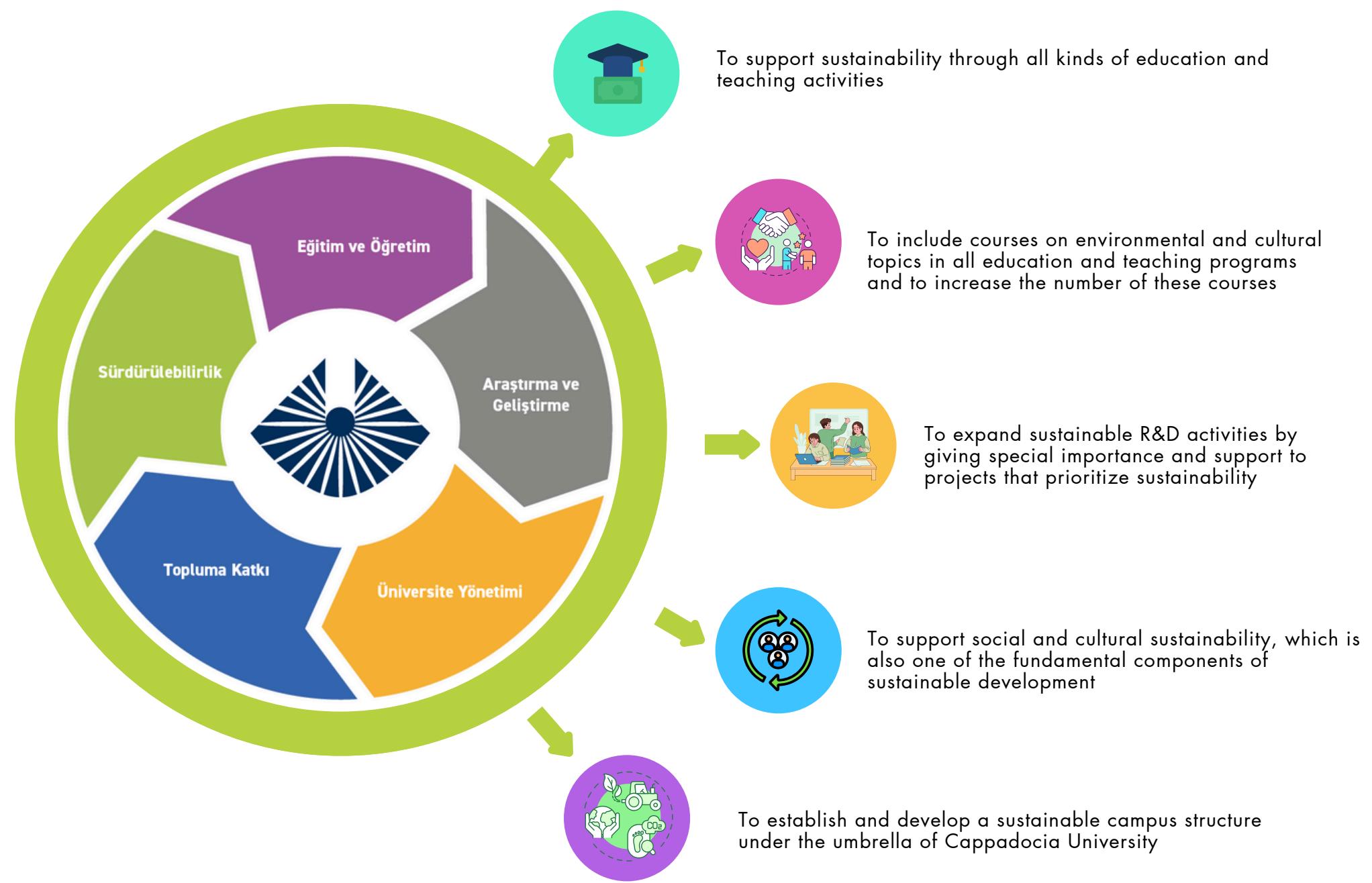
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# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY 2023–2028 STRATEGIC PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Cappadocia University 2023–2028 Strategic Plan is built on five strategic areas. These strategic areas are defined as Education and Teaching, Research and Development, University Management, Contribution to Society, and Sustainability.
- Under each strategic area, strategic objectives and goals have been determined to be aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national/local development plans, aiming to maximize the contribution of our university to society and development goals.
- Cappadocia University sustainability policies have been designed to be in line not only with our university's mission, vision, principles, and values, but also with the principles adopted in accordance with the objectives and principles of contribution to society.
- In this context, the university aims to develop exemplary sustainable practices and approaches that could have an impact on the environment and cultural heritage, particularly in the Cappadocia region where it is located.
- Sustainability serves as an overarching framework that encompasses and guides the other four areas included in the strategic plan. However, in order to better track sustainability goals and effectively carry out activities in this field, it has been addressed as a separate area, as one of the fundamental components of the strategic plan. Within this framework, Cappadocia University has aimed to prioritize the four main areas through its sustainability policies and engage in activities that contribute to these areas. To this end, a Sustainability Office was established in 2023 to coordinate the university's sustainability activities and manage this important component of the strategic plan more effectively.





- Cappadocia University Sustainability Office is a unit established in 2023 to ensure that our university achieves its goals in the field of sustainability. The office aims to strengthen institutional sustainability by developing the necessary policies and strategies to achieve these goals and integrating them into all academic and administrative units. In this regard, it carries out activities in collaboration with internal university stakeholders as well as external stakeholders such as local governments, non-governmental organizations, and international sustainability networks.
- The office develops various programs and projects aimed at promoting environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles across the campus to help the university achieve its sustainability goals. Within this scope, it identifies the university's strengths and weaknesses, determines priority areas, and ensures the implementation of sustainability policies in all fields.
- While integrating a culture of sustainability into education, administration, research, and community contribution processes, the office monitors innovations and manages processes to support the development of these policies. In addition, it carries out important tasks such as preparing sustainability reports and sharing them with the public. Aiming to raise awareness of sustainable resource use through local and national collaborations, the office ensures coordination of these efforts across all units and implements the university's sustainability activities with a holistic approach. Within the campus, the office conducts activities such as energy and water management, waste reduction, carbon footprint measurement, and green energy use, and organizes various trainings and events to raise awareness among students and staff in these areas. Furthermore, by developing social sustainability, inclusivity, and social responsibility projects, it contributes to local development and environmental protection goals.

## VISION

To be a leading center nationally and internationally in sustainability, to work for a sustainable world together with all our stakeholders by producing innovative solutions, and to share our knowledge and experiences with a wide audience along this path.

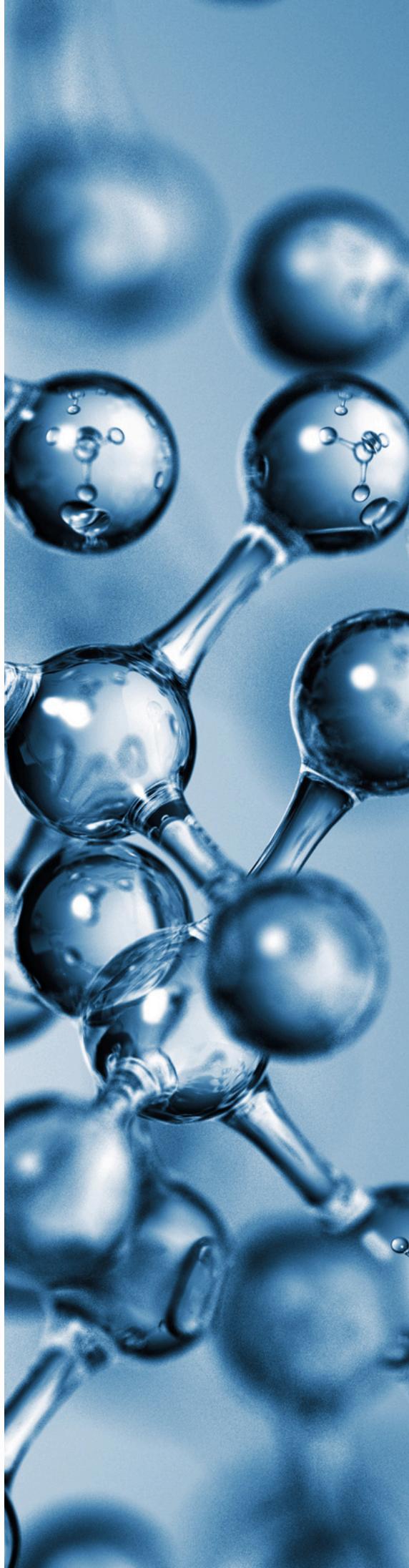
## MISSION

To shape our education, research, community service, and management processes within the framework of sustainable development goals, and to promote the efficient and effective use of resources for an environmentally, socially, and economically balanced future.

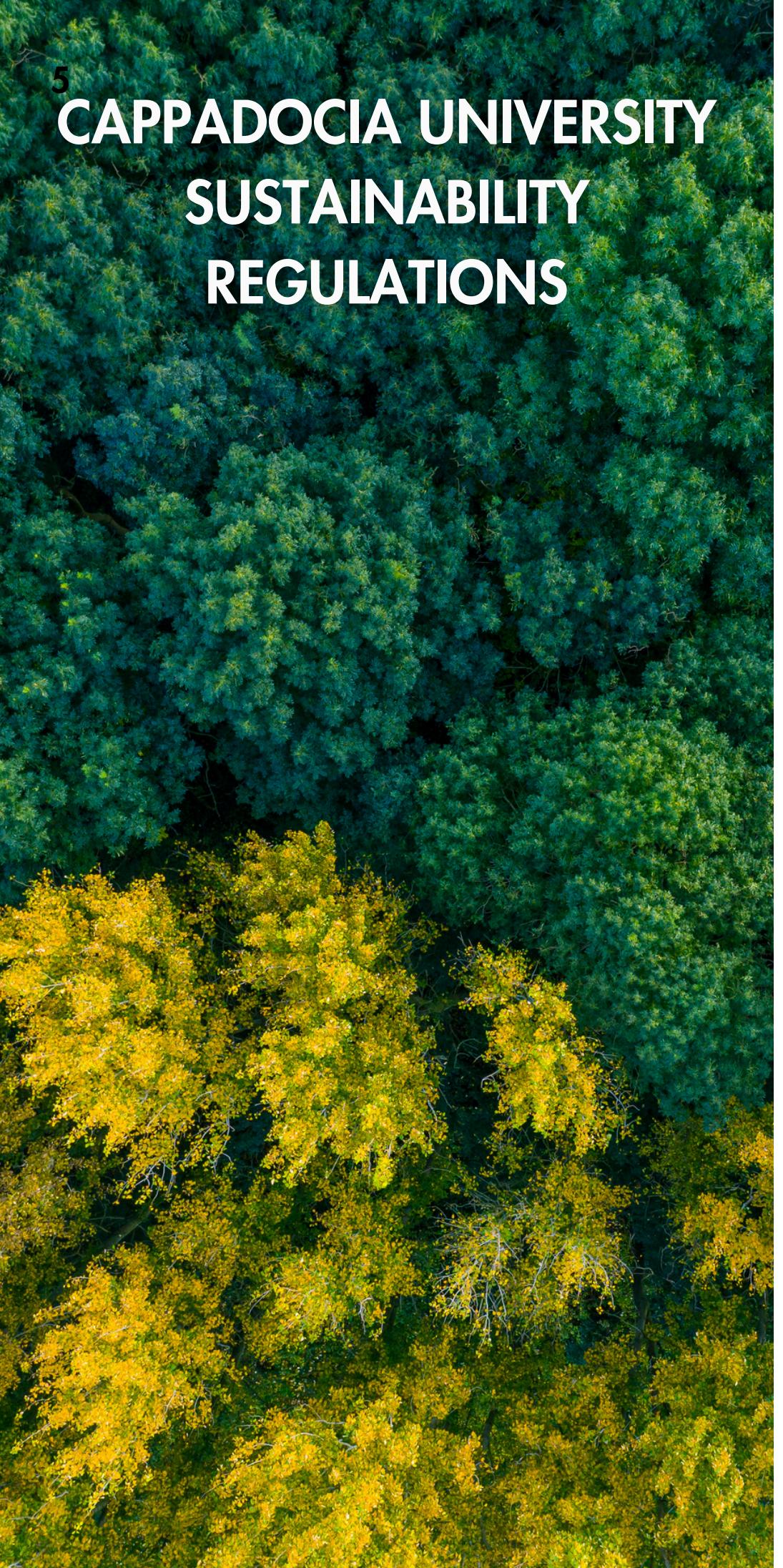


# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY CORPORATE STRUCTURE

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDENT COMMUNITY	SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION	GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION	ACCESSIBLE KÜN UNIT	ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER	SOCIAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP	CAPPADOCIA RESEARCH CENTER
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the center that plans and directs the university's sustainability activities. The Sustainability Office develops various programs and projects to ensure the adoption of environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles across the campus. The office is responsible for implementing the necessary policies and strategies to achieve the university's sustainability goals. Additionally, it undertakes important tasks such as preparing sustainability reports and sharing them with the public.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It aims to raise students' awareness of sustainable development and encourage them to take an active role in this field. The student community organizes activities, develops projects, and conducts various campaigns in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. This community also contributes to spreading the university's sustainability vision at the student level.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an advisory body that evaluates and guides environmental sustainability activities. The commission consists of academic and administrative staff as well as students, and plays a key role in determining, implementing, and monitoring sustainability policies.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It carries out various activities to implement and develop the gender equality policy at Cappadocia University. The commission aims to raise awareness against gender inequality, establish information and communication networks, and create an egalitarian institutional climate at the university. Strengthening the presence of female academics, ensuring gender balance, and producing gender equality-focused academic data are the commission's main objectives.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was established to ensure that all students at our university have equal, uninterrupted, and full access to academic programs and higher education services and opportunities. The primary goal of the unit is to identify obstacles that prevent students from pursuing their academic life under equal conditions and to remove these barriers, creating a campus environment that contributes to their academic, professional, social, and personal development.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in October 2018 as Turkey's first environmental humanities center, the center works through interdisciplinary collaboration in ecological and humanities fields, organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops to promote environmental awareness. The center develops theoretical approaches addressing the relationships between human and non-human entities, ecological sustainability, and environmental justice, and contributes to interdisciplinary research through national and international collaboration projects.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cappadocia University Social and Strategic Studies Application and Research Center was established on November 21, 2018. The center contributes to the university's research on social issues and provides long-term policy recommendations in strategic areas. While conducting research in fields such as development, foreign policy, security, economy, and agriculture, it also produces projects and conducts field studies addressing the social and economic issues of the Cappadocia region. The center supports the university's educational and consultancy activities and shares its academic research with the public. The Sustainability Management Research Group within this center conducts studies on relevant topics.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within Cappadocia University, it was established to research, preserve, and contribute to sustainable development of the region's natural, cultural, and historical values. Founded in 2017, the center aims to examine the rich heritage of the Cappadocia region through scientific methods and to promote this heritage at national and international levels. KAM conducts projects and activities, carries out research, and organizes educational programs across various disciplines such as art history, archaeology, history, environmental sciences, tourism, and cultural heritage. Additionally, by developing solutions to regional issues, it contributes to the social, economic, cultural, and environmental sustainability of local communities.</li> </ul>



# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY REGULATIONS



## Environmental and Sustainability Policy Document

This document defines the policies followed by Cappadocia University in the fields of environment and sustainability. It outlines strategic objectives such as raising environmental awareness within the university, ensuring the sustainability of natural and cultural resources, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing carbon emissions. In addition, the document aims to achieve environmental sustainability through established policies on issues such as water management, waste management, and the use of renewable energy.



## Sustainability Office Directive

This document sets out the principles governing the duties, authorities, and responsibilities of the Sustainability Office. In line with the goal of becoming a sustainable institution, it aims to support the development and implementation of sustainability policies across the university and to ensure coordination with relevant units.



## Sustainability Commission Directive

This document regulates the structure, duties, and responsibilities of the Cappadocia University Sustainability Commission. The Commission is responsible for coordinating the university's sustainability activities, developing policies, and contributing to the preparation of relevant reports.



## Environmental Handbook

This document defines the detailed practices and processes related to environmental management at Cappadocia University and ensures compliance with environmental management standards. The handbook provides the procedures and guidelines required for the implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of the environmental management system. Prepared within the framework of the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System Standard, this document serves as a guiding reference supporting the university's environmental policies



## Smoke-Free Campus Directive

Cappadocia University's Smoke-Free Campus Implementation Directive aims to restrict the use of tobacco products on university campuses and to designate smoke-free areas. Based on Law No. 4207 on the prevention of the harms of tobacco products, the directive prohibits the use of tobacco in both indoor and outdoor areas, while allowing limited use in designated areas. Inspection teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with these rules and for imposing administrative sanctions in cases of violations. The directive applies to all Cappadocia University staff, students, and visitors.



## Climate Action Policy Document

The Cappadocia University Climate Action Policy Document has been prepared to reduce the university's environmental footprint, increase energy efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and promote circular economy practices. This plan aims to integrate the concept of a sustainable campus into the university culture and guide education and research activities accordingly. It is aligned with the United Nations and Turkey's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and seeks to contribute to sustainable development initiatives at both regional and national levels. Developed in coordination with the Cappadocia University 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, the document serves as a guide for the university in combating climate change while also aiming to raise environmental awareness at the regional level.





#### Gender Equality Policy Document

Cappadocia University's Gender Equality Policy Document aims to combat gender discrimination across the university and provide a fair working, educational, and research environment for all individuals. The document outlines strategic objectives supporting gender equality and emphasizes a zero-tolerance policy toward gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, it promotes diversity and inclusion within institutional processes and establishes monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for gender equality practices.



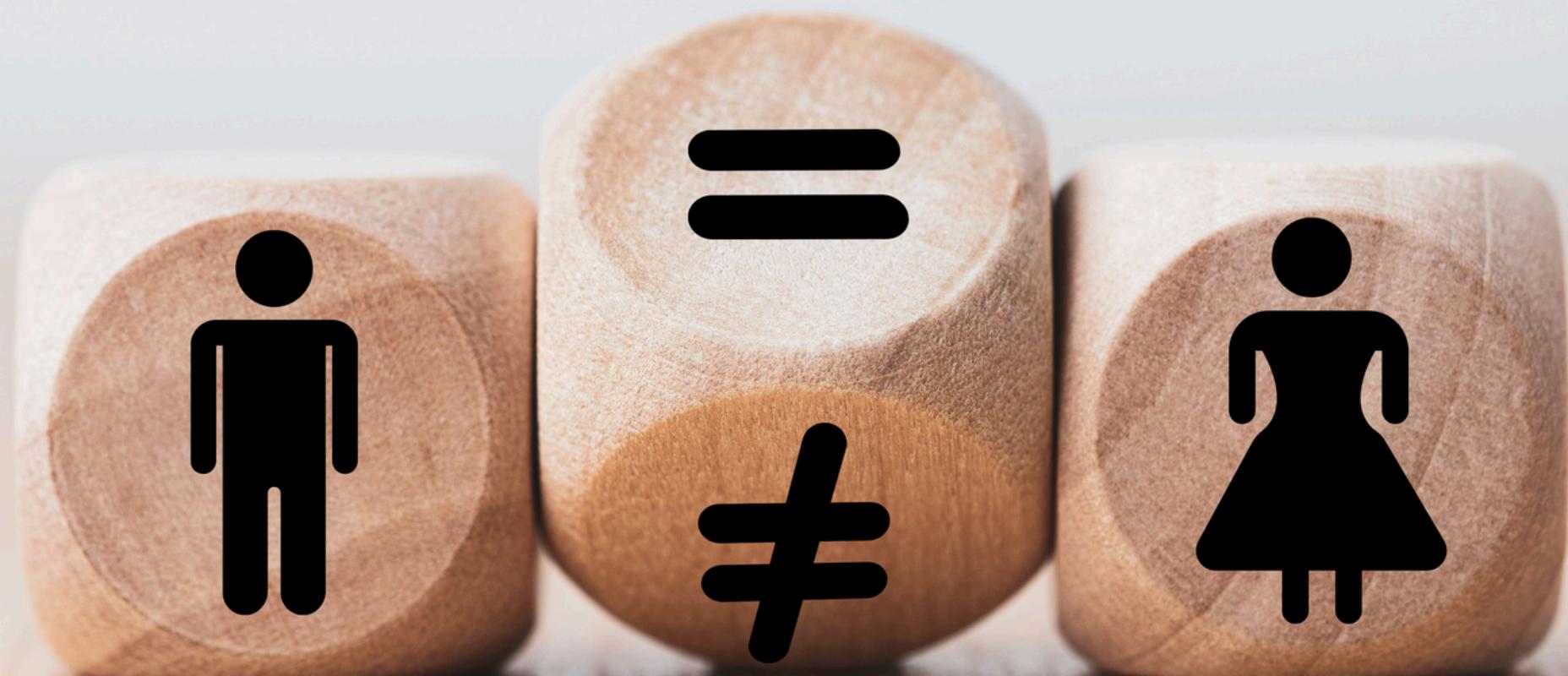
#### Gender Equality Action Plan

Cappadocia University's Gender Equality Action Plan has been prepared to ensure gender equality within the university. Based particularly on SDG 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the plan aims to integrate gender equality into the institutional culture, support work-life balance, increase equal representation in management processes, and implement measures against gender-based discrimination. The plan will be implemented over a five-year period and monitored by the university senate and the Gender Equality Commission.



#### Gender Equality Commission Directive

The Gender Equality Commission Directive of Cappadocia University defines the duties, authorities, and responsibilities of the commission established to ensure gender equality within the university. The commission is composed of academic and administrative staff as well as students and aims to raise awareness of gender equality and implement related policies and action plans. It undertakes initiatives to support gender equality, collects academic data, and prepares annual reports to be submitted to the university administration.



# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY WEB PORTAL

- As Cappadocia University, the Sustainable Cappadocia ([eko.kapadokya.edu.tr](http://eko.kapadokya.edu.tr)) website, launched in the 2019–2020 academic year and available in both Turkish and English, aims to increase the visibility of sustainability initiatives, reach a wider audience, and enhance the effectiveness of these efforts.
- However, as of the 2023–2024 academic year, the scope of sustainability efforts has been expanded to address not only environmental aspects but also economic, social, and environmental dimensions as a whole. Our university has undertaken various initiatives to develop campus infrastructure in line with sustainability goals and, accordingly, a new platform has been established under the name [Cappadocia University Sustainability Web Portal](#).
- This portal aims to present our sustainability strategies in a broader context and provide detailed information about the university's institutional sustainability initiatives. These efforts have increased the visibility of activities in the field of sustainability and offered the public a comprehensive understanding of our multidimensional approach to sustainability.



## CAPPADOCIA SUSTAINABILITY TALK

As part of the Cappadocia Sustainability Talks, a series of live discussions broadcast on Cappadocia University's YouTube channel and other social media accounts to raise awareness about sustainability, regular online conversations are held with experts in the field. Recordings of these talks are later added to the KÜN Sustainability playlist on the Cappadocia University YouTube channel, allowing them to be viewed at any time.



### ÇEVRE SORUNLARI VE BEŞ EFSANE ÇEVRECİMİZ

**Konuk:**

**Metin Erdoğan**

Araştırmacı-Yazar, Emekli Ataşe,  
Yürüyen Köşk Derneği (YKD) Başkanı

**Moderatörler:**

**Doç. Dr. Sinan AKILLI**

**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Selda ÖZTÜRK**

**5 MART 14:00-15:30**

Oktay Sinanoğlu Konferans Salonu

[kapadokyauniversitesi](#)



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### İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ VE KUTUPLARDAKİ BİLİMSEL ÇALIŞMALAR

**Konuk:**

**Prof. Dr. Burcu ÖZSOY**

TÜBİTAK Marmara Araştırma Merkezi (MAM) Başkanı

**Moderatörler:**

**Doç. Dr. Sinan AKILLI**

**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Selda ÖZTÜRK**

**13 ARALIK 11:00-12:30**

Oktay Sinanoğlu Konferans Salonu

[kapadokyauniversitesi](#)

**Kapadokya**

sürdürülebilirlik  
konuşmaları



The sustainability talks conducted during the 2023–2024 academic year are listed below:

- Reflections on Urbanization and Preventing Natural Hazards from Turning into Disasters
- Environmental Issues and Our Five Legendary Environmentalists
- Once Upon a Future 2121: Ecological Narratives and Sustainable Filmmaking
- Climate Change and Scientific Research in the Polar Regions



## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Since the 2019–2020 academic year, Cappadocia University has been running social media campaigns to highlight important national and international dates related to sustainability, aiming to increase the visibility and awareness of its sustainability initiatives. With the official establishment of the Sustainability Office in the 2023–2024 academic year, these campaigns have been conducted more systematically and effectively under the Office's coordination. Starting from the 2024–2025 academic year, sustainability-focused social media posts have become more dynamic through video content. These social media posts are archived on the [KÜN Sustainability web portal](#). The sustainability-focused social media posts for the 2024–2025 academic year are listed below.



The sustainability-focused social media posts for the 2024–2025 academic year are listed below:

- October 3 – World Walking Day
- October 4 – World Animal Day
- October 14 – International E-Waste Day
- October 24 – International Climate Action Day
- November 8 – World Urbanism Day
- November 29 – Buy Nothing Day
- March 14 – World Rivers Day
- March 18 – Global Recycling Day
- March 21 – World Forestry Day
- March 22 – World Water Day
- World Zero Waste Day: A Bowl of Hope for the Future with Waste-Free Soup!
- April 22 – Earth Day
- Farmers' Day: Labor for the Soil, Hope for the Future!
- World Bee Day: Celebrating the Silent Heroes of Nature
- World Biodiversity Day: For a Future in Harmony with Nature
- "Choose the Future, Not Plastic!" – Take Action for Nature on World Environment Day
- "Protect the Soil, Green the Future!" – Take Action on World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- "Invest in Population, Secure the Future" – Take Action Today for a Sustainable World



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award, first launched in the second semester of the 2019–2020 academic year, was also implemented in the 2024–2025 period. The names of the award winners are announced and archived on the [KÜN Sustainability web portal](#). The award aims to recognize and support the achievements of senior students who, throughout their university education, have participated in environmental sustainability projects and conducted awareness-raising activities to enhance ecological consciousness.

The purpose of this award is to encourage the development of competent and ecologically conscious students who can propose sustainable solutions to the ecological crisis, one of the most pressing priorities on the global agenda today. Environmental sustainability efforts include projects, practices, and research on topics such as sustainable energy, pollution, waste management, animal rights, organic farming and production, food security, ecological architecture, ecological economics, sustainable cities, and more. Awareness-raising activities aimed at enhancing ecological consciousness cover efforts to make the importance of these issues understandable in the context of the climate crisis, create awareness through various cultural tools, and promote lifestyles and daily practices that are more in harmony with the natural environment. Senior students can apply for the Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award by documenting the activities they have carried out on or off campus throughout their education.



### Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award Winners

#### 2024–2025

- **Mehmet Erdoğan** – Cappadocia University, School of Health Sciences, Department of Speech and Language Therapy

#### 2023–2024

- **Ayşe Helin Güneri** – Cappadocia University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Psychology

#### 2022–2023

- **Halil İbrahim Şarlı** – Cappadocia University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Turkish Language and Literature

#### 2021–2022

- **Nisan Bahar Kuruçay** – Cappadocia University, School of Applied Sciences, Department of Aviation Electrical and Electronics

#### 2020–2021

- **Kaan Göktas** – Cappadocia University, School of Applied Sciences, Department of Aircraft Airframe and Engine Maintenance



## SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

Launched in the 2019–2020 academic year, the KÜN Water, KÜN Air, KÜN Soil, KÜN Fire, and KÜN Life programs shape Cappadocia University's sustainability efforts around five fundamental elements. These programs connect the university's environmental sustainability goals with natural elements, covering a wide range of activities—from water and air quality to soil health, energy efficiency, and biodiversity protection. They symbolize the university's nature-aligned approaches toward building a sustainable future.





Cappadocia University's KÜN Life program plans and implements initiatives aimed at minimizing the impact of university life, educational activities, and research and development projects on the region's natural and cultural fabric, while promoting cultural sustainability and biodiversity conservation at global, national, and local levels. The main areas of activity of this program include:

- Taking necessary measures to minimize the effects of university life, educational activities, and research and development initiatives on the region's natural and cultural environment.
- Prioritizing cultural sustainability in education, research, and community engagement activities.
- Implementing and supporting measures and projects that preserve local traditions, contribute to passing them to future generations, and protect Turkey's—and especially Cappadocia's—cultural heritage as a unique example of world cultural heritage.
- Designing and constructing new buildings and facilities in harmony with the natural and cultural characteristics of the region.
- Using locally sourced, recyclable, or repurposed materials in the construction of new buildings.
- Conducting environmental and social impact assessments for new buildings and designing them accordingly.
- Restoring buildings and structures in need of protection or renovation to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Organizing initiatives, in collaboration with local authorities, NGOs, and student communities, to support street animals and other living beings on campus.





Cappadocia University's initiatives related to drinking, utility, and wastewater management are planned and implemented under the KÜN Water program. The main areas of activity of this program include:

- Developing policies and practices focused on water conservation and recycling.
- Installing informational boards and signs across campuses to inform students, administrative staff, and faculty about the water management program.
- Using naturally collected rainwater through rainwater harvesting systems to support the growth of trees and plants on campus and for irrigating green areas.
- Using permeable materials in construction and landscaping to allow rainwater to return to the soil.
- Employing water-saving devices and machinery across campuses.
- Providing staff training and establishing procedures to reduce water consumption during cleaning activities.
- Taking necessary measures to reduce wastewater generation on campus and to treat and rehabilitate water contaminated with toxic, chemical, or biological pollutants.
- Implementing measures such as drip irrigation to prevent evaporation and ensure efficient watering.





Cappadocia University's initiatives for effective waste management, recycling, environmental protection, and afforestation on campuses are planned and implemented under the KÜN Soil program. The main areas of activity of this program include:

- Taking necessary measures to ensure effective management of waste generated on campus.
- Developing and supporting practices and policies that minimize waste.
- Installing informational boards and signs across campuses to inform students, administrative staff, and faculty about the waste management program.
- Placing recycling bins throughout campuses to collect recyclable waste for reuse.
- Promoting the use of recycled paper.
- Encouraging the use of both sides of paper for printed materials.
- Collecting and recycling all types of waste, with a focus on paper.
- Promoting the use of digital and e-signed documents and forms instead of printed and wet signed materials.
- Encouraging the use of email and other technological platforms for communication and correspondence.
- Reducing plastic waste by minimizing the use of plastic packaging and bags.
- Promoting the use of bags made from organic, ecofriendly, and recyclable materials.
- Developing practices to reuse organic waste from the university's food production facilities in agriculture and food production.
- Distributing surplus food stocks to those in need.
- Disposing of suitable types of waste through various methods, primarily composting, and using the organic products obtained from compost for trees and plants cultivated by the university, as well as providing them free of charge to local farmers to support regional development.
- Organizing waste collection campaigns on campuses and in the valleys of the Cappadocia region.
- Launching tree-planting campaigns on campuses and across the Cappadocia region in collaboration with local authorities and NGOs.





Cappadocia University's initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from on-campus and inter-campus transportation are planned and implemented under the KÜN Air program. The main areas of activity of this program include:

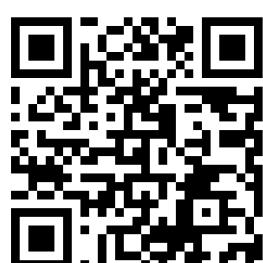
- Implementing measures to regulate vehicle entry and exit on campuses.
- Limiting student car use on campuses and promoting the use of zero-emission vehicles such as bicycles and electric bikes.
- Establishing parking spaces for bicycles and similar vehicles on campuses and making them accessible to students.
- Lending bicycles to students in need, as resources allow, and encouraging their use as a sustainable mode of transportation.
- Increasing the number of bicycle and pedestrian paths both on campuses and in the surrounding region, and supporting local authorities' initiatives in this regard.





Cappadocia University's initiatives for the efficient and effective use of energy are planned and implemented under the KÜN Fire program. The main areas of activity of this program include:

- Developing practices and taking measures to ensure efficient and effective energy use.
- Conducting initiatives to reduce total energy consumption and organizing activities to inform and encourage academic and administrative staff, as well as students, on energy efficiency.
- Implementing measures to reduce carbon emissions caused by heating.
- Designing new buildings to take advantage of natural heating and cooling potentials.
- Heating existing and historical buildings using low-carbon energy sources in addition to natural heating.
- Prioritizing the use of natural gas across all campuses.
- Exempting unused indoor spaces from heating and limiting air conditioning use for cooling.
- Undertaking initiatives and projects to generate electricity from renewable energy sources (hydro, solar, wind, and biofuel), and supporting existing projects in this area.
- Prioritizing facilities and buildings for renewable energy production that do not harm the region's natural and cultural structure.
- Using energy-efficient devices to reduce electricity consumption, especially for lighting.
- Minimizing unnecessary and excessive lighting.
- Installing photocells in infrequently used indoor areas to save electricity.



## ECO-ROUTE PROJECTS AND VISUALIZATION INITIATIVES

- Throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, various visualization initiatives were completed at Cappadocia University to promote environmental awareness and a culture of sustainable living. These initiatives included the use of freestanding displays, glass panels, and informative areas across all campuses to raise climate awareness.
- In addition, the Eco-Route Projects were specifically implemented at the Mustafapaşa Campus and Ürgüp Health Campus. As part of these projects, sustainability-themed walking paths were created, and along the routes, informational signs were placed to educate visitors on topics such as biodiversity, waste management, water efficiency, climate action, and reducing carbon footprints.
- The Eco-Route signs not only provided information but also offered access to interactive content via QR codes. Through these codes, visitors could watch videos, read detailed explanations, and access digital resources about the university's sustainability initiatives.
- All of these visualization efforts were carried out in line with the university's sustainable campus vision, creating an interactive learning environment that enhanced environmental awareness for both students and visitors.



# OUR MEMBERSHIPS



## UI GreenMetric World University Ranking

The UI GreenMetric World University Ranking is an international system designed to evaluate universities' sustainability activities. Universities are assessed across six main criteria, which are considered key indicators of commitment to sustainability: "Setting and Infrastructure," "Energy and Climate Change," "Waste," "Water," "Transportation," and "Education and Research." Scores for each criterion are calculated based on evidence submitted alongside the application survey. Universities' overall rankings are determined by their scores in each area as well as the overall average.

Cappadocia University has participated in the UI GreenMetric rankings since 2019. According to the 2024 evaluation results, the university ranked 399th out of 1,477 universities from 95 countries, maintaining its position within the top 500 globally.

- Among Turkish foundation universities, Cappadocia University was 8th the previous year (out of 28 universities) and ranked 9th in 2024 among 33 foundation universities.
- In the ranking of all Turkish universities, the university was 34th the previous year (out of 97) and rose to 38th in 2024 among 120 Turkish universities.

## GreenMetric 2024 Performance Rates

- Global Ranking Performance: Increased from 49.74% in 2019 to 72.98% in 2024.
- Turkey National Ranking Performance: Increased from 58.14% in 2019 to 68.33% in 2024.
- Foundation Universities Performance: Increased from 71.43% in 2019 to 72.73% in 2024.



## Biosphere Sustainable Lifestyle Corporate Sustainability Certification

The Biosphere Sustainable Lifestyle certificate is an internationally recognized sustainability standards system supported by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). This certification encourages organizations to operate in accordance with environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles. Biosphere is designed to promote sustainable tourism and lifestyles in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The certification focuses on enabling communities and institutions to foster sustainable development, protect natural resources, and enhance social well-being.

Cappadocia University aligned its operations with these standards and received the Biosphere Sustainable Lifestyle certificate for the first time in the 2023–2024 academic year. Following a reevaluation in the 2024–2025 academic year, the university was awarded the 2025 certification. This achievement internationally validates the university's commitment to environmental, social, and economic sustainability and serves as a tangible indicator of its ongoing initiatives.

Through this certification, Cappadocia University has further strengthened its efforts in energy efficiency, waste management, community support, and nature conservation, reinforcing its position as a sustainable institution.



## Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Network – HESI

In July 2023, Cappadocia University joined the United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Network (HESI), which was established to strengthen the role of higher education in supporting sustainable development. HESI, with 780 members, aims to enhance collaboration among higher education institutions on sustainability and provides a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and practical implementation.

HESI is managed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Sulitest Association. Its partners include UNESCO, the UN Environment Programme, the UN Global Compact Principles for Responsible Management Education Initiative, the UN University, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, UNITAR, the UN Partnerships Office, and UN Academic Impact.

Through its annual Global Forum, HESI highlights the importance of higher education in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member institutions, including universities and student organizations, can participate in action groups, online seminars, and events that focus on sustainable development and higher education.

More information about HESI and its member institutions is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/HESI>.



## Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings

Cappadocia University submitted its first application to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings in the 2023–2024 academic year. This ranking evaluates universities worldwide based on their performance regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). THE Impact Rankings aim to measure how universities contribute to sustainability, social responsibility, and community engagement, providing global visibility for their efforts. Cappadocia University's participation reflects its commitment to having its sustainability initiatives assessed on an international scale.

For the THE Impact Rankings 2025, a total of 2,526 universities from 130 countries, including 108 Turkish state and foundation universities, submitted applications. The results were announced on June 18, 2025, during the THE Global Sustainable Development Congress hosted by YÖK in Istanbul.

Based on sustainability performance data from the 2022–2023 academic year, Cappadocia University was ranked in the 1001–1500 band globally, alongside 26 other Turkish universities, according to the overall score calculated from SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

Cappadocia University achieved its highest global score in SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, placing in the 301–400 band. The second-highest score was in SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being. Additionally, the university was ranked in the 401–600 band for SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 13 – Climate Action.



## UN SDSN – United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

As of August 2024, our university has completed its membership application to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) and has been officially accepted. Launched in 2012 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, this network brings together scientists, researchers, and other stakeholders to develop solutions for global sustainability challenges. This membership strengthens our university's efforts to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals at an international level and provides opportunities for prestigious collaborations.



## STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System)

Kapadokya University has joined the STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) membership to strengthen its sustainability efforts at the international level. STARS is a global rating system used to assess and document the sustainability performance of higher education institutions. This membership enables our university to systematically measure and improve its progress in sustainability, while also providing opportunities for collaboration with prestigious academic institutions worldwide.



## QS World University Rankings: Sustainability

Kapadokya University has submitted its preliminary application to be included in the "QS Sustainability Rankings 2026" for the 2024–2025 academic year. It has been confirmed that the university meets the prerequisites set by the QS system for ranking application, and a membership account has been created for the university. This ranking assesses the sustainability performance of universities worldwide. With an application to be submitted in the 2025–2026 academic year, the visibility of Kapadokya University's sustainability efforts on the international stage will be further enhanced.



# OUR COLLABORATIONS



## Slowfood Cappadocia

Slow Food Cappadocia is a community established in the Cappadocia region as a local extension of the Slow Food movement. The Slow Food movement, which began in Italy in 1989, is a global initiative that promotes local and sustainable approaches to food and gastronomy. The Slow Food Cappadocia platform was created with the aim of preserving local food culture, encouraging sustainable agriculture, and keeping traditional recipes alive. Highlighting Cappadocia's gastronomic heritage, the community brings together various stakeholders such as local farmers, producers, chefs, and academics. It particularly strives to revive forgotten regional recipes and local products by developing projects that support sustainable gastronomy and tourism.

This platform also aims to contribute to the local economy by encouraging the increased use of local products within the tourism sector, thereby supporting small-scale producers in the region. Through trainings, festivals, and various events, both local residents and visitors are given the opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the region's rich gastronomic heritage.



## Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)

Aiming to contribute to Türkiye's sustainable tourism policies and practices through the projects it carries out, Cappadocia University became a corporate member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) in 2021, thereby becoming part of global efforts related to sustainable tourism. The GSTC sets global standards for sustainable travel and tourism. In line with the studies and recommendations of the Sustainable Tourism Research Group of our University's Center for Social and Strategic Studies, Cappadocia University has been contributing to the development of the Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Program, which has been implemented nationwide since 2022, in cooperation with the GSTC, the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. With the contributions of Cappadocia University's Center for Social and Strategic Studies Application and Research Center, the sustainable tourism approach was included among the fundamental policies in Türkiye's 2023 Tourism Master Plan, which was updated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2019. This approach is expected to serve as a guiding framework for sustainable tourism policies and practices, which play a key role in enhancing the international competitiveness of Türkiye's tourism sector.

Tourism, which develops in relation to natural and cultural resources, is among the sectors most significantly influenced by sustainability policies. The obligation of societies to consider future generations, the growing social awareness of sustainability, the increasing sensitivity of visitors to sustainability-related issues, and international agreements and various global integrations to which countries are parties regarding the sustainability of the natural and cultural environment make it imperative to give special importance to sustainability in tourism policies. Within this framework, Cappadocia University became the first educational institution in Türkiye to obtain GSTC corporate membership, with the aim of contributing to the development of Türkiye's sustainable tourism standards, expanding the scope of sustainable tourism policies to promote the widespread adoption of sustainability practices within the tourism sector, and leading scientific research and activities on sustainable tourism at both national and destination levels.

In this context, Cappadocia University is the only institution in Türkiye authorized by the GSTC to provide training programs. Details of the "Global Sustainable Tourism Council-Approved Training Programs" and the "Sustainable Tourism Training Programs for Professionals" offered by our University are published on the pages of the KÜN Continuing Education Center.



## TTEMA Foundation

Cappadocia University carries out various collaborations with the TEMA Foundation in the field of sustainability. Within the scope of this collaboration, the University organizes activities aimed at raising environmental awareness and contributes to nature conservation efforts. In particular, workshops and nature walks conducted with the participation of the Genç TEMA community have sought to promote environmental awareness. This cooperation has enabled the implementation of concrete actions in areas such as combating erosion, protecting biodiversity, and advancing sustainability.



## UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES

UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES was established to develop solutions that promote scientific and societal transformation and carries out activities aimed at advancing innovative approaches to sustainable development and environmental challenges. This collaboration seeks to contribute to both local and global sustainability policies.

Through its Center for Environmental Humanities, Cappadocia University is a key partner of the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Program, an international and interdisciplinary initiative led by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme to promote sustainability science. In 2018, Cappadocia University participated as the only representative from Türkiye invited to two UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES founding workshops. During the 2019-2020 academic year, Cappadocia University hosted the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Global Sustainability Coalition Founding Workshop on 6-7 June 2020.

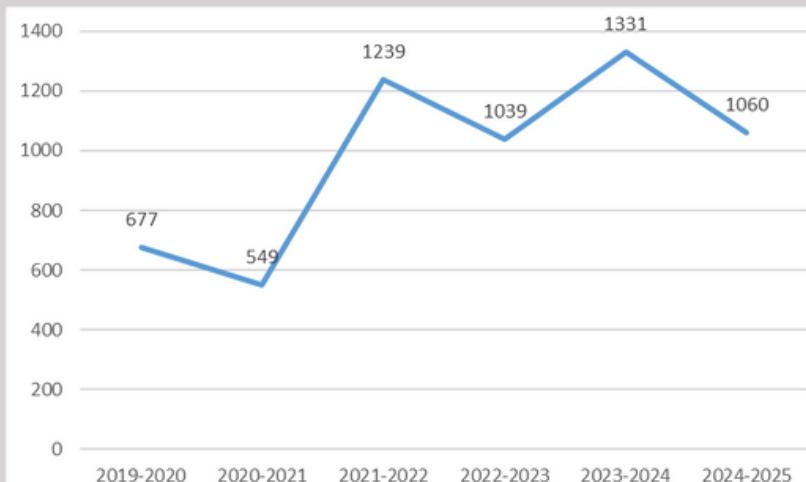
Following the official approval of the Coalition by the UNESCO-MOST Intergovernmental Council at the end of March 2021, Cappadocia University, as noted above, hosted the Opening General Assembly of the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Program in May 2021. The collaboration between Cappadocia University and the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Program continued during the 2023-2024 academic year.



## ESCARUS

Cappadocia University signed an educational cooperation protocol with Escarus Sustainability Consultancy with the aim of advancing sustainability initiatives and developing solutions to sectoral challenges. Within the scope of this protocol, it is intended to organize scientific meetings and conduct joint research in the field of sustainability by drawing on the knowledge and experience of both parties. This collaboration aims to further strengthen the University's efforts in the field of sustainability.



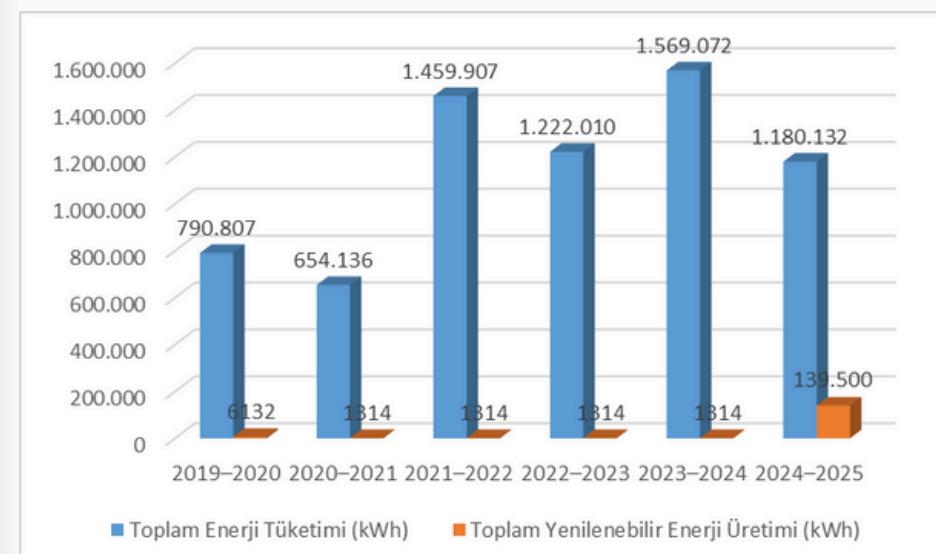


Carbon Footprint Distribution (Tons), 2019–2025



- The carbon footprint, which has shown a marked upward trend since the 2021–2022 period, reached its highest level at 1,331 tons in the 2023–2024 academic year. This increase reflects the University's rapidly expanding academic and administrative activities, the growing number of students, and increased on-campus mobility.
- However, the subsequent decline to 1,060 tons in the 2024–2025 period demonstrates that Cappadocia University's concrete measures in the areas of energy efficiency, transportation planning, and waste management have produced effective results. This decrease was achieved through the combined impact of sustainability awareness trainings conducted in line with sustainable campus goals, hybrid meeting practices, smart lighting systems, and zero-waste initiatives.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DATA (2019–2025)

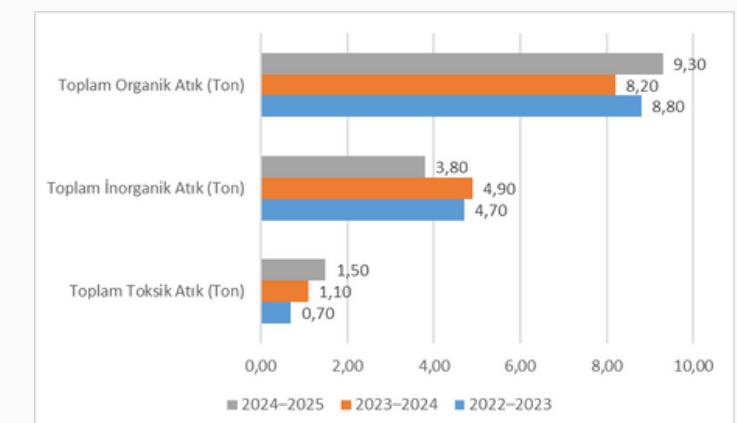


Annual Energy Consumption and Renewable Energy Production, 2019–2025

Between 2019 and 2025, total energy consumption generally showed an upward trend, reaching its highest level of 1,569,072 kWh during the 2023–2024 period. However, in the 2024–2025 academic year, consumption decreased significantly to 1,180,132 kWh. This decline reflects the impact of sustainability-focused policies such as energy efficiency measures implemented across campuses, sensor-based lighting systems, and hybrid meeting practices.

Furthermore, renewable energy generation rose to 139,500 kWh in the 2024–2025 period, representing a notable increase compared to previous years. This increase demonstrates the University's determination to expand its clean energy capacity and to advance toward its carbon-neutral campus goals.

- An analysis of the distribution among waste types during the 2022–2025 period shows that organic waste consistently accounts for the largest share each year. In the 2024–2025 academic year, the amount of organic waste reached 9.3 tons; however, despite increased campus activities, it was kept under control through effective waste separation practices.
- Compared to previous years, the amount of inorganic waste decreased markedly to 3.8 tons, indicating improved separate collection of plastic and paper waste as well as increased recycling awareness. In addition, the rise in toxic waste to 1.5 tons during the 2024–2025 period reflects increased laboratory activities, and cooperation with licensed companies continues to ensure the safe disposal of these wastes without causing environmental harm.



Waste Distribution, 2022–2025

# A CLEANER CAMPUS THROUGH ZERO WASTE



- As Cappadocia University, we successfully implement the Zero Waste approach across our campuses, prioritizing the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of environmental impacts. All of our campuses in Nevşehir hold the Zero Waste (Basic Level) Certificate approved by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, and efforts are currently underway to obtain this certification for our Istanbul campus as well.



# SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

- In line with its goal of creating a healthy and sustainable campus environment, Cappadocia University has successfully implemented the Smoke-Free Campus Policy across all of its campuses. By restricting the use of cigarettes and tobacco products throughout the University, the initiative aims to protect the health of students and staff while maintaining a clean campus environment.
- Through this implementation, awareness levels among individuals have been increased and the adoption of healthy lifestyle habits has been encouraged. At the same time, by directly contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, the smoke-free areas established on campus have created a safer and cleaner environment for both students and employees. This exemplary practice, which prioritizes public health, stands as a concrete demonstration of Cappadocia University's commitment to environmental sustainability and human health.





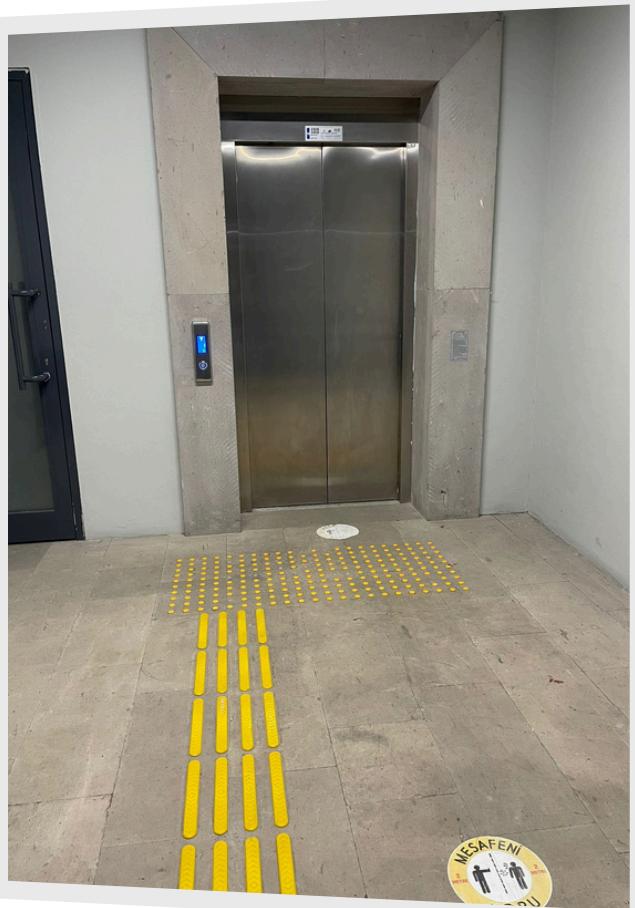
In the 2023–2024 academic year, Cappadocia University submitted its application for the Accessible University Flag Award conducted by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) through the Engelsiz KÜN Unit, which coordinates the University's accessibility and inclusivity initiatives. This award program encourages the implementation of accessibility and inclusivity principles in higher education institutions and aims to ensure that universities are responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities in physical, educational, and social domains.

The application was submitted under three main flag categories:

- Green Flag: Improvements and infrastructure works aimed at ensuring the accessibility of physical spaces;
- Orange Flag: Practices that support the accessibility of academic programs and the full participation of persons with disabilities in teaching and learning processes;
- Red Flag: Initiatives that promote the accessibility of socio-cultural activities and encourage the active participation of persons with disabilities in campus life.

Throughout the application process, the Engelsiz KÜN Unit meticulously carried out improvement efforts to enhance accessibility across the campus, make educational processes more inclusive, and support equal participation in social spaces. The Unit implemented projects that reinforced the University's commitment to creating an accessible campus and coordinated efforts to ensure that all individuals can participate on equal terms.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, Cappadocia University has continued its efforts to provide an accessible and equitable educational environment for all, to ensure students' full participation in social and academic life, and to develop exemplary practices.



# OUR INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS (2024–2025)



Cappadocia University has been participating in the UI GreenMetric ranking since 2019. According to the results of the 2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, our University ranked 399th among 1,477 universities from 95 different countries, thereby maintaining its position within the top 500 worldwide. While Cappadocia University ranked 8th among 28 foundation universities in Türkiye in the previous year, it placed 9th among 33 foundation universities in the 2024 rankings. Additionally, our University ranked 34th among 97 Turkish universities in the previous year, and 38th among 120 Turkish universities in the 2024 evaluation. In the 2024 rankings, Cappadocia University achieved its highest total score since its first participation in 2019. It was observed that the University increased its scores particularly in the "Setting and Infrastructure," "Energy and Climate Change," and "Transportation" categories, while maintaining its scores in the "Water," "Waste," and "Education and Research" categories.



The Biosphere Sustainable Lifestyle Certificate is an internationally recognized sustainability standards system supported by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). This certification encourages institutions to operate in accordance with environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles. Biosphere is a framework designed to promote sustainable tourism and lifestyles in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The certificate focuses on enabling communities and institutions to foster sustainable development, protect natural resources, and enhance social well-being. Acting in line with these standards, Cappadocia University obtained the Biosphere Sustainable Lifestyle Certificate for the first time in the 2023–2024 academic year and, following a reassessment application in the 2024–2025 academic year, was awarded the 2025 certification. This certification has internationally validated the University's commitment to its environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals and serves as a concrete indicator of its efforts in this field. With the renewal of this certification in 2025, the University has further strengthened its initiatives in energy efficiency, waste management, community engagement, and nature conservation.



The results of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, to which our University applied for the first time, were announced on 18 June 2025. In the 2025 Impact Rankings, which evaluated universities based on their efforts toward the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2,526 universities from 130 countries participated, including 108 public and foundation universities from Türkiye.

The THE Impact Rankings 2025 results were publicly announced on 18 June 2025 during the Global Sustainable Development Congress, held in Istanbul between 16–19 June 2025 and hosted by Times Higher Education, one of the world's leading international higher education ranking organizations, in collaboration with the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). One of the opening speakers of the Congress, Phil Baty, Global Director of External Relations at THE, emphasized that Türkiye ranked as the third country with the highest number of university submissions to the rankings. He expressed his appreciation to Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar, President of the Council of Higher Education, and to all Turkish university representatives present at the opening ceremony for their strong support and participation.

At the Congress, Cappadocia University was represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sinan Akıllı, Chair of the Sustainability Commission, and Dr. Selda Öztürk, Coordinator of the Sustainability Office.



In the 2024–2025 academic year, Cappadocia University submitted a pre-application to be included for the first time in the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026. It has been confirmed that the University meets the preliminary requirements set by the QS system for ranking applications, and a membership account has been created for Cappadocia University. This ranking evaluates universities worldwide based on their sustainability performance. With the full application to be submitted during the 2025–2026 academic year, the international visibility of Cappadocia University's sustainability initiatives is expected to increase further.

# OUR FEATURED SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES (2024–2025)



Our Rector, Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar, participated as a speaker in the session titled "Sustainability Panel: The Temperature Is Rising – Our Role as Industry Representatives", held within the scope of the PATA Annual Summit 2025 (Pacific Asia Travel Association), which took place between 21–23 April 2025.

The panel addressed the responsibilities the tourism sector must assume in combating climate change, the steps that need to be taken in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and examples of successful practices. In his speech, Prof. Dr. Karasar shared Türkiye's experiences in the field of sustainable tourism, best practices implemented in the Cappadocia region, and the University's contributions to sustainability-oriented academic studies and public policies with the participants.



With the aim of supporting local producers and traditional products in the region, preserving biodiversity, and promoting access to good, clean, and fair food, the Slow Food Earth Market Cappadocia-Uçhisar was officially inaugurated on 24 May 2025 and became part of Slow Food's international Earth Markets network. By directly bringing producers and consumers together, the market aims to contribute to the local economy and support sustainable rural development.

As part of a broader program held between 22–25 May 2025, which also included the opening of the market, meetings of the Slow Food International Executive Board and Advisory Board were hosted at our University. In addition, public seminars were organized by Slow Food leaders, and working and cooperation development meetings were held with Slow Food leaders and representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), the Ahiler Development Agency, and the Central Anatolia Development Agency.

## ELEVATE Project: Empower Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake

ELEVATE Project, The ELEVATE Project is a digital capacity development initiative aimed at strengthening the digital capabilities of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) run by female entrepreneurs in Hatay after the 2023 earthquakes. The project aims to support sustainable business growth and accelerate economic recovery in disaster-stricken areas.

Based on the methodologies of Open Innovation and Design Thinking, the project follows the stages of Explore, Define, Develop, and Implement. It provides support for female entrepreneurs to enhance their digital skills and marketing-focused business solutions. Through six work packages, the project analyzes digital literacy levels, develops strategic solutions, and monitors outcomes.

The ELEVATE-Application Community (ELEVATE-CoPs), established within the project, will initially be implemented in Hatay, and in the future, it will expand to other disaster regions such as Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep.

Coordinated by the University of Wolverhampton (CIDT), the project's main partner in Turkey is Kapadokya University (KÜN). Other supporting organizations include Tech West Midlands (UK), Mustafa Kemal University, CARE International Turkey, and Antiokhia Women's Cooperative.

ELEVATE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem that supports post-disaster economic recovery, gender equality, and sustainable development by strengthening the digital transformation of female entrepreneurs.



Our University has added another initiative to its ongoing efforts toward an environmentally responsible and sustainable future. Within the scope of training programs provided to academic and administrative staff as well as students during the 2024–2025 academic year, a "Corporate Sustainability and Waste Management Training" was organized at our University.

As part of this initiative, the training sessions were delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sinan Akıllı, Chair of the Sustainability Commission, and Dr. Selda Öztürk, Coordinator of the Sustainability Office. Through these sessions, employees and students increased their awareness of sustainability, while the University's commitment to environmental responsibility was further reinforced. The program provided comprehensive information on sustainability principles, the recycling and reuse of waste, and effective waste separation and management practices.



**THE Impact Rankings 2025** The results were announced to the public on 18 June 2025 as part of the Global Sustainable Development Congress, held in Istanbul between 16–19 June 2025, hosted by Times Higher Education, one of the world's leading international higher education ranking organizations, in collaboration with the Council of Higher Education (YÖK).

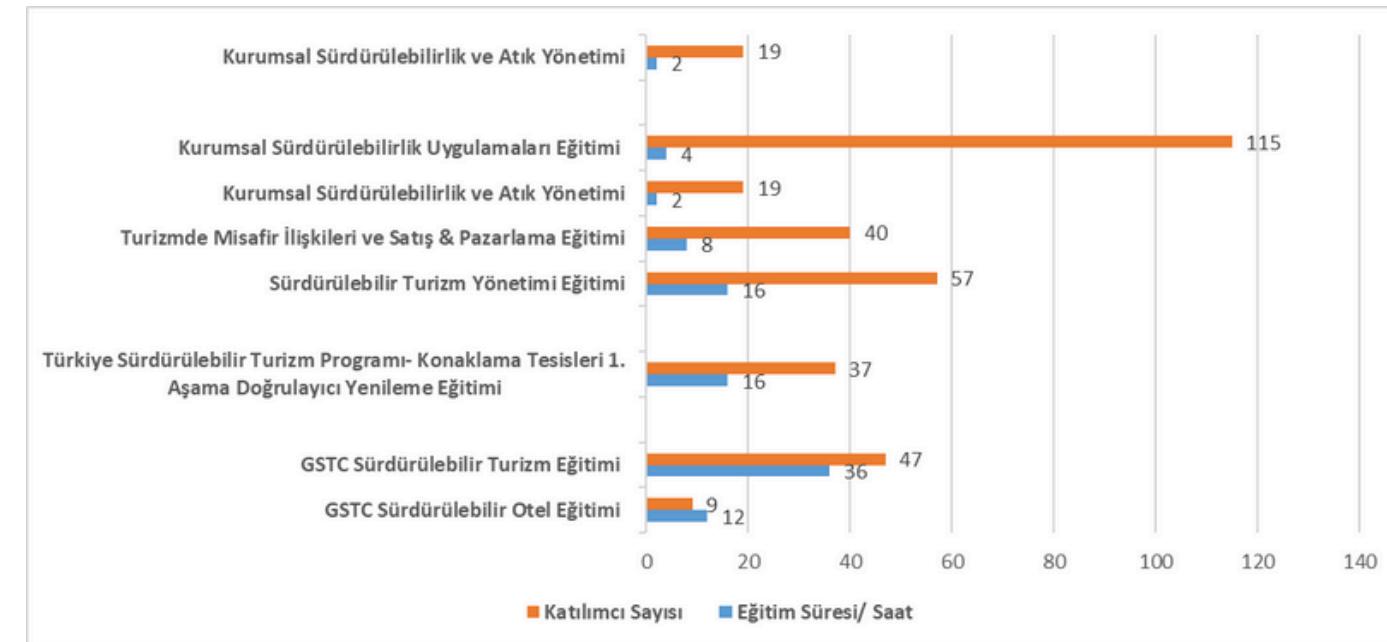
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# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE KÜN CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER (SEM)

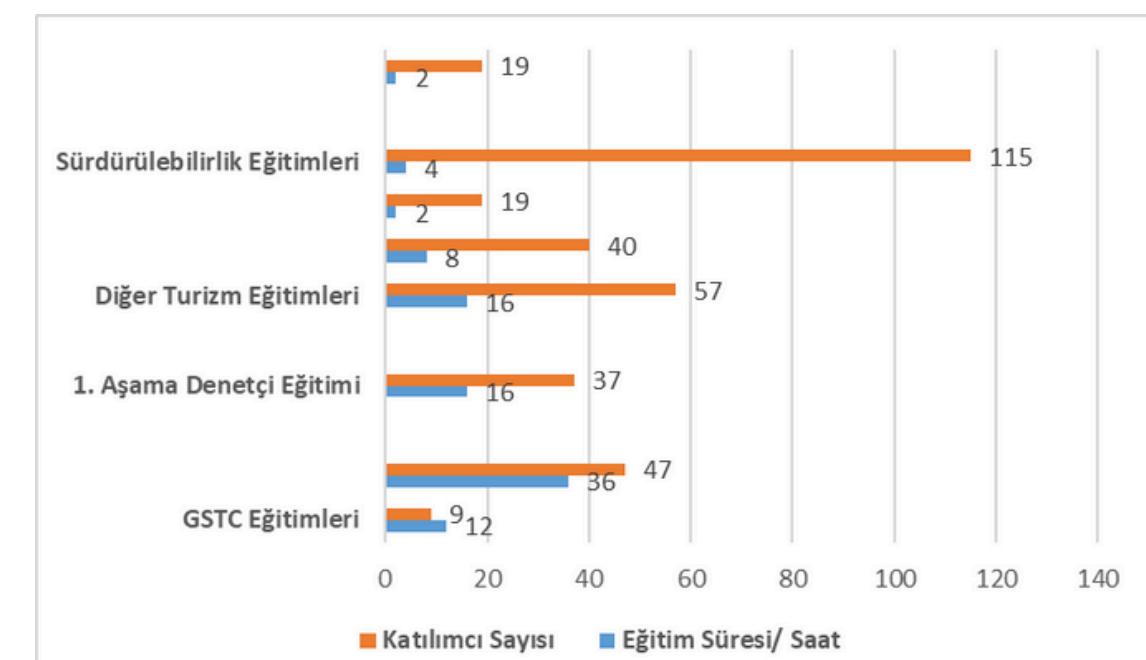
## Trainings Offered in Sustainable Tourism and Sustainability within the SEM Framework

Field of Training	Training Title
GSTC Training Programs	GSTC Sustainable Hotel Training
	GSTC Sustainable Tourism Training
Stage 1 Auditor Training	Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Program – Accommodation Facilities Stage 1 Verifier Renewal Training
Other Tourism Training Programs	Sustainable Tourism Management Training
	Guest Relations and Sales & Marketing Training in Tourism
	Corporate Sustainability and Waste Management
Sürdürülebilirlik Eğitimleri	Corporate Sustainability Practices Training
	Corporate Sustainability and Waste Management

- As part of its efforts toward sustainable tourism, Cappadocia University has been a corporate member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) since 2021. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with GSTC, our University is the only authorized institution in Türkiye to organize GSTC-approved and certified training programs.
- Through its Continuing Education Center (SEM), our University offers customized training modules that fully cover all GSTC criteria and are specifically designed in line with the sustainable tourism needs of tourism enterprises in Türkiye, taking into account sectoral, regional, and enterprise-based requirements. Through these modules, accommodation sector employees at all levels and positions—including business managers, sustainability-related technical and administrative staff, and quality managers—benefit from a comprehensive training process that includes technical details across various sustainability topics, tailored to their expectations and needs, in order to meet GSTC criteria.



Distribution of Sustainable Tourism and Sustainability Trainings Provided by KÜN Continuing Education Center (SEM) in the 2024–2025 Academic Year



Distribution of Training Fields Provided by Cappadocia University Continuing Education Center (SEM) in the 2023–2024 Academic Year

# SOSYAL VE STRATEJİK ÇALIŞMALAR UYGULAMA VE ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR TURİZM ÇALIŞMALARI



## LEADING THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION OF TÜRKİYE'S TOURISM SECTOR

- Studies on the position of Türkiye's tourism sector within global tourism and sustainable tourism indices
- Preparation of sustainable tourism roadmaps and master plans for provinces in Türkiye
- Development of the Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Industry Criteria (TR-I)
- Development of Accommodation Facility Criteria within the Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Program
- Development of Türkiye Sustainable Gastronomy Criteria



### Dünyanın en büyük turizm ülkeleri

Sıra	Ülkeler	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Fransa	95,9	41,7	48,4	79,4
2	İspanya	83,5	18,9	31,2	71,7
3	Türkiye	51,2	15,9	29,9	51,4
4	ABD	79,4	19,2	22,3	50,9
5	İtalya	64,5	25,2	26,9	49,8
6	Meksika	45,0	24,3	31,9	38,3
7	Birleşik Krallik	39,4	10,7	6,3	30,7
8	Almanya	39,6	12,4	11,7	28,5
9	Tayland	39,9	6,7	0,4	11,2
10	Çin	65,7	8,0	5,7	0,2
Dünya		1464,0	407,0	458,0	969,0



## SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS AFFILIATED WITH THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

- Support for Biosphere Sustainability Certification – Rami Library
- Support for Biosphere Sustainability Certification – İzmir Culture and Arts Factory



## Contribution to the Development of Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria Sets in Collaboration with the GSTC

- Development of the GSTC Industry Criteria for Global Sustainable Tourism Industry Standards
- Development of the GSTC Attraction Criteria for Theme Parks, National Parks, and Museums
- Development of the GSTC MICE Criteria for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE)



### GSTC Attraction Criteria

with  
Performance Indicators and SDGs

Version 1.0  
14 November 2024

### GSTC MICE Criteria

Version 1.0  
February 29, 2024

with  
Performance Indicators and SDGs  
For Venues, Event Organizers,  
and Events & Exhibitions



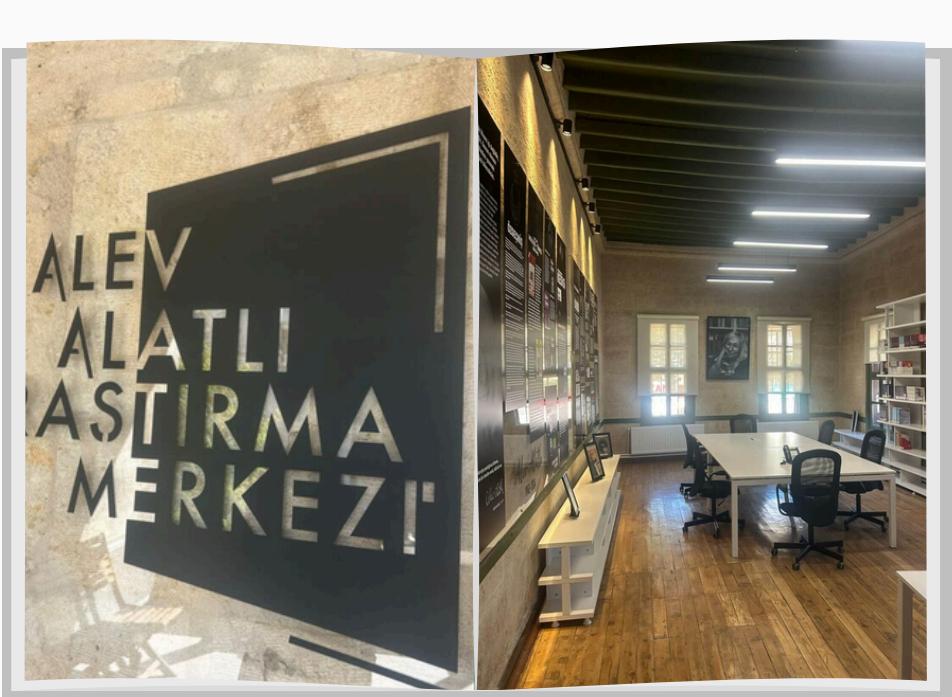
### GSTC Destination Criteria

The GSTC Destination Criteria (GSTC-D) have been built on decades of prior work and experience around the world, and they take into account the numerous guidelines and standards for sustainable tourism from every continent. During the process of development, they were widely consulted throughout the globe, in both developed and developing countries, in several languages. They reflect certification standards, indicators, criteria, and best practices from different cultural and geo-political contexts around the world in tourism and other sectors where applicable. Potential indicators were screened for relevance and practicality, as well as their applicability to a broad range of destination types. They were field-tested around the world. The process of developing the Criteria was designed to adhere to ISO codes of conduct and the standards-setting code of the ISEAL Alliance, the international body providing guidance for the development and management of sustainability standards for all sectors.

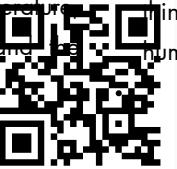
The GSTC Destination Criteria v2.0 is the first revision to GSTC Destination Criteria. The GSTC-D v2 includes performance indicators designed to provide guidance in measuring compliance with the Criteria. Application of the criteria will help a destination to contribute towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Against each of the Criteria, one or more of the 17 SDGs is identified, to which it most closely relates.



# ALEV ALATLI STRATEGIC THINKING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER



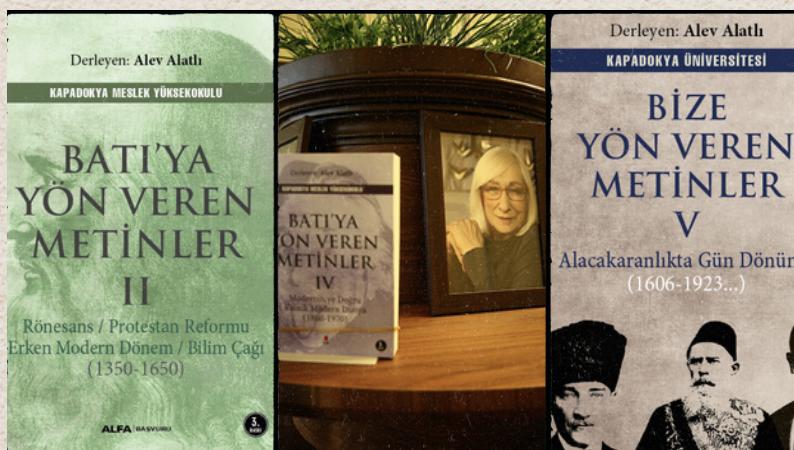
- The Alev Alatlı Strategic Thinking Application and Research Center (AA-STARC) was established within Cappadocia University on 5 August 2024 with the aim of preserving and advancing the intellectual legacy of Alev Alatlı, the founder of the University and one of Türkiye's most distinguished writers and thinkers. The Center seeks to create an interdisciplinary platform for dialogue and debate grounded in critical thinking, free from stereotypes and rigid perspectives.
- AA-STARC aims to identify the major challenges facing humanity and the planet, develop solution-oriented approaches, conduct strategic research in this direction, and raise societal awareness. The Center carries out activities across a wide range of fields, including education, philosophy, history, theology, health, economics, food, gastronomy, science and technology, politics, international relations, literature, climate change, music, culture, and arts.
- The Center develops projects aimed at the advancement of the Cappadocia region and its local communities, and conducts national and international initiatives to disseminate Alev Alatlı's works and intellectual heritage to broader audiences. It provides research opportunities for the University's students and academic staff and supports their representation in international projects and platforms.
- AA-STARC also collaborates with public institutions, the private sector, and international organizations to organize symposia, conferences, panels, publications, and certificate programs. Through these activities, the Center aims to make both intellectual and social contributions to the University and the region, while promoting a culture of strategic thinking focused on the future of humanity and the planet.



## Alev Alatlı Education and Health Foundation

The Alev Alatlı Education and Health Foundation aims to carry out initiatives in the fields of education and health, to preserve and promote Alev Alatlı's contributions to Turkey's culture, arts, and education, and to disseminate the intellectual perspective that shaped her exemplary life story.

The Foundation is the founding foundation of Cappadocia University and provides comprehensive support to the University with all its resources. In addition, the Foundation is the project initiator and editor of the four-volume collection "Texts That Shaped the West" and the seven-volume collection "Texts That Shaped Us", which illuminate three thousand years of humanity's intellectual journey.



- The celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of our University began with the opening of the Alev Alatlı Strategic Thinking Application and Research Center, followed by a reception. The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Nevşehir, Ali Fidan; former Minister of National Education Prof. Dr. Mahmut Özer; former Secretary General of the National Security Council Seyfullah Hacımüftüoğlu; former Minister of Culture and Tourism Atilla Koç; former Chief Ombudsman Şeref Malkoç; our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Funda F. Aktan; Rector of Erciyes University Prof. Dr. Kurtuluş Karamustafa; our Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar; Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees Kaan Aktan; and members of our Board of Trustees Atilla Koç, Hasan Ünver, Dr. Şeref Oğuz, Mustafa Uysal, Funda Bağana, Abdullah Akça, Bekir Ağırdaır, and Mustafa Cihat Lokmanoğlu.

# İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU

- The "Shared Vision for Humanity and the Planet" project of Cappadocia University's **Alev Alatlı Strategic Thinking Application and Research Center** is a comprehensive initiative aimed at producing solutions to global and local challenges. Within the scope of this project, various seminars are organized and policy papers are published.
- About the Project:** The world is facing economic, social, cultural, environmental, and political crises. In response to these challenges, Cappadocia University aims to create a circle of thought that brings together leading experts from Türkiye and around the world, places human dignity at its core, and seeks to build the future of humanity through a holistic synergy. By establishing a bridge between science and policy, this initiative aims to provide policymakers with the knowledge, analyses, and strategic action frameworks they can use when making complex decisions.
- Seminars:** As part of the project, seminars are held in which leading scientists, policymakers, and thinkers from Türkiye address the challenges faced by our country and the world and offer solution-oriented perspectives. For example, at the seminar titled "The Impact of Global Developments on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa," held on 29 September 2024, prominent scholars specializing in African policies shared their views.
- Policy Papers:** The policy papers published within the scope of the project present solution proposals for current issues. For instance, the paper titled "Earthquake-Resilient and Climate-Secure Construction Proposal: Build with Wood! Live with Wood!" advocates the use of wooden structures in order to reduce the carbon footprint and enhance earthquake safety.



**TÜRK DİPLOMASI TARİHİ**  
Uluslararası Güvenlik ve Güncel Sınamalar

**26**  
HAZİRAN Perşembe  
20.00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Mehmet Fazıl CEYLAN  
Büyükelçi (EE)

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sıyasettin EROL  
ANKASAM Kurucu Başkanı

**ANKASAM**

**DIŞ POLİTİKADA KAMU DİPLOMASI**  
Macaristan, Dış Politika ve Kamu Diplomasisi

**4**  
TEMMUZ Cuma  
20.00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. László VASSA  
Szechenyi İhvan Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sıyasettin EROL  
ANKASAM Kurucu Başkanı

**ANKASAM**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**29**  
NİSAN Pazarı  
20:00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. Gülen GÜLÜ  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**15**  
NİSAN Pazarı  
20:00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. Ömer ÜNLÜ  
İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**25**  
MART Pazarı  
20:00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. Abdulkemal TÜRKSOY  
Gazi Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

**TÜRK DİS POLİTİKASINDA GÜNCEL KONULAR**

**18**  
HAZİRAN Çarşamba  
20.00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Doç. Dr. Ceren GÜRSEL  
Mevlüt Hacı Bektaş Veli Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sıyasettin EROL  
ANKASAM Kurucu Başkanı

**ANKASAM**

**DIŞ POLİTİKADA KAMU DİPLOMASI**

**30**  
HAZİRAN Pazartesi  
20.00  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Doç. Dr. Zhenes MÖHYÜKUL  
Ley Gürbüz Azerbaycan Ulusal Üniversitesi Öğretim Üyesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sıyasettin EROL  
ANKASAM Kurucu Başkanı

**ANKASAM**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**11**  
OCAK Perşembe  
19:30  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. Cenk YILMAZ  
İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**31**  
OCAK Çarşamba  
19:30  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Doç. Dr. İsmail AYDIN  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

**İNSANLIK VE GEZEGEN İÇİN ORTAK UFUK TASAVVURU**

**19**  
ARALIK Salı  
19:30  
YouTube

**KONUŞMACI**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**MODERATOR**  
Prof. Dr. Cemal GÖKÇE  
Hacettepe Üniversitesi

**KÜN Düşünce Çevresi**

# VEGETATION COVER OF CAPPADOCIA

- As Cappadocia University, we carry out a series of awareness-raising initiatives to promote and protect the unique natural heritage of the Cappadocia Region, located in the heart of Anatolia. The Cappadocia Vegetation Project has been established as a platform to scientifically document the region's distinctive plant diversity and to raise public awareness of these natural values.

**Project Scope:**

- The Cappadocia region covers a wide geographical area extending beyond the borders of Nevşehir Province and encompassing at least five provinces, characterized by diverse geological formations and microclimates. Currently, our platform features 286 photographs belonging to 45 species of herbaceous plants and flowers. With ongoing field surveys and continuous photo documentation, this number is steadily increasing.

**Purpose:**

- The primary aim of this project is to highlight not only the aesthetic beauty of the region's plants but also their critical roles within the ecosystem. Plants that are often dismissed as "weeds" are, in fact, indispensable components of our ecological balance. Their disappearance would lead to serious disruptions in natural systems. Raising awareness at this point is of vital importance not only for Cappadocia, but also for the conservation of Turkey's overall vegetation.

**Cappadocia's Unique Plant Diversity:**

- Türkiye lies at the intersection of three major phytogeographical regions—Euro-Siberian, Irano-Turanian, and Mediterranean—making it one of the world's richest areas in terms of biological diversity. With approximately 12,500–13,000 plant species, Türkiye clearly reflects this richness. Nearly 3,000 of these species are endemic, found nowhere else in the world, placing the country in a uniquely significant global position.

**Regional Threats and Awareness:**

- In Cappadocia, mass tourism, urbanization, and industrialization are among the main social and economic activities that threaten plant diversity. Through this project, we aim to raise awareness—particularly regarding endemic plant species and the intangible cultural heritage associated with them—and to contribute to the protection of these invaluable assets.

**Citizen Science and Community Participation:**

- The Cappadocia Vegetation platform is the first initiative in the region to implement the Citizen Science approach. As part of this method, we encourage local residents and nature enthusiasts to contribute to the project by sharing photographs of plants found in the region. One of the most significant contributions to the project has come from the private collection of Mr. Halil Nuri Hepdinc, whose photographs have enabled many plant species to be introduced on this platform for the first time.

**Cultural and Historical Context:**

- The vegetation of Cappadocia complements the region's geological and historical richness and was well known and actively used by local communities in the past. We believe that it is our responsibility to preserve this heritage—entrusted to us by our ancestors—and to pass it on to future generations.



## MUSTAFAPAŞA – BEST TOURISM VILLAGE



### Recognition by UNWTO

Mustafapaşa Village, where Cappadocia University's main campus is located, was awarded the title of Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in December 2021. This distinction was granted in recognition of the village's efforts to preserve its natural, cultural, and social values and to promote sustainable tourism development.

### Characteristics of Mustafapaşa

#### History and Architecture:

Mustafapaşa, formerly known as Sinasos, has hosted various civilizations throughout history. It is notable for its historic churches and mosques, as well as its houses adorned with fine stone craftsmanship.

#### Natural and Cultural Values:

Shaped by Cappadocia's distinctive geography and climate, the village features a unique settlement pattern. It is also home to traditional crafts such as pottery, tile-making, and stone masonry.

#### Rural Economic Activities:

Economic activities in the village are diverse and include agriculture, livestock farming, and tourism.

#### Contributions of Tourism

#### Income and Employment:

Tourism has created new employment opportunities in the village, increasing economic prospects particularly for women and young people.

#### Infrastructure Development:

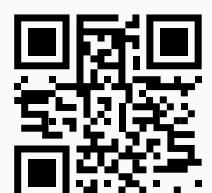
Thanks to public and private investments, infrastructure and community services have been improved.

#### Preservation of Cultural Heritage:

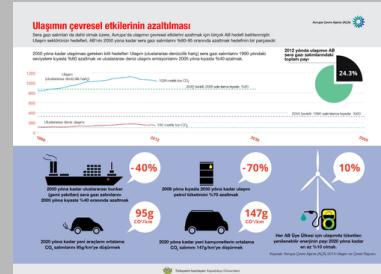
The Conservation Plan enacted in 2004 has made a significant contribution to the protection of the village's cultural heritage.

#### Role of Cappadocia University:

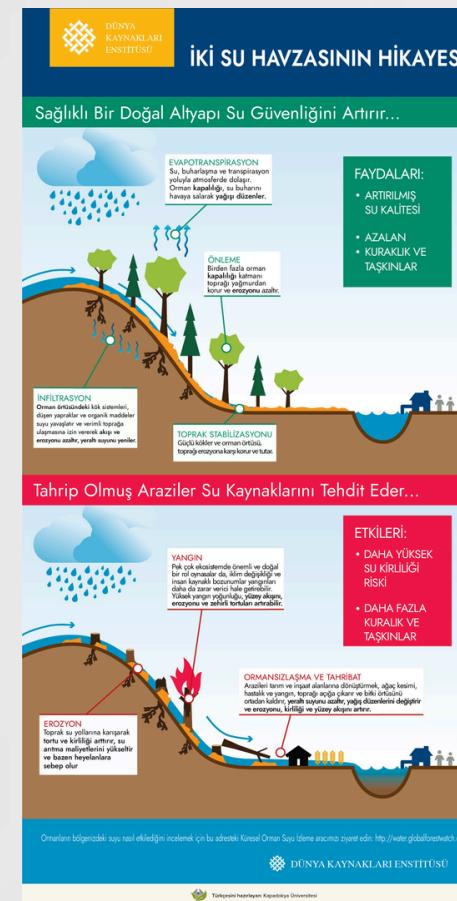
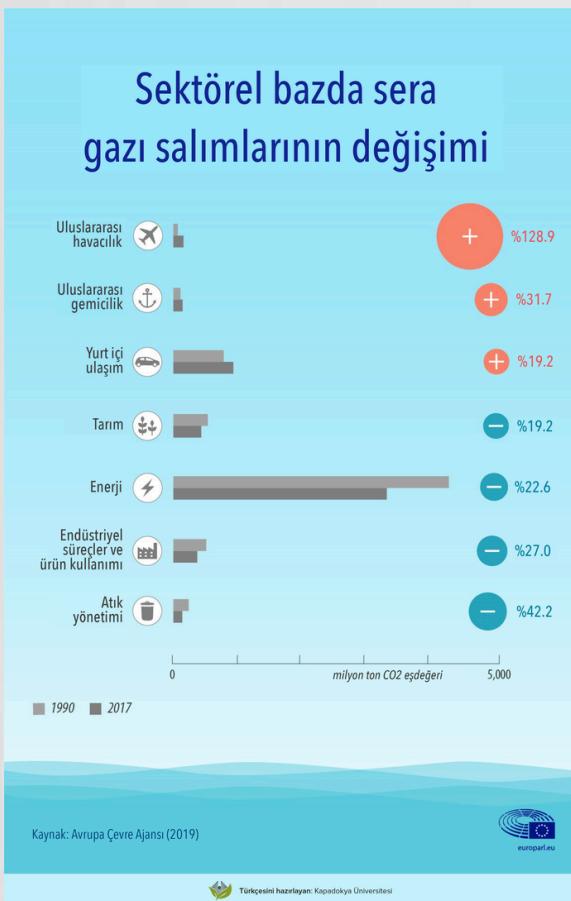
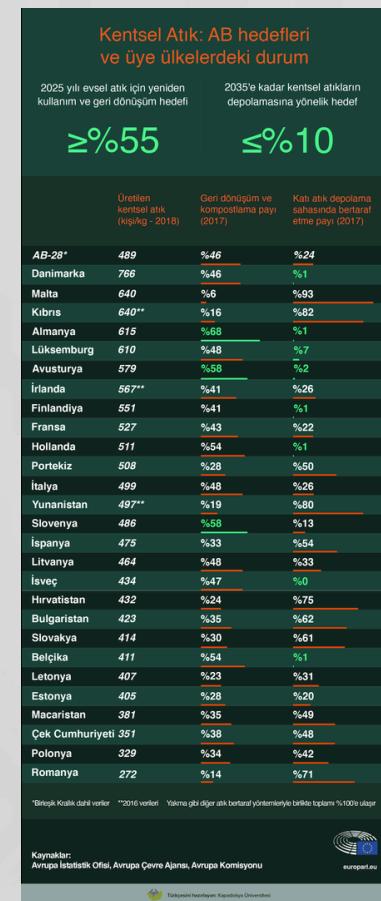
Cappadocia University is a key stakeholder in sustainable tourism practices in Mustafapaşa. The University supports local communities through education, awareness-raising activities, and projects aimed at sustainable development.



# CLIMATE CRISIS AWARENESS DATABASE



- Climate Crisis Awareness Database
- Although there is a wide range of engaging written and visual resources that present reliable information on the climate crisis in a clear, simple, and accessible manner for different audiences, access to such materials in Turkish remains limited. The Climate Crisis Awareness Database Project is a pilot initiative aimed at creating a comprehensive database that brings together written and visual resources explaining the causes and consequences of the climate crisis, future projections, solution proposals, and existing practices in an understandable language.
- In the first phase of the project, which lasted approximately one year, scientific sources related to the identified topics were reviewed and selected infographics were translated into Turkish.
- This publicly accessible website offers infographics organized under the headings Causes of the Climate Crisis, Risks of the Climate Crisis, Areas of Intervention, Practices, Core Values and Levers, and Future Projections. These materials provide valuable information for a broad audience, particularly secondary and higher education institutions in Türkiye, as well as public and private organizations and civil society groups.
- Usage permissions were obtained for infographics based on research conducted by a wide range of reputable institutions, including the European Environment Agency, European Parliament, United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO, NASA, World Resources Institute, National Geographic, and WWF International. The Turkish translations and graphic designs were produced within Cappadocia University.
- This project was carried out by the Cappadocia University Center for Ecological Humanities Research and Practice, the first and only research center in Türkiye in the field of Ecological Humanities, which examines ecological crises and environmental issues through an interdisciplinary approach. By bringing together international data on the climate crisis in language accessible to everyone, the Climate Crisis Awareness Database is expected to serve as an important resource at a time when addressing the climate crisis has become a priority in education, as well as in the public and private sectors, facilitating the rapid and easy circulation of information and contributing to the development of greater awareness.



# GASTROKAPADOKYA: THE HUB OF LOCAL GASTRONOMY

GastroKapadokya is an important initiative that contributes to gastronomic tourism in the region by promoting Cappadocia's rich culinary heritage and local values. The website developed within this framework aims to serve as a guiding resource for visitors traveling to the region



## Supporting Local Producers:

Local producers in Cappadocia deliver their products, produced through natural and sustainable methods, directly to consumers.



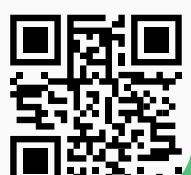
## Preservation of Gastronomic Culture:

The region's gastronomic heritage is preserved through local recipes, traditional cooking techniques, and the use of natural ingredients.



## Sustainable Food Supply:

By establishing environmentally friendly production and consumption chains, contributions are made to sustainable development.



Menus Prepared with Local Products and Dishes by the Faculty Members and Students of the Cappadocia University Gastronomy and Culinary Arts and Cookery Programs



## Lezzetile Öne Çıkan Köyler



## Kapadokya Üniversitesi Mutfak Sanatları



## Kapadokya'da Yenmezse Olmaz



## Haberler ve Etkinlikler



## Yörenye Alt



## Kapadokya İllerinin Lezzetleri



## Events and Activities

### Local Food Festivals and Events:

Events focusing on regional products such as grapes and pottery cheese are organized.

### Gastronomy Workshops and Training Programs:

Training sessions and workshops on local cuisine are held to support and enhance the region's gastronomic potential.

### Marketing of Local Products:

Access of products produced in the Cappadocia region to national and international markets is facilitated.

### Sustainability and Social Contribution:

The GastroKapadokya project aims to both improve the economic well-being of local communities and protect the region's natural and cultural values through sustainable gastronomy practices. These efforts contribute to rural development while also supporting the growth of gastronomy tourism.



İyi, Temiz,  
Adil Gıda için  
Türk Mutfağı

## Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival

The Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival, one of the most prominent events in the Cappadocia region, is organized under the auspices of the Nevşehir Governorship in cooperation with Cappadocia University, the Ürgüp District Governorship, Ürgüp Municipality, the Ahiler Development Agency, and the Cappadocia Area Presidency.

The 2025 festival, held between 21–25 May as part of Turkish Cuisine Week, gained an international dimension with the opening of the Cappadocia Earth Market. Highlighting traditional cooking methods, the use of local products, and zero-waste kitchen principles, the event brought together Cappadocia University's sustainable gastronomy approach and the Slow Food philosophy.

With the establishment of the Earth Market, the University has evolved beyond being solely an academic institution to become a representative of a holistic development model that supports local producers, preserves cultural heritage, and contributes to the local economy.

## CAPPADOCIA SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY AND TOURISM UNION

### Objective:

We are a community formed by academics, chefs, entrepreneurs, producers, and passionate food enthusiasts. We appreciate and value Cappadocia's gastronomic heritage. Using the resources of the Cappadocia University Departments of Gastronomy, Culinary Arts, and Cookery, our goal is to revive the region's long-forgotten recipes, products, and gastronomic traditions, combine sustainable tourism and gastronomy experiences to create a multiplier effect, and transfer this knowledge to future generations.

### Activities:

- Collecting Cappadocia's local products, traditional recipes, and cooking techniques
- Making Cappadocia's gastronomic heritage visible through our website, [gastrocappadocia.com](http://gastrocappadocia.com)
- Encouraging the use of local recipes and products in restaurants and accommodation businesses to increase the benefits of local food producers from tourism
- Transforming Cappadocia into a high-quality, unique, and sustainable gastronomy tourism destination, enriching the visitor experience
- Developing training and knowledge-sharing platforms for all local stakeholders in the field of gastronomy with a comprehensive approach to economic, environmental, and social sustainability
- 



22 Mayıs 2025, Perşembe  
Saat : 11:15 – 12:15

**Agroekolojik Tarımla Açılkık, Yoksulluk, Yetersiz Beslenme ve Sosyal Adaletsizlik Mücadele**

Moderatör: Prof. Dr. Barbaros Özsoy, Ankara Üniversitesi  
Kapadokya Üniversitesi  
YouTube Canlı Yayın  
Seminerinize küm halkınızı davetliyoruz.

Marta Messa  
Genel Sekreter, Slow Food

Nina Wolff  
Yönetim Kurulu Üyesi, Slow Food

KAPADOKYA  
UNİVERSİTESİ  
Slow Food



Cappadocia University Hosted a Major International Event with the 4th Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival During Turkish Cuisine Week

Cappadocia University hosted an important international event with the 4th Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival, which took place during Turkish Cuisine Week celebrated between May 21–27, 2025. The main theme of the festival emphasized the use of good, clean, and fair food in classical Turkish cuisine. In this context, the annual meeting of the Slow Food International Council was held for the first time in Turkey, in Cappadocia. Around 50 Council members from 23 different countries discussed Slow Food's strategies for the upcoming period.

Additionally, seminars on food sustainability, biodiversity, agroecology, and rural development were organized by the Slow Food Board of Directors at various campuses of Cappadocia University. These seminars were open to both the university community and the local population and were broadcast live on Cappadocia University's YouTube channel.

This meeting gave a strong momentum to the Slow Food movement in Turkey and stood out as an exemplary collaboration model that supports Cappadocia University's vision of sustainable tourism and local development. One of the most significant milestones of the event was the opening of the Cappadocia Slow Food Earth Market in Uçhisar on Saturday, May 24.

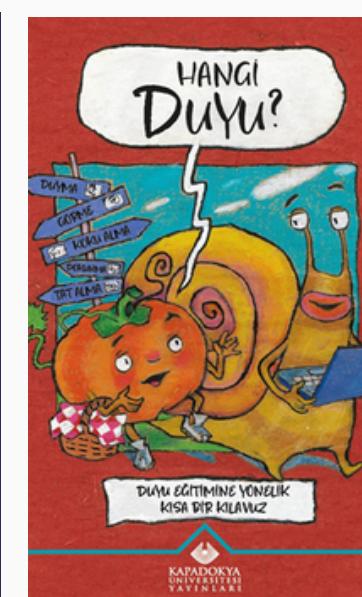


As part of Turkish Cuisine Week activities from May 21–27, 2025, a tasting event titled "Ottoman Table" was held at Cappadocia Alev Alatlı Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, featuring dishes selected from the delicious recipes in the book Funda's Kitchen Guide written by our founder, Alev Alatlı.

The tasting event, organized by the teachers and students of Cappadocia Alev Alatlı Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, was attended by prominent figures including Mesut Tabakçıoğlu, the District Governor of Ürgüp, Kazım Yayla, the Chief Public Prosecutor of Ürgüp, our Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar, Yusuf Yazıcı, the Director of National Education in Nevşehir, Mevlüt Tüylü, the District Police Chief of Ürgüp, Muhammed Şahin, the District Gendarmerie Commander of Ürgüp,avaş Özdemir, the District Director of National Education in Ürgüp, Ahmet Aydın, the President of Ürgüp Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Funda F. Aktan, the President of the Board of Trustees.

## EVENTS

## PUBLICATIONS



itimi ...  
nak için hafif ve eğlenceli  
nar.  
başlı Slow Food ritmine  
retir Eğitimi  
El Kitabı  
gulama ve denevim eğitim  
gine değer verir.  
i ve motivasyonunu teşvik eder.  
yaklaşır, çok disiplinli bir  
nimser.  
elleştirmesi ve geliştirmesi  
ur.  
şleme ve karşılıklı kabulü  
vik eder.  
yutular içeriği kılavuz  
KAPADOKYA  
UNİVERSİTESİ  
YAYINLARI

## Meatless Monday: A Global Movement for Healing



As Cappadocia University, we plan the meal menu in our student and staff cafeterias to be meatless every Monday. By doing so, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint while also promoting better health.



# Cappadocia Slow Food Earth Market – Uçhisar

Good • Clean • Fair Food



- Cappadocia Slow Food Earth Market is a local development project initiated by Cappadocia University, coordinated by the Ahiler Development Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey. The project, which was eligible for support under the 2024 Social Development Support Program (SOGEП), was formalized with a protocol signed on February 11, 2025, hosted by Ali Fidan, the Governor of Nevşehir and Chairman of the Ahiler Development Agency. The market officially opened its doors in Uçhisar on May 24, 2025.
- Earth Markets, developed by Slow Food, one of the world's largest food movements, are community markets based on the principles of clean, fair, and good food. These markets promote direct contact between local producers and consumers, free from chemical and industrial inputs. Only small-scale producers engaged in natural production are included in these markets, with a focus on direct sales. This model, which carries the ethical values of Slow Food, prioritizes transparency in production processes, biodiversity, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Cappadocia Earth Market is part of this international network. The market is held biweekly in the garden of the Kadıneli Restaurant in Uçhisar. The market space is not only a place for selling products but also a cultural meeting point where local culinary traditions are revitalized, and training sessions, workshops, and community events are organized.
- Training sessions and workshops are conducted as part of the project. These trainings aim to empower rural small producers, especially female producers, in areas such as sustainable agriculture, cooperativism, food hygiene, marketing, and entrepreneurship.
- The project aims to improve the product quality and economic sustainability of local producers. With this initiative, Cappadocia University aims to both preserve the region's unique culinary culture and strengthen the direct economic participation of rural producers.

A meeting point for natural products – every other Saturday in Uçhisar!

Cappadocia Earth Market  
Yukarı Mahalle, Fatih Street No:4,  
50240 Uçhisar / Nevşehir  
(Uçhisar Kadın Eli Restaurant  
Garden)



## Fair Sharing with Local Producers

“ 25 Local Producer ”

The producers at our market are organic farmers, artisans, and traditional food producers who have adopted sustainable agricultural methods, stay true to local traditions, and engage in production that is in harmony with nature. Each producer's products are available at fair prices, following the principles of "local, fresh, and seasonal," and are offered directly to consumers.



Cappadocia Slow Food Earth Market offers a continuous space for learning and sharing throughout the year, with educational sessions and workshops focused on sustainable living, local production, and environmental awareness. These activities are designed for the local community, students, and visitors.



- Cappadocia Slow Food Associations represent the networks of collaboration between producers, chefs, and academics, created to strengthen the community aspect of the Earth Market initiative. These associations operate as active communities that support sustainable agriculture, the preservation of local products, and the transmission of traditional gastronomic knowledge in the Cappadocia region.
- The Slow Food Cappadocia Association is a platform operating under the international Slow Food network, bringing together local producers, restaurants, hotels, and educational institutions. This structure contributes to creating a fair, clean, and local food chain from production to consumption by strengthening regional solidarity.

## Famous Chefs and International Slow Food Leaders Gathered in Cappadocia



During the gathering held from May 23–25, 2025, Slow Food International leaders and renowned chefs came together for an event hosted by Cappadocia University. This important meeting focused on empowering local producers, preserving biodiversity, and supporting sustainable development through gastronomy, in line with the principles of "good, clean, and fair food."

# 2024-2025 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDENT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES



A Sustainable Development Student Community consisting of 17 members has been established within the framework of the elected General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Community.



# 2024-2025 SUSTAINABILITY TRAININGS FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS



- Target Audience: Academic-Administrative Staff
- Corporate Sustainability
- Sustainable University
- KÜN Example Sustainability Practices
- Academic Publication-SKA Alignment
- International Ranking Systems
- Academic Profile Creation and Update
- UNIS System-SKA Integration



On February 22, 2025, our university's Sustainability Office organized a comprehensive sustainability training for the students of the Sustainable Development Community at Hasan Kalyoncu University. The training covered global sustainability goals, environmental responsibility awareness, and the importance of sustainability practices in universities.



- Target Audience: Academic-Administrative Staff; Students
- Corporate Sustainability
- Sustainable University
- KÜN Example Sustainability Practices
- Waste Management and Zero Waste

## 17 SDG-RELATED SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES AT CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY FOR 2024-2025

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to end poverty, protect our planet, and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity by 2030. The SDGs consist of 17 main goals, adopted by 193 countries in 2015, covering broad topics such as economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Each goal requires concrete actions to increase social welfare, reduce inequalities, combat climate change, preserve natural resources, and create a fair and inclusive economic model necessary for sustainable development. The SDGs are a universal guide jointly adopted by governments, academic institutions, the private sector, and individuals and are of great importance for the long-term sustainability of our planet.
- In line with our university's commitment to the achievement of the SDGs, academic publications, courses related to sustainability at the associate, undergraduate, and graduate levels, and extracurricular activities play a significant role. In the 2024-2025 academic year, a total of 174 academic studies related to different SDGs were published by our university's faculty members and faculty members from other institutions through Cappadocia University Publications. During the same academic year, a total of 46 sustainability-related courses were offered in the associate degree programs (5 courses), undergraduate programs (19 courses), and graduate programs (22 courses). Additionally, 98 extracurricular activities related to sustainability were organized by our university in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Our university's sustainability efforts have been evaluated in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the activities and projects carried out under each SDG are detailed below.



# 1 YOKSULLUĞA SON



## HIGHLIGHTS

### International Gathering in Cappadocia: The Earth Market Opens

As part of Turkish Cuisine Week, celebrated from May 21–25, 2025, significant events were organized in Cappadocia to enhance the international visibility of Turkish cuisine. Turkish cuisine, with its values such as using seasonal local products, reducing waste, preserving traditional cooking methods, and sustaining dining culture, aligns with the principles of sustainability, biodiversity, and cultural heritage conservation promoted by the Slow Food movement.

In this context, on Saturday, May 24, the Cappadocia Earth Market was opened in Uçhisar, coordinated by the Ministry of Industry and Technology's Social Development Support Program and the Ahiler Development Agency. Slow Food Earth Markets, held regularly in 105 markets across 23 countries, support approximately 2,500 producers and aim to protect local production, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. As part of the Cappadocia Earth Market Project, local producers and women's cooperatives in the region received training on topics such as sustainable production, hygiene, branding, and biodiversity, and support was provided to small production facilities.

The market opening was held openly to everyone who wished to support local producers in the region and contribute to the sustainable promotion of traditional products.

Additionally, on Thursday, May 22, various seminars were organized at Cappadocia University's Ürgüp Campus, where academic and sectoral knowledge on gastronomy, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and cultural heritage was shared. These seminars were also open to all participants, emphasizing the strong connections between Turkish cuisine and sustainability.

As part of the events, an approximately 50-person delegation consisting of members from the Slow Food International Council, Board of Directors, and foundation leaders from 23 different countries visited Cappadocia between May 21–26. Turkish Cuisine Week was celebrated along with this international participation.

For More Information: <https://kapadokyagastronomifestivali.com/kapadokya-gastronomi-festivali/>

## EVENTS

- Vera Community Ramadan Package Aid – March 26, 2025
- Visit to the Youth Red Crescent Kindergarten – November 7, 2024
- Visit to the Child Protection Agency – April 23, 2025

## PROJECTS

- TAR-GE-SSCM-1150 – In Anatolia
- AR-GE-MTGSF-854 – Inventory of Cappadocia Small Handicraft Workshops
- AR-GE-SSCM-1182 – Empower Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake Through Digital Capacity Building and Adopting Digital Solutions to Support Business Growth and Rebuild (ELEVATE)
- AR-GE-LAE-1265 – The Transformation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Modern Sustainable Living Practices: The Example of Anatolian Yörük-Turkish Culture
- AR-GE-SSCM-937 – Sustainable Tourism Destination Evaluation Project
- AR-GE-SSCM-1180 – Sustainable Industry Criteria Phase 2 Handbook Project
- AR-GE-SSCM-945 – Sustainable Restaurant Criteria Project
- AR-GE-SSCM-1179 – Amasya Tourism Master Plan
- AR-GE-SSCM-1178 – Mardin Tourism Master Plan
- AR-GE-SSCM-936 – Nevşehir Tourism Master Plan

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 KAPADOKYA – UÇHİSAR

# YERYÜZÜ PAZARI AÇILIYOR!

24 MAYIS SAAT 10.00

Uçhisar, Kadıneli Restoran Bahçesi

[kapadokya  
yeryuzupazari.org](http://kapadokya-yeryuzupazari.org)

**İyi, temiz, adil gıda...**

**Açılışa tüm halkımız davetlidir.**

**15 günde bir pazar yerinde buluşalım!**

T.C. SANAYİ VE  
TEKNOLOJİ BAKANLIĞI

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KAPADOKYA  
UNİVERSİTESİ

AHİLER  
Kaleminin Aşaması  
Geleceği Yarın Yaratır





## Gastronomi, Turizm ve Sürdürülebilirlik Söyleşisi



### EVENTS

- Slow Food Seminars – Farmers' Markets and Rural Development: The Farmers' Market Coalition Experience – 24.05.2025
- Slow Food Seminars – The Importance of Biodiversity and Quality in Food Systems – 23.05.2025
- Food Sustainability as a Global Imperative: Preserving Cultural and Biological Diversity – 22.05.2025
- Farmers' Markets as a Catalyst for Sustainable Rural Growth – 22.05.2025
- Kitchen Friends Community – World Vegan Day "Vegan Workshop" – 01.11.2024
- Slow Food World Disco Soup Day – "From Dough to Flavor: Baklava and Lahmacun Workshop" – 29.04.2025
- Plates Full of Life 4 – From Roots to the Future: Local Cuisine and Sustainable Gastronomy – 18.04.2025
- Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival – 22.05.2025
- Turkish Cuisine Week Events – 25.06.2025
- Adana Taste Festival Cooking Competition
- Gastronomy, Tourism, and Sustainability Talk – 23.05.2025



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### GASTRONOMY, TOURISM, AND SUSTAINABILITY TALK

The talk titled "New Approaches to Sustainable Gastronomy and Tourism," organized by the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Program of Cappadocia University, was held on May 23, 2025, at the Uçhisar Campus Conference Hall.

During the event, topics such as the importance of energy efficiency in sustainable gastronomy, the role of digital transformation in tourism, the revitalization of historic city centers through sustainable gastronomy, and initiatives like Earth Markets were discussed. Participants gained information about the ISO 50001 Energy Management System, the Carbon Gate digital platform, and sustainable tourism certification processes.

The speakers at the event included Onur Aksoy, Tourism Certification Coordinator and Lead Auditor at Control Union; Okan Dursun, Co-Founder and CEO of Carbon Gate; Tuğçe Ertan Meriç, Lead Auditor for Sustainable Tourism Certification in Southeast Asia at SC Certification; and Hamit Gökay Meriç, Certification Coordinator.

The event was moderated by Celal Uysal and Lecturer M. Ufuk Keşoğlu. At the end of the talk, certificates of participation were presented to all students.

For detailed information: <https://sdg.kapadokya.edu.tr/gastronomi-turizm-ve-surdurulebilirlik-soylesisi/>





## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

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- Aşşar, E., & Aksu, M. (2025). How Does Zinc Cytelast Affect Zinc-Dependent Metabolism in an Alzheimer's-like Model? *Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology*, 93, 93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtemb.2025.127589>
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- Koçak, S., & Beyhan, H. (2024). Effects of Krill Oil and Coconut Oil on Behavioral Changes and Inflammatory Markers in Rats with Chronic Unpredictable Mild Stress-Induced Depression Model. *Journal of Medical Food*, 27(12), 1243-1252. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jmf.2024.0025>
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- Patat, D., Nisari, M., Ulger, H., Doğan, E., Çayhan, D., & Tolunay, M. (2025). Unveiling the Protective Potential of Crocin in Septic Acute Liver Injury via Assessment of the TLR4/HMGB1/NF-κB Signaling Pathway, Oxidative Stress, and Heat Shock Response. *Cell Biochemistry and Function*, 43(2), e00058.
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## Oral and Dental Health Application and Research Center



Strengthening the healthcare infrastructure of the Cappadocia region, the Cappadocia Oral and Dental Health Center, which was officially established on July 10, 2014, provides services in the field of oral and dental health with its modern technology, expert staff, and patient-centered approach. Aiming to offer high-standard healthcare services to both local residents and visitors in the region, the Center adopts a comprehensive approach encompassing diagnosis, treatment, and preventive healthcare services.

### Services and Objectives

#### Modern Technology and Expert Staff:

The Center is equipped with state-of-the-art devices and highly qualified dentists. It aims to ensure that patients receive the best possible healthcare services in a safe and comfortable environment.

#### Comprehensive Treatment Methods:

A wide range of treatments is offered, including general dentistry, aesthetic dental treatments, orthodontics, implantology, and surgical procedures.

#### Preventive Healthcare Services:

The Center seeks to promote a preventive healthcare approach through educational activities and regular check-ups aimed at increasing awareness of oral and dental health.

#### Regional Access and Health Tourism:

By leveraging Cappadocia's touristic location, the Center also provides services within the scope of international health tourism, aiming to enhance the region's health tourism potential.

#### Patient Satisfaction and Trust:

Across all services, a friendly, solution-oriented service approach that respects patient rights is adopted.

The Cappadocia Oral and Dental Health Center aims to become a leading healthcare institution in the region for healthy smiles and continues its services with the mission of providing sustainable solutions in oral and dental health.



## Physical Therapy Healthy Living Application and Research Center



## EVENTS

- World Health Day (Social Media Post) – 07.04.2025
- April 1–7 Cancer Awareness Week – Health Talks for Women of Mustafapaşa – 12.04.2025
- Pilates Event – Ürgüp Factory Campus – 17.05.2025
- Pilates Event (Happy Bodies) – 09.11.2024
- World Meditation Day – Yoga Event – 28.05.2025
- Happy Bodies Community – World Dietitians' Day Culinary Event – 29.05.2025
- Areas of Practice and Legal Responsibilities of Dietitians
- Peritoneal Dialysis and Career Opportunities in Dialysis
- The Importance of a Psychosocial Approach for Dialysis Patients
- Anesthesia Technicians' Day – Professional Talk
- 2nd Emergency Days
- Healthy Teeth, Healthy Smiles
- Floortime 101: Introductory Training
- Psychology Camp – Psychologists' Day Event: Gratitude to the Hands That Touch the Mind – 14.05.2025
- Compass Psychology Community – Nursing Home Visit – 13.11.2024
- UNIFEB – Nursing Home Visit (İstanbul Campus) – 16.01.2025
- Hacıbektaş Nursing Home Visit – Bag Painting Workshop with Women – 08.03.2025

## Dünya Kanser Haftası Kadınlar İçin Sağlık Sohbetleri

DR. ÖĞR. ÜYESİ İLKİYE YALAP  
ETKİNLİK: MUSTAFAPAŞA HALKI VE TÜM ÜNİVERSİTEZİ AÇIKLIT

12 NİSAN 2025 | MODERN  
BİLGİ  
BÖLGESİ  
SALONU

## HIGHLIGHTS

### WORLD CANCER WEEK – HEALTH TALKS FOR WOMEN

The informative talk, organized by the Cappadocia University Student Community within the scope of Cancer Week (April 1–7) to raise awareness, was held on April 12, 2025, at the A1 Conference Hall, Mustafapaşa Campus. During the event, information was shared on types of cancer, risk factors, and the vital importance of early diagnosis. Participants were informed about the role of healthy lifestyle habits in the fight against cancer. Held under the slogan "Raising Awareness for Our Health, Growing Stronger Through Awareness," the event attracted great interest from students and university staff.

#### For More Information:

<https://sdg.kapadokya.edu.tr/dunya-kanser-haftasi-kadinlar-icin-saglik-sohbetleri/>



## DÜNYA MEDİTASYON GÜNÜ YOGA ETKİNLİĞİ

Daha derin bir nefes, daha huzurlu bir dünya!  
Katılım kontenjanı sınırlı ve sadece kadın öğrencilerimize özeldir.  
Etkinlik puanı: 5



00.00.00

09.30-11.00

## PROJECTS

- AR-GE-UBYO-950 – Bakliyat Ürünlerinin ve Aquafabanın Glutensiz ve Vegan Kek Üretiminde Kullanımının İncelenmesi
- AR-GE-UBYO-987 – Eğitmen Yetki ve Temel Pratik Eğitim Kayıt Defteri Takip Yazılımının Denetim Performansına Etkisinin Araştırılması





## EVENTS

- Mustafapaşa Introduction Seminar – Academic Staff – 30.10.2024
- Mustafapaşa Introduction Seminar – Students – 31.10.2024
- Sustainability Talks Series (Events 1–9)
- AFAD Disaster Awareness Training – 28.03.2025
- Waste Sorting Knowledge Competitions (Including Competitions 1–3 and "Green Minds Compete")
- KUN Waste Sorting Awareness Training – 28.05.2025
- Teknofest Information Conference
- ICEESEN 2024 Conference
- International Conference on Mathematics and Mathematics Education
- (zaten ıngilizce olduğu için aynen bırakıldı)
- Graduate Seminars: Cappadocia Studies
- Graduate Seminars: Multipolarity and Turkey
- Graduate Seminars: Turkey's Defense and Security Issues
- Workshop on the Past, Present, and Future of Educational Psychology
- Anatomy Education Workshop
- The Journey from Clinic to Professorship

## PROJECTS

- AR-GE-ÇBBM-177 – "Connect 4 Environmental Sustainability in Film and the Media"
- AR-GE-MTGSF-856 – Farklı Kültülerdeki Motiflerin Ortak Dili



Officially established on July 10, 2014, the Child Development Application and Research Center is the first institution in the region to provide services by integrating the Montessori educational approach with innovative preschool models, and the only institution in Türkiye with a building designed in full accordance with Montessori philosophy.

At the Center, the experienced academic staff of our School work together with Montessori-certified educators and expert psychologists to closely monitor children's development and to offer a unique, high-standard educational program. This program is enriched with English-language instruction and prioritizes the holistic development of the child as an individual.



## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- Yapalı, Y., İlhan, A. C., & Sever, S. (2025). Türkiye'de Erken Çocukluk Dönemi Müzik Eğitimine Yönelik Mesleki Uzmanlık Alanında Yaşanan Sorunlar ve Bir Çözüm Önerisi. Eğitim ve Bilim, 50 (222), 21–44.
- Tuna, S., & İlhan, A. C. (2024). Türkiye ve Bazı Avrupa Ülkelerindeki Ortaokul Görsel Sanalar Dersi Öğretim Programlarının Karşılaştırılması. Mehmet Akif Ersoy Üniversitesi Eğitim Fakültesi Dergisi, 72, 263–294.
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- Sunman, G., & Turgut, İ. (2024, September 10–13). The Use and Management of Digital Technologies in Early Childhood Education. 10th International EMI Entrepreneurship & Social Sciences Congress, Târgovişte, Romania.
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- Sen Hastaoğlu, Z., & Taşkin, E. F. (2024, Eylül 5–7). Okul öncesi dönemdeki çocukların duygusal dizinleme sürecinde çocuğa ve ebeveyn'e bağlı faktörlerin incelenmesi. Ulusal Lisansüstü Psikoloji Öğrencileri Kongresi "Yine Yeni Yeniden", Antalya, Türkiye.
- Esin, Ö. K. (2025). Okul öncesi eğitime erişimde yoksulluk ve cinsiyet. Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları [In Press].
- Eğiten Kitap Yayınevi (2025). Türk Kültüründe Aile ve Çocuk bölüm yazıları, ORFF'un Temel Bileşenleri bölüm yazısı.
- Hemşirelige Giriş – Hemşireliği Anlamak (2024). Bölüm adı: "Hemşireliğin Kovşamları ve Hemşirelik İçin Önemi," Yıldız İğren A., Akademi Basın ve Yayıncılık, Edibör: Sarıkaya S. D., Ünsal A., ISBN 978-605-70825-6-5.
- Cengizkan, A. (2025). Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky / Her Functionalist Practice and the Village School Projects in Turkey. The Journal of Architecture, 29 (5-6), 771–799. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2024.2441119>



Approximately half of the students at Cappadocia University benefit from scholarship opportunities. This rate demonstrates the university's strong commitment to supporting students in need in accessing high-quality education and highlights the importance it places on social responsibility. Aiming to provide a more accessible and equitable educational environment, the university contributes to the development of qualified individuals through its scholarship policies.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR ACADEMICS RANKED AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL SCIENTISTS

According to Elsevier's 2025 list, academics from our university achieved a significant success by being ranked among the world's top 2% most influential scientists. Prof. Dr. Candan Gökçeoğlu and Prof. Dr. Serpil Gülsüm Oppermann were included in this top 2% segment.

According to the published results, the database evaluated researchers based on standardized academic performance indicators such as citation counts, h-index, and hm-index. Both career-long data and 2024 performance data were taken into account, and scientists were ranked according to their academic impact.

From the Faculty of Computer and Information Technologies, Prof. Dr. Candan Gökçeoğlu has authored 226 scientific publications since 1996. His work has received more than 12,000 citations, and his h-index has reached 58. Ranked 33,974th worldwide across all fields, Prof. Dr. Gökçeoğlu is positioned between 151st and 157th in Türkiye, placing him among the country's leading academics. In addition, he has successfully maintained the top national ranking in the geology-geomatics subfield.

From the Department of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Serpil Gülsüm Oppermann has produced more than 150 scientific publications since 1998. With over 8,000 citations to her work, Oppermann is ranked 45,612th worldwide. In the field of English Language and Literature, she holds a high-ranking position and is recognized as one of Türkiye's leading academics. From the Department of Aircraft Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance at the School of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr. Baki Hazer also achieved a remarkable success on the list.

Since 1985, Hazer has authored 225 scientific publications, which have received 3,888 citations, and his h-index is recorded as 32. Ranked 120,223rd worldwide, Prof. Dr. Hazer stands out for his research in the fields of polymers, food science, and chemistry. Notably, he rose to 589th place globally in the field of Polymers, achieving a highly valuable international position.

For more information  
<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/haberler/dunyanin-en-etkili-bilim-insanlari>



## ECO CURRICULUM & SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED COURSES



Cappadocia University includes courses focusing on sustainability-related topics within the scope of its eco curriculum. These courses aim to raise students' awareness of environmental issues, social responsibility, and sustainable development, and to enhance their knowledge and skills in these areas. Through the inclusion of these courses in its curriculum, the university seeks to contribute to global sustainability goals.



## EVENTS

- May 5 International Day of Midwives – Strength, Wisdom, and Leadership in Midwifery
- March 8 International Women's Day Awareness Activities [Stand, Seminar, Gift Distribution]
- UNIFEB – Seminar on Violence Against Women and Its Sociocultural Causes (Mor Çatı) – December 4, 2024
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Booth Activity – November 25, 2024
- Panel on Being a Woman in the Aviation Sector
- May 10–16 Disability Awareness Week Post
- Women's Basketball Team Tryouts – May 10, 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION

Cappadocia University has established the Gender Equality Commission with the aim of promoting gender equality and ensuring a more just and inclusive environment within the university. The Commission seeks to prevent gender-based discrimination, provide equal opportunities, and raise awareness across the university community. This initiative reflects the university's commitment to contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5: Gender Equality. By enhancing inclusivity in education, administration, and research processes, the university aims to strengthen its understanding of social responsibility and to ensure an equal working environment for all.

#### For More Information:

<https://acikerisim.kapadokya.edu.tr/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.12695/2774/KÜN.PB.013.CİNSİYET-EŞİTLİĞİ-POLİTİKA-BELGESİ.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Panel on Being a Woman in the Aviation Sector  
The panel titled "Being a Woman in the Aviation Sector," held on June 21, 2025, at Cappadocia University Sabiha Gökçen Campus, addressed the roles, experiences, and opportunities of women in the aviation industry.

The event featured Banu Sarıkaya, Sına Malatyा, and Arzu Sarıkaya as speakers, with moderation by Lecturer Semih Güray. The speakers shared sincere insights into the challenges faced by women professionals in the sector as well as their success stories, which were followed with great interest by the students.

Organized for students of the Flight Operations Management, Civil Aviation Cabin Services, Aircraft Technology, and Civil Air Transport Management programs, the event served as a source of inspiration for future aviation professionals.

#### For More Information:

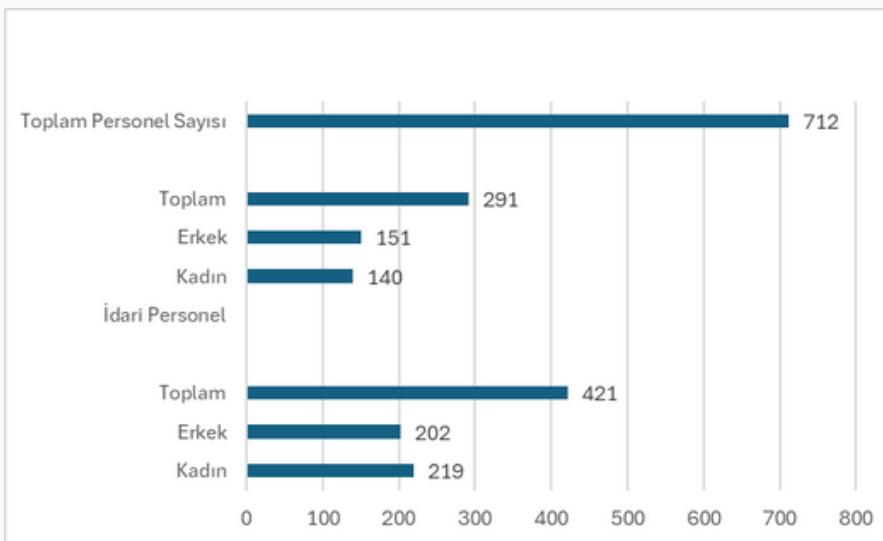
<https://havacilik.kapadokya.edu.tr/havacilik-sektorunde-kadin-olmak-paneli>

## PROJECTS

- AR-GE-SSCM-1182 – Empower Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake Through Digital Capacity Building and Adopting Digital Solutions to Support Business Growth and Rebuild (ELEVATE)

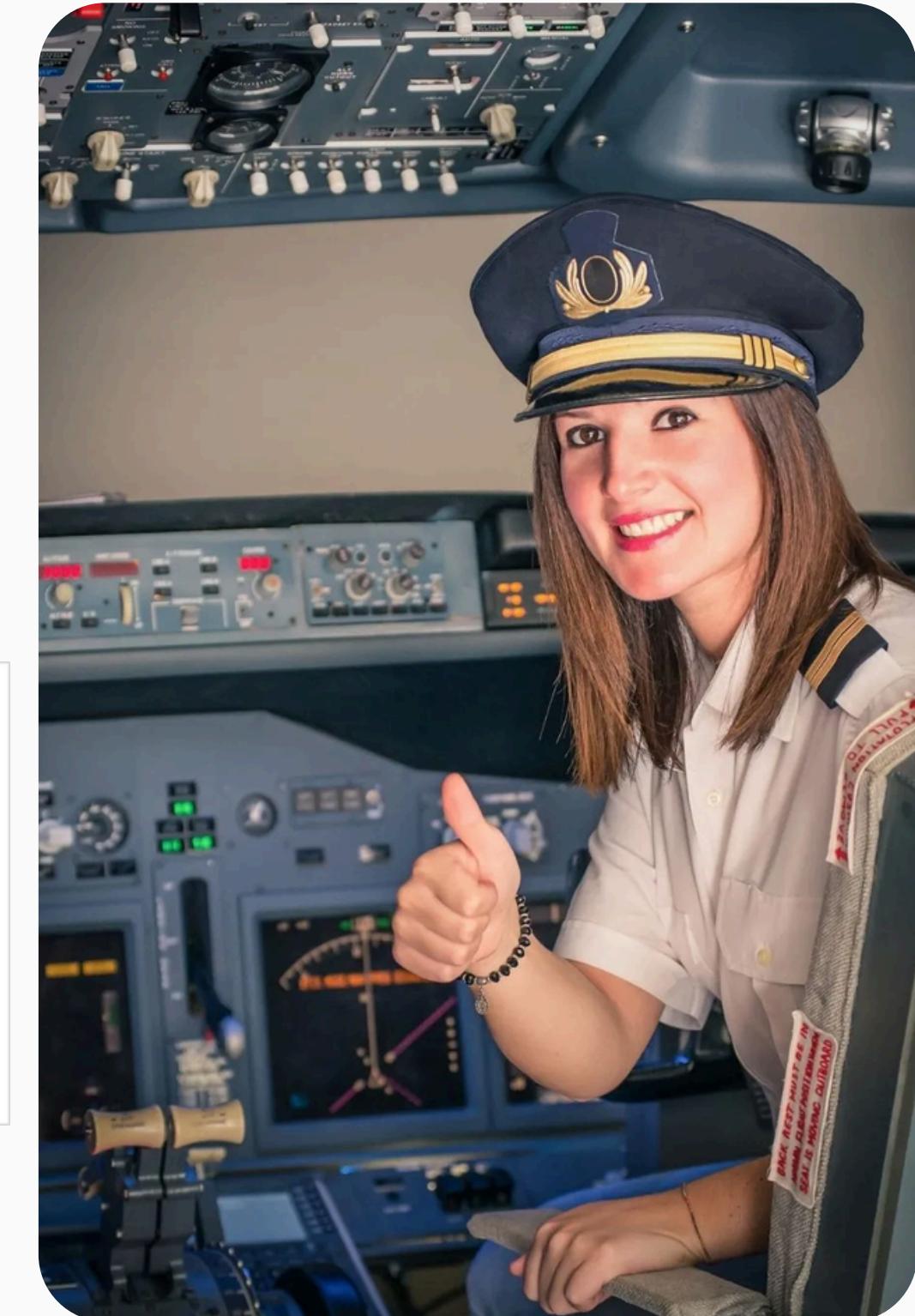


### CİNSİYET EŞİTLİĞİ POLİTİKA BELGESİ



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- Yavuz, A. (2024). Aile Planlaması. In C. Yakıcı, N. Vardi, & R. Melekoğlu (Eds.), *Temelden Kliniğe Kadın Genital Sistem* (pp. 469–476). Nobel Tıp Kitabevleri. ISBN: 978-605-335-984-5.





Home > Landscape and Ecological Engineering > Article

## Understanding human–aquifer interactions using fuzzy cognitive mapping approach at the Palas Basin

Original Paper | Open access | Published: 05 February 2025  
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Landscape and Ecological Engineering

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### HIGHLIGHTS

#### SEASONAL EVALUATION OF EPHEMEROPTERA (INSECTA) FAUNA OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN AND DETERMINATION OF WATER QUALITY WITH PHYSICOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS AND BENTHIC METRICS

This study evaluates the Ephemeroptera fauna and water quality in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin using physicochemical variables and benthic metrics, offering an ecological water quality analysis. Fieldwork conducted during the spring, summer and autumn of 2019 across 20 localities revealed 965 individuals belonging to 17 species from seven families. Among these, only *Caenis macrura* had been previously reported for the basin, whereas all other species represent new records for the Eastern Mediterranean Basin, significantly contributing to regional biodiversity knowledge. The Shannon–Wiener index showed the highest and lowest species diversity at Stations 6 (1.55) and 9 (0.15), respectively. Cluster analysis revealed 100% similarity between Stations 1, 2, 8, 10 and 19, whereas Station 18 was distinctly different. ANOSIM analyses showed significant differences in species distribution between spring and summer–autumn but none between summer and autumn. MANOVA results indicated no significant differences in temperature between spring and autumn, whereas other seasonal combinations showed notable variations. Water quality index results classified Stations 1, 9, 11, 13, 18 and 20 as moderate; Stations 7 and 8 as low; and others as good or high. This study emphasizes the importance of ecosystem-based approaches in conserving water resources. Sensitive benthic organisms like Ephemeroptera facilitate the integration of biological and physicochemical data, aiding sustainable watershed management. This study uniquely contributes to biodiversity knowledge by providing new species records and offers a model for similar studies in other basins.

For More Information: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eco.70040>

#### DETERMINATION OF WATER QUALITY IN THE KÖPRÜÇAY RIVER (ANTALYA-TÜRKİYE) USING VARIOUS EPILITHIC DIATOM AND WATER QUALITY INDICES

This study, carried out seasonally between October-2019 and July-2020, aimed to determine the water quality using some water and epilithic diatom indices of the Köprüçay River. It is located in the south of Türkiye and used for tourism, irrigation and drinking water. Ammonium nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ –N), nitrate nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ –N), sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ), bicarbonate ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ), orthophosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ –P), chloride ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ), biochemical oxygen demand (BODs), temperature (°C), dissolved oxygen, pH, and electrical conductivity were measured. Water quality was determined according to the Surface Water Quality Regulation (SWQR) and Water Quality Index (WQI). The water quality classes of the stream, based on epilithic diatom assemblages, were determined using the Generic Diatom Index (GDI), Saprobi Index (SI), Trophic Index (TI), Swiss Diatom Index (DI-CH), and Trophic Diatom Index (TDI). According to SWQR, the average values of the parameters at all sites were generally in the class I or II (high quality or lightly polluted water). WQI, was calculated based on seasonal and site and all results were determined as "excellent water". 117 taxa belonging to 51 genera of epilithic diatoms were observed in the Köprüçay River. According to epilithic diatoms, generally all sites were in the range of very slightly polluted or partially polluted (I and II) water quality classes.

For More Information: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10452-025-10202-0>

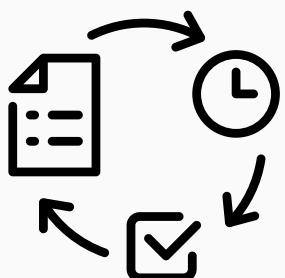
#### UNDERSTANDING HUMAN-AQUIFER INTERACTIONS USING FUZZY COGNITIVE MAPPING APPROACH AT THE PALAS BASIN

The complex relationships between social and environmental systems create challenges for environmental sustainability. In this study, we used the fuzzy cognitive mapping approach to investigate human–aquifer interactions at the Palas Basin (Kayseri, Türkiye). Cognitive maps are causal maps that reflect the perceptions and understandings of different people/groups. With this approach, we aimed to reveal how goals, perceptions, and understandings of water users/managers affect the groundwater system in the Palas Basin. The cognitive maps were drawn with farmers and state officials and transformed into adjacency matrices for further analyses. Graph theory indices (indegree, outdegree, centrality, density, complexity, hierarchy index) were calculated to characterize maps. The maps of farmers and state officials were compared using the Mann–Whitney U test. Social cognitive maps were prepared by combining individual cognitive maps. Neural network computational method was used to reveal the response of the system to different management scenarios. This study pointed to the importance of irrigation/irrigated agriculture for the Palas Basin. Increasing agricultural yields and profits by expanding the cultivation of high water consuming crops and irrigation/fertilization was found to be the priority of people. Both farmers and state officials think that groundwater levels go down due to extensive pumping in the basin. However, farmers are still more focused on short-term economic gains rather than the sustainability of the agricultural system. Fuzzy cognitive mapping approach provided an effective tool for revealing the understandings of water users/managers about the groundwater system. The information obtained in this study could be used in the future for groundwater management in the Palas Basin.

For More Information: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11355-025-00641-0>

### PROJECTS

AR-GE-KMYO-886 – Determination of the Effects of Some Streams Located in Nevşehir Province (Damsa Stream, Derinöz Stream, and Alaçoraköyü Stream) on the Water Quality of the Kızılırmak River Based on Physicochemical Parameters



### PUBLICATIONS

- Soylu, M., & Dadaşer-Celik, F. (2025). Understanding human–aquifer interactions using fuzzy cognitive mapping approach at the Palas Basin. *Landscape and Ecological Engineering*, 1–16.
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- Öztürk, S., Çiçek, E., & Negiz, M. G. (2025, July 29–30). Seasonal evaluation of Ephemeroptera (Insecta) fauna of Eastern Mediterranean Basin and determination of water quality with physicochemical parameters and benthic metrics [Conference presentation]. 1st International Data Analytics Congress, İzmir Katip Çelebi University, İzmir, Türkiye.



### EVENTS

- World Water Day – Social Media Post – 22.03.2025
- World Wetlands Day – Sultan Marshes Visit – 22.03.2025
- World Rivers Day – Social Media Post – 14.03.2025
- Sustainability Talks – Environmental Issues and Our Five Environmental Myths – 5.03.2025

Home > Aquatic Ecology > Article

## Determination of water quality in the Köprüçay river (Antalya-Türkiye) using various epilithic diatom and water quality indices

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## Seasonal Evaluation of Ephemeroptera (Insecta) Fauna of Eastern Mediterranean Basin and Determination of Water Quality With Physicochemical Parameters and Benthic Metrics

Selda Öztürk, Erdoğan Çiçek, Mehmet Güvenç Negiz

First published: 21 April 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.70040>



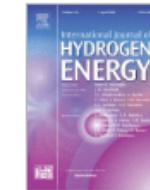
## EVENTS

- Energy Saving Week (Social Media Post) – 11.01.2025
- Sustainability Talks – Thoughts on Urbanization and Preventing Natural Hazards from Turning into Disasters – 21.03.2025



## International Journal of Hydrogen Energy

Volume 116, 4 April 2025, Pages 312-322



## HIGHLIGHTS

INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF COLORLESS DISTRIBUTED COMBUSTION METHOD ON THE FLAME OF METHANE/HYDROGEN FUEL MIXTURE USING IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

# Investigation of the effect of colorless distributed combustion method on the flame of methane/hydrogen fuel mixture using image processing method

Bugrahan Alabas <sup>a</sup>, Osman Kumuk <sup>b</sup>    , Ahmet Ozcan <sup>c</sup>Show more 
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## PUBLICATIONS

- Alabaş, B., Küük, O., & Özcan, A. (2025). Investigation of the effect of colorless distributed combustion method on the flame of methane/hydrogen fuel mixture using image processing method. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 116, 312-322. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2025.03.026>



## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS



## EVENTS

- Career Decision-Making Competency Psychoeducation Program
- UBYO Career Day Event
- THY Teknik A.Ş. Industry Meeting
- Pegasus Air Transportation A.Ş. Technical Departments Industry Meeting
- Career in Aircraft Maintenance: Airbus
- Career Dynamics in Gastronomy and Culinary Arts
- Kızılıçukur Valley Nature Walks
- Cappadocia Regional Promotion Tours (Academic and Staff)
- Nevşehir Cultural Route Festival – Ürgüp Campus Participation
- Minstrelsy Art 2025 European Year Symposium

- Çetintürk, İ., & Bahar, M. (2024). The impact of the organisational commitment of hotel staff on their job satisfaction and job performance after Covid-19. *Journal of Tourism & Development*, 46, 237–251. <https://doi.org/10.34624/rtd.v46i0.33442>
- Gündoğdu, E., & Buyruk, L. (2025). Problems faced by ethnic restaurant managers: The case of Nevşehir and İzmir provinces. *International Social Sciences Studies Journal*, 11(7), 1174–1184. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1642028>
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## HIGHLIGHTS

MINSTRELSY ART 2025 EUROPEAN YEAR SYMPOSIUM

The 5th Minstrelsy Art Symposium, organized by the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at Cappadocia University, was held on July 17–18, 2025, at the A1 Hall of the Madrasa Building, Mustafapaşa Campus. Organized this year under the theme “Europe: the Balkans, Hungary, Northern Europe,” the symposium aimed to address the art of minstrelsy within an international context.

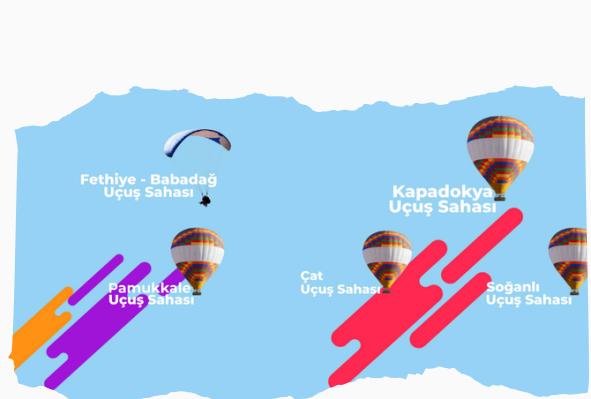
The main objective of the symposium was to discuss the current position and future of the minstrelsy tradition, which carries meanings beyond being merely a musical performance, to support and give visibility to artists who sustain this tradition internationally, and to raise awareness of similar performance traditions around the world. Promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation was also among the key goals.

Throughout the event, the universal language of minstrels, who serve as carriers of folk culture in different regions of the world, and the cultural significance of local melodies were examined. Focusing on similarities among neighboring geographies, participants evaluated the cultural transmission power of minstrelsy art from an international perspective.

For More Information: <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/asik-sanati-sempozumu-avrupa-yili#:~:text=Ozanlar%C4%B1%20dilinin%20evrensel%C4%9F%C2%9Eezgilerin%20yerelli%C4%9Fini,temas%C4%B1yle%20%C3%A7a%C4%9Fr%C4%B1%C4%B1%20ka%C4%B1l%C4%B1mc%C4%81larla%20sempozum%20d%C3%BCzenlenecektir.>

## EVENTS

- 1st National Artificial Intelligence Meeting – October 17–18, 2025
- National Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies – Innovation, Impact, and Ethics
- ICEESEN 2024 Conference (Energy Science and Engineering)
- CodeDocia 2025 Image Processing and Data Science Bootcamp
- Information Technologies Programs Graduation Project Exhibition
- Beta Optik – Current Optical Technologies
- UAV-Supported Mapping and Orthophoto Production Training
- Workshop on Current Developments in UAV Systems
- Artificial Intelligence in Hearing Aids
- Instructor Authorization and Basic Practical Training Software Project (AR-GE-UBYO-987)
- AFAD Community – Fire Training and Evacuation Drill – 5.05.2025



## Slot Service Center

The KÜN Slot Service Center operates under the Cappadocia University Hot Air Balloon and Airship Application and Research Center, which was officially established on 13.11.2017. Due to the rapid increase in the number of hot air balloon flights at the Nevşehir Cappadocia Balloon Flight Area in recent years, safety risk assessments were conducted. As a result, the establishment of the Slot Service Center in 2013, through the cooperation of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Cappadocia University, has been recognized as one of the most important safety measures.

The Slot Service Center carries out its operations in the Cappadocia, Soğanlı, Çat, Pamukkale, and Fethive flight areas, performing the following duties:

- Collection of flight-related information,
- Generation of statistical data,
- Meteorological assessment and flag application,
- Monitoring and control of slot usage rights,
- Evaluation of take-off suitability requests.

The slot management service provided by the Slot Service Center to hot air balloon operators refers to the planning process that regulates a limited number of flights within a specific airspace during a defined time interval. This planning ensures the efficient use of airspace, offers tourists a unique flight experience, and contributes to the reduction of environmental impacts.

Each hot air balloon flight is recorded using GPS data. These data are analyzed to monitor compliance with designated routes (NOTAMs) through both GPS records and ground control center logs. During hot air balloon operations, any approach to or contact with natural and archaeological site elements (such as fairy chimneys, rock formations, water features, and historical landmarks) is GPS tracked to ensure safety and minimize environmental impacts.

traverlines, etc.) that may pose a risk can be identified through GPS records. Within this framework, the activities of the Slot Service Center and the measures implemented ensure that the controlled take-off, flight, and landing phases of hot air balloon operations prevent damage to natural and archaeological protected areas, thereby supporting sustainability and environmental protection.

industry supporting sustainability and environmental protection.

## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- Karahan, S., Posluk, E., Buyukdemirci, F. B., & Gokceoglu, C. (2025). Re-design of a railway tunnel intersected by surface rupture of the Erkenek fault segment during the 6 February 2023 Pazarlık (Mw 7.7) Earthquake (Türkiye). *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment*, 84, 198. (SCIE – Q2).
- Atıcıoğlu, Z. (2025). Synthesis and characterization of  $Yb_2O_3$ -doped  $Bi_2O_3$  solid electrolyte composite material. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics*.
- Posluk, E., Karahan, S., & Gokceoglu, C. (2025). Zayıf ve sıkışan kaya kütlesiinde açılan bir tünel için rıjît destek sistemi çözümü [T34-GT2 Tüneli, Ankara-İstanbul YHT Projesi]. *Jeoloji Mühendisliği Dergisi*, 49(1), 105–120. (SCOPUS).
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- Özcan, A., Baş, S., Karadeniz, G., İnce, M., & Bayram, M. (2024). Simulating military decision-making in air operations: A novel approach using Unity game engine. *18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference*, Malaga, Spain.
- Güneş Şahin, G. (2025). Diyet planlamada yapay zekâ kullanımı. *Tokyo 10th International Conference on Innovative Studies and Modern Scientific Research*.
- Gelmez, E., & Eren, H. (2024). Evaluation of innovation performance of countries listed in European Innovation Scoreboard Report 2023 using CRITIC and EDAS methods. *7th International Conference on Social Science Research*, 165–178.
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## HIGHLIGHTS

1ST NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT – 17–18 OCTOBER 2025

The 1st National Artificial Intelligence Summit, held on 17–18 October 2024 at Cappadocia University Ürgüp Factory Campus, brought together academics, business leaders, students, experts, investors, and entrepreneurs. Participants evaluated the rapidly accelerating developments of recent years and discussed how artificial intelligence is shaping our future.

Through the perspectives of academics and business professionals, recent advancements and future expectations were examined, and the diverse applications of artificial intelligence were explored. Entrepreneurs from Anatolia shared their own success stories, while students presented their creative ideas.

#### For More Information:

[HTTPS://AIKAPADOKYA.COM.TR/PANELLER-2/2024/](https://AIKAPADOKYA.COM.TR/PANELLER-2/2024/)



## 10 EŞİTSİZLİKLERİN AZALTILMASI



### PUBLICATIONS

- Bay, H. (2024). Reframing intelligence in Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's *Noopiming: The Cure for White Ladies*. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, 57(1), 13-32.
- Bay, H., & Mutlu, A. (2024). Eleanor Roosevelt as a queer heroine in Susan Wittig Albert's *Loving Eleanor*. *HyperCultura*, 13.
- Taşkesen, S., & Çini, P. (2024). Yerel medyada göçmen söyleminin değişimi: FİB Haber örneği. *Cappadocia Journal of Area Studies*, 6(1), 3-28.
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### PROJECTS

- Empower Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake Through Digital Capacity Building and Adopting Digital Solutions to Support Business Growth and Rebuild (ELEVATE)



### EVENTS

- Nursing Home Visits and Activities for Elderly Individuals
- Young Red Crescent – Blood Donation and Social Solidarity Activities
- Disability Awareness Week (Social Media Post)
- Republic Day – 100 Saplings Planting Event (29.10.2024)
- Vera Community İftar Dinner (in cooperation with Ürgüp Municipality) – 26.03.2025
- 



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN TÜRKİYE POST-2023 EARTHQUAKE THROUGH DIGITAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADOPTING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH AND REBUILD (ELEVATE)

The world is facing numerous crises, including natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and the escalating impacts of climate change. All of these challenges—particularly natural disasters such as earthquakes—disproportionately affect societies.

For instance, on 6 February 2023, a series of earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş in southern Türkiye affected 11 provinces. Among them, Hatay was one of the most severely impacted provinces, with the destruction of 48,422 businesses. Among those most seriously affected in this province were women entrepreneurs operating micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). According to the 2023 report by the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER) and UN Women, 88% of women-led MSMEs reported that their business operations were affected, while 50% of those that suspended operations stated that they were unable to resume production and/or services after the earthquake. In response, the ELEVATE Project aims to develop, evaluate, and implement a state-of-the-art toolkit to empower women-led MSMEs in Hatay.

The toolkit will support women entrepreneurs by enhancing their digital capacity building, enabling the implementation of business solutions, and strengthening sustainable competitive advantages. Accordingly, experts from the University of Wolverhampton (UoW), United Kingdom, and the University of Cappadocia (UoC), Türkiye, propose the ELEVATE project. The project team consists of experienced researchers, including Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, and Lecturers whose work has had impact in more than 30 countries.

Therefore, the impact of the ELEVATE project extends beyond academic research, benefiting a wide range of stakeholders, including women entrepreneurs, local communities, and policymakers. This reconstruction effort will contribute to Türkiye's post-earthquake economic recovery and growth, promote gender equality in entrepreneurship, and foster a more inclusive business environment. Furthermore, the project will contribute to short-, medium-, and long-term environmental management and promote green business practices in Türkiye.

For More Information: <https://sscm.kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/empower-women-entrepreneurs-in-turkiye-post-2023-earthquake-through-digital-capacity-building-and-adopting-digital-solutions-to-support-business-growth-and-rebuild-elevate>



## EVENTS

- World Urban Planning Day Post – 8 November 2024
- Urban Talks V – Reading Rural Landscapes Through Cultural Layers: Villages of Ürgüp
- Urban Talks II – Interview with Funda Erkal
- Cappadocia Regional Promotion Tours (1-7)
- Mustafapaşa Promotion Seminars
- Visit to the Cappadocia Living Heritage Museum
- Technical Field Trip to the Kültepe Archaeological Site
- Student Exhibition of Urban Design Concept Projects for Ürgüp Square
- Cultural Heritage and Tourism Week Events
- Nevşehir Tourism Master Plan and Other Provincial Plans (R&D-SSCM Series)
- KAM Talks: Archaeology and Art History – Kültepe Excavations

## PROJECTS

- R&D-SSCM-1179 – Amasya Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-1050 – Hatay Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-939 – Kahramanmaraş Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-938 – Kayseri Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-1177 – Konya Tourism Master Plan (2025-2030)
- R&D-SSCM-935 – Kütahya Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-1178 – Mardin Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-936 – Nevşehir Tourism Master Plan
- R&D-SSCM-947 – Cappadocia Regional Plan Revision Project (Scale 1:25,000)
- R&D-SSCM-1194 – Tourism Development Roadmaps Project, Phase IV



## MUSTAFAPAŞA REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE 2021



## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- JKocaman, S., Çetinkaya, S., Tunar Özcan, N., Karakaş, G., Karakaş, V. E., & Gökcəoğlu, C. (2025). Landslides triggered by the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes (Türkiye). *Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences*, 34(1), 47–67. [SCIE – Q3].
- Mursal, U., Ustaoglu, A. O., Başköse, Y., Yalçın, İ., Kocaman, S., & Gökcəoğlu, C. (2025). Rockfall hazard assessment for natural and cultural heritage site: Close vicinity of Rumkale (Gaziantep, Türkiye) using digital twins. *Heritage*, 8, 270. [ESCI].
- Akbarishahabi, L. (2025). Sustainable management and climate adaptation in historic sites: Insights from Side Ancient City. *A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58278/0.2025.1143>
- Akbarishahabi, L. (2025). Climate crisis and cultural heritage management. *International Journal of Human Capital in Urban Management*, June 2025. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijhcm.2025.2053525.1974>
- Ristawati, R., Salman, R., Fitriany, A. S., & Taşkesen, S. (2025). Constitutional protection of cultural heritage in Indonesia: The role of museums in preserving national identity and public welfare. *Sriwijaya Law Review*, 9(1), 48–70.
- Kızıltepe, S., & Koçlu, H. H. (2025). Büyükkadada sosyo-kültürel yapı ve modern mimarlık mirası konular. *Erciyes Akademi*, 39(1), 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.48070/erciyesakademi.1573895>
- Bağırlı, R., & Özcan-Özden, S. (2025). Çağdaş sanatta "doğa" izdüşümleri. *Uluslararası Sanat ve Estetik Dergisi*, 15, 121–134.
- Özcan-Özden, S. (2025). Satoru Hoshino'nun mekânsal seramiklerinde sezgisel süreç. *International Journal of Social, Humanities and Administrative Sciences*, 11(3), 256–263.
- Akbarishahabi, L. (2025). Environmental sustainability and land use decisions: Hürmetçi and KOIZ. *Planarch – Design and Planning Research*, 9(1), January 2025. <https://doi.org/10.54864/planarch.1589525>
- Cengizkan, A. (2025). Ankara Kalesi; Kaleden Kaley'e. *Karanfil Dergi*, Mart-Nisan 2025, 5, 70–71. <https://karanfildergi.com.tr/ankara-kalesi-kaleden-kaley/>
- Cengizkan, A. (2025). Temelden temelli. *Karanfil Dergi*, Mayıs-Haziran 2025, 6, 54–55. <https://karanfildergi.com.tr/temelden-temelli/>
- Akbarishahabi, L. (2024). Çevresel koşullara uyumlu kaya mimarisinin incelenmesi: İran-Kandovan ve Türkiye-Kapadokya. In Keleş, R. & Tunçer, M. (Eds.), *Kapadokya'da Çevre Koruma Politikaları: Yasal, Yönetsel ve Planlama Boyutları* (s. 367). Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları. ISBN 978-605-4448-99-9.
- Hacısüleymanoğlu, N., & Akbarishahabi, L. (2024). Kapadokya'da koruma: Örnek Mustafapaşa (Sinasos) yerlesimi. In Keleş, R. & Tunçer, M. (Eds.), *Kapadokya'da Çevre Koruma Politikaları: Yasal, Yönetsel ve Planlama Boyutları* (s. 367). Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları.
- Cengizkan, A. (2025). Atatürk'ün Plancısı Jansen'in Ankara'sı: Planlanan ve Gerçekleşen (1927-1939). Ankara: Arkadaş Yayıncılık. ISBN 9786057921987.
- Akbarishahabi, L. (2025). Modern eco-housing inspired by rock-cut traditions: Cappadocia example. X. International Conference on Global Practice of Multidisciplinary Scientific Studies, Kyrenia, Cyprus.

### Mustafapaşa Village and UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages Programme

Mustafapaşa Village, located in the district of Ürgüp—where Cappadocia University is also situated—was designated as one of the "Best Tourism Villages in the World" by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on 2 December 2021.

Through the Best Tourism Villages Programme, launched in May 2021, UNWTO identifies villages that demonstrate innovative approaches to rural tourism in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While aiming to enhance tourism's contribution to local development and employment, the programme also promotes the protection of local culture, natural environments, and cultural heritage. Renewed annually, this initiative represents a significant effort to foster rural tourism within a sustainable framework.

#### Conservation and Development Efforts in Mustafapaşa

Mustafapaşa's natural and cultural assets are protected under the Mustafapaşa Conservation-Oriented Zoning Plan. New construction and development activities are restricted, and the village is supervised by the Cappadocia Area Presidency. Within this framework, conservation and tourism integration projects are being implemented in the Mustafapaşa Monastery Valley, which is regarded as a microcosm of the Cappadocia Region. These projects encompass fairy chimneys, ancient rock-cut churches, agricultural activities, and elements of traditional life.

Financial support for these conservation, tourism development, and infrastructure initiatives is provided by the Cappadocia Tourism Region Infrastructure Services Union and the Ahiler Development Agency.

#### Local Initiatives and Sustainability

The Mustafapaşa Culture, Tourism, and Promotion Association undertakes the promotion of the village at both national and international levels while contributing to the sustainability of local lifestyles and production practices. These efforts are of great importance in preserving Mustafapaşa's historical and cultural values and in supporting the local economy through tourism.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### CAPPADOCIA LIVING HERITAGE MUSEUM VISIT

The Cappadocia Living Heritage Museum Visit, organized by the Turkish Language and Literature Program at Cappadocia University, was held on 23 May 2025. Within the scope of the event, students had the opportunity to closely explore the region's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. During the museum visit, traditional handicrafts, local ways of life, and cultural elements reflecting the historical identity of the region were examined.

By experiencing the intersections between literature and cultural heritage, students were able to conduct observations and apply and evaluate the theoretical knowledge they had acquired in their courses in a real-world context. The visit aimed to raise awareness of the preservation and transmission of regional culture.

#### For More Information

: <https://sdg.kapadokya.edu.tr/kapadokya-yasayan-miras-muzesi-gezisi/>

## KAM KONUŞMALARI

### Arkeoloji ve Sanat Tarihi

### Kültepe Kazıları

**KONUŞMACI: Prof. Dr. Fikri Kulakoğlu**

**Moderatör: Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Şükran Ünser**

16 Mayıs 2025 Cuma, 17.00

Fabrika Yerleşkesi - Mahzen

**KAM** KAPADOKYA  
ARASTIRMALARI MERKEZI





## EVENTS

- Buy Nothing Day (Social Media Post) – 25 November 2024
- International Zero Waste Day – Cooking Workshop – 27 March 2025
- International Recycling Day – KUN Recycling Exhibition and Workshop – 17 May 2025
- Art Club – Recycling: Bottle Painting Workshop – 21 November 2024
- KUN Waste Sorting Quiz and Training Sessions
- Sustainable Film Screening – 28 May 2025
- Green Consumer Day (Social Media Post) – 28 September 2024
- Zero Emissions Day (Social Media Post) – 21 September 2024
- KUN Waste Sorting Quiz – 4 December 2024
- KUN Waste Sorting Awareness Training – 4 December 2024

## PROJECTS

- R&D-SSCM-1180 – Sustainable Industry Criteria Phase II Handbook Project
- R&D-SSCM-945 – Sustainable Restaurant Criteria Project
- R&D-SSCM-937 – Sustainable Tourism Destination Assessment Project



## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- Sarı Gencoğ, B., Kahraman, K., & Ekici, L. (2025). Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles from pomegranate peel and their application in PVA-based nanofibers for coating minced meat. *Scientific Reports*, 15:17083.
- Kulahneci, E., & Yıldırım, H. (2025). Evaluation of frying performance, storage stability, and in vitro digestion of extra virgin olive oil-candelilla wax oleogel. *Journal of Food Science*, 90(7), e70405.
- Çoban, F., Demir Özer, E., & Yıldırım, M. (2025). A new approach to the use of kefir grain: Potential application as a probiotic in the production of nonfat yogurt. *Food Science & Nutrition*.
- Özer, C., Demir Özer, E., Şen, K., & Var, G. B. (2025). Development of functional flavour enhancers from waste chicken skin. *British Poultry Science*.
- Özer, C., Demir Özer, E., & Başdoğan, D. (2025). Sustainability in the industrial catering menus: Nutritional and environmental impact assessment. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*.
- Özer, C., Var, G. B., Demir Özer, E., & Kılıç, B. (2025). Effects of pomegranate flower extracts on antioxidant properties, phenolic content, and quality attributes of nitrite-reduced chicken sausages. *Animal Science Journal*.
- Yasar, S., Yıldız, H., & Durusun Capar, T. (2025). Investigating the novel use of rosehip extracts and seed oils in the production of alginate-based edible films. *Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization*, 1–15.
- Sarı Gencoğ, B. (2025). Mikroplastik kirliliği: Sağlıklı riskleri ve sürdürülebilir çözüm önerileri. *Bilecik Şeyh Edebali Üniversitesi Fen Bilimleri Dergisi*, 12(1), 333–343.
- Demir Özer, E., Küçükatıcı Baykan, H., Kadir Esen, M., Canarslan, B., & Boyacı, D. (2025). Determining the amount of food waste and improving meals to reduce food waste in the university refectory. *Aydın Gastronomy*, 9(1), 43–57.
- Kip, M., Serçe Saritas, M. K., Kaldırım, B., & Aytaklı Şahin, G. (2025). Gıda kaybı ve ısrarında güncel durum ve azaltma stratejileri. *Food and Health*, 11(2), 186–196. Akkaya, L., Yılmaz, S., & Deniz, R. (2025). Recycling behavior of university students: A case study of Cappadocia University campuses. *Journal of Environmental Education Research*, 19(1), 77–94.\*
- Baleci, A., & Sevim, D. (2025). Solid waste management and behavioral change among university communities. *Waste Management and Research*, 43(1), 19–36.\*
- Bozca, J., & Saritas, E. (2025). Zero waste management and implementation examples in hotels. *Journal of Mediterranean Tourism Research*, 4(1), 1–55.\*
- Yılmaz, R., & Özmen, T. (2024). Organic waste composting in higher education institutions. *Journal of Waste and Sustainability*, 2(1), 55–72.\*
- Bal, A., & Dönmez, H. (2024). Circular waste management policies in Turkish universities. *Journal of Environmental Policy and Practice*, 8(3), 77–94.\*
- Şahin, G. G. (2024). Uzay beslenmesi ve yiyecekleri, astronot beslenmesi. *Gastronomide Yeni Eğilimler ve Beslenme Kültürü*. Selçuk Üniversitesi Yayıncılık.
- Saban, G., & Küçükatıcı Baykan, H. (2024). Sürdürülebilir beslenmede alternatif protein. *Gastronomide Yeni Eğilimler ve Beslenme Kültürü*. Selçuk Üniversitesi Yayıncılık.
- İlgaz, A., & Tuncay, N. (2024). Sürdürülebilir gastronomi turizmine yavaş yemek (Slow Food) akımının rolü. 7. Uluslararası Hafif Multidisipliner Bilimsel Araştırmalar Kongresi, İstanbul.
- Santos, E., Kasalak, M. A., Bahar, M., & Bozca, S. (2023). Zero waste management and implementation examples in hotels. *Journal of Mediterranean Tourism Research*, 4(1), 1–55.
- Yılmaz, I., Aydin, A., Coçelli, B. M., Hocaogulları, A., & Sarı Gencoğ, B. (2025). Fonksiyonel gıda yakalama: Dut kurusu ile kakaolu hindik kremsi geliştirme. *KAPATAK 2025 Kapadokya Gastronomi, Gıda ve Turizm Araştırmaları Kongresi*, Nevşehir, Türkiye.



## Geri Dönüşüm Atölyesi

4 EKİM 2025

aglik Yerleşkesi İç Avlu  
abrika Yerleşkesi J3 Sınıfı  
Oktay Sinanoğlu Binası Bahçesi

13:00

15:00

16:30



## HIGHLIGHTS

## RECYCLING WORKSHOP

The Recycling Workshop, organized in collaboration with the Cappadocia University Sustainability Office and the Sustainable Development Society, was held on 14 October 2025 across three different campuses.

The workshop sessions took place sequentially at 13:00 in the Health Campus Inner Courtyard, at 15:00 in Classroom J3 of the Factory Campus, and at 16:30 in the Garden of the Oktay Sinanoğlu Building. Throughout the event, students and staff experienced recycling not only as an environmental responsibility but also as a creative and enjoyable process.

Participants learned ways to repurpose waste materials and reinforced the principles of "reduce, reuse, recycle" through hands-on activities. The workshop served as an important awareness-raising event aimed at increasing environmental consciousness and promoting sustainable lifestyle habits.

## For More Information:

[HTTPS://KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/ETKINLIKLER/GERI-DONUSUM-ATOLYESI](https://KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/ETKINLIKLER/GERI-DONUSUM-ATOLYESI)

## KUN WASTE SORTING KNOWLEDGE QUIZ – "GREEN MINDS COMPETE"

The "KUN Waste Sorting Knowledge Quiz – Green Minds Compete", organized by the Cappadocia University Sustainability Office and the Health, Culture, and Sports Unit, was held on 28 May 2025 at the Oktay Sinanoğlu Conference Hall.

The event was organized to raise environmental awareness across the university and to foster sustainability consciousness among students. Students from various departments participated in the quiz, testing their knowledge and speed on waste categories, recycling practices, and sustainable living habits.

Participants reinforced the importance of environmentally responsible behavior in an entertaining yet educational atmosphere. At the end of the event, awards were presented to the top-performing students, and the quiz marked an important step in raising awareness in line with the university's sustainable campus goals.

## For More Information:

[HTTPS://SDG.KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/KUN-ATIK-AYRISTIRMA-BILGI-YARIASMASI-YESIL-BEYINLER-YARISIYOR/](https://SDG.KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/KUN-ATIK-AYRISTIRMA-BILGI-YARIASMASI-YESIL-BEYINLER-YARISIYOR/)



## EVENTS

- International Climate Action Day (Social Media Post) – 24 October 2024
- Sustainability Talks – Climate Change and Scientific Research in the Polar Regions – 13 December 2024
- Photo Contest on the Environmental Impacts of Climate Change – 17 April 2025
- World Environment Day (Social Media Post) – 5 June 2025
- Earth Day (Social Media Post) – 23 April 2025
- Nature and Sustainability Exhibitions (Fall & Spring)
- Nature Walks Series (Kızılıçukur, Güvercinlik, Gomeda Valley, Devrent)
- Nature Club – It's Cleanup Time for a Sustainable Environment – 25 April 2025
- World Wetlands Day – Visit to Sultan Marshes – 22 March 2025
- Global Recycling Day (Social Media Post) – 18 March 2025
- Sustainable Film Screening – Ecological Narratives and Sustainable Filmmaking – 25 October 2024
- Zero Emissions Day (Social Media Post) – 21 September 2024

**KAPADOKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ**  
SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK OFİSİ

## İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ VE KUTUPLARDAKİ BİLİMSEL ÇALIŞMALAR

**Konuk:**  
**Prof. Dr. Burcu ÖZSOY**  
TÜBİTAK Marmara Araştırma Merkezi (MAM) Başkanı

**Moderatörler:**  
**Doç. Dr. Sinan AKILLI**  
**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Selda ÖZTÜRK**

**13 ARALIK 11:00-12:30**  
Oktay Sinanoğlu Konferans Salonu

KÜN Su  
13 İklim Eylemi  
14 Etkinlik Yapan

**KAPADOKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ**  
SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK OFİSİ

## BİR ZAMANLAR GELECEK 2121: EKOLOJİK ANLATILAR VE SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR FİLM YAPIMI ÜZERİNE

**Konuklar:**  
**Serpil ALTIN** (Yönetmen)  
**Korhan UĞUR** (Yapımcı)

**Moderatör:**  
**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Selda Öztürk**  
**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Fatma Aykanat**

**25 EKİM 11:40**  
Oktay Sinanoğlu Konferans Salonu

kapadokyauniversitesi

## PUBLICATIONS

- Alabaş, B., Taştan, M., Özcan, A., & Arenillas, I. A. (2025). Flame characteristics and emission behaviors of JP8 biogas mixtures under external acoustic enforcement frequencies. *Fuel*, 388, 134516, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2025.134516>
- Alabaş, H. A. (2025). CFD study of jet fuel with ammonia – Hydrogen mixtures in a jet engine: Emissions and combustion characteristics analysis. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 142, 140–150. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2025.05.306>
- Kutlu, D., Kasalak, M. A., & Bahar, M. (2025). Assessing climate change impacts on outdoor recreation: Insights from visitor and business perspectives. *Sustainability*, 17(8), 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17083400>
- Sayılgan, A., & Şemşit, S. (2024). An analysis on the importance of sustainability of polar governance in terms of balancing global climate change. In *360° With Youth 10th International Student Congress Proceedings Book* (pp. 1–9). Manisa, Türkiye, Aralık 2024.
- Sayılgan, A. (2025). The future of climate change in the framework of chaos theory: The "Polar Effect" example. In *EU 7th International Conference on Humanity and Social Sciences* (pp. 210–211). Roma, İtalya, Mart 2025.
- Sayılgan, A. (2024). The formation of climate injustice as an ethical dilemma: Analyzing the negative impacts of the climate change phenomenon shaped by the policies of developed countries on non-developed countries. In *5th International Ethics Congress* (pp. 431–432). Adana, Türkiye, Aralık 2024.

## ÖNE ÇIKANLAR

## CAPPADOCIA SUSTAINABILITY TALKS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE POLAR REGIONS

The "Eco-Criticism in the 21st Century" Conference, organized by Cappadocia University, aims to address contemporary ecological issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. The conference brings together academics from diverse fields such as literature, art, philosophy, and environmental sciences to discuss how ecocritical approaches are evolving in today's world.

Centered on themes including the climate crisis, sustainability, and human–nature relationships, the event seeks to create an ecology-focused intellectual platform and to raise awareness toward a sustainable future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :  
[HTTPS://SDG.KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/KAPADOKYA-SURDURULEBILIRLIK-KONUSMALARI-IKLIM-DEGISIKLIGI-VE-KUTUPLARDAKI-BILIMSEL-CALISMALAR-2/](https://SDG.KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/KAPADOKYA-SURDURULEBILIRLIK-KONUSMALARI-IKLIM-DEGISIKLIGI-VE-KUTUPLARDAKI-BILIMSEL-CALISMALAR-2/)



## EVENTS

- World Oceans Day (Social Media Post) – 8 June 2025
- World Rivers Day (Social Media Post) – 14 March 2025
- World Water Day (Social Media Post) – 22 March 2025

## PROJECTS

R&D-KMYO-886 Project: Determination of the Effects of Selected Streams (Damsa, Derinöz, and Alaçoraközü) Located in Nevşehir Province on the Water Quality of the Kızılırmak River

## PUBLICATIONS

- Oppermann, S. (2024). Reading storied corals with the scientific poetics of water. *Configurations*, 32(3), 281–304.
- Oppermann, S. (2024). Keynote Talk: "Storied Oceans and Corals in the Blue Humanities." *Sea More Blue: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Blue Ecopoetics*. 10th EASCLE Symposium (European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and the Environment), Perpignan, France, 17–20 June 2024.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### WORLD RIVERS DAY

Within the scope of World Rivers Day on 14 March, Cappadocia University organized an awareness-raising initiative aimed at promoting the protection and sustainable management of water resources. Through a social media post prepared with the slogan "Rivers Are Life, Protecting Them Is Our Responsibility!", the vital importance of rivers for ecosystems was emphasized. As part of the initiative, it was highlighted that rivers are not merely waterways but fundamental sources of biodiversity and life. Their role as primary sources of freshwater, their function as habitats for millions of species, and their economic and ecological value were underlined as key factors that make rivers critical to planetary sustainability.

The event also drew attention to the fact that many of the world's major rivers are under threat due to climate change, excessive water use, pollution, and industrialization. Participants were encouraged to take action by conserving water, protecting natural habitats, preventing pollution, and increasing environmental awareness.

Through this awareness activity, the university aimed to raise consciousness among students and staff about river conservation and to contribute to the wider adoption of a sustainable living culture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[: HTTPS://SDG.KAPADOKYA.EDU.TR/14-MART-DUNYA-NEHIRLER-GUNU/](https://sdg.kapadokya.edu.tr/14-mart-dunya-nehirler-gunu/)



## PUBLICATIONS

- Akilli, S. (2024). Book Review: Lost Kingdom: Animal Death in the Anthropocene. *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, 5(2), 68–73.

## EVENTS

- World Wildlife Day (Social Media Post) – 3 March 2025
- World Nature Conservation Day (Social Media Post) – 28 July 2025
- World Bird Day (Social Media Post) – 5 January 2025
- Republic Day – 100 Saplings Planting Event – 29 October 2024
- International Day of Forests – Sapling Planting Event – 19 April 2025
- Mountaineering and Cycling Club – International Mountain Day (Erciyes Trip) – 15 December 2024
- Nature Club – Cappadocia Regional Promotion Tours and Valley Hiking Series
- Cappadocia Promotion Tours – Ihlara Valley and Gameda Valley
- Nature and Young Red Crescent Clubs – Güvercinlik Valley Hike

## PROJECTS

R&D-LAE-1265 – Transforming Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Modern Sustainable Living Practices: The Case of Anatolian Yörük–Turkmen Culture



# LOST KINGDOM

## Animal Death in the Anthropocene

Edited by  
Wendy A. Wiseman and Burak Kesgin

Volume 5/Issue 2/December 2024  
Book Review

Book Review: *Lost Kingdom: Animal Death in the Anthropocene*

Sinan Akilli  
Cappadocia University, Türkiye  
sinanakilli@gmail.com  
ORCID: 0000-0001-3061-3188

## HIGHLIGHTS

### BOOK REVIEW: LOST KINGDOM: ANIMAL DEATH IN THE ANTHROPOCENE. ECOCENE: CAPPADOCIA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

In the December 2024 issue of Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities, published by Cappadocia University, this book review written by Dr. Sinan Akilli examines Lost Kingdom: Animal Death in the Anthropocene, edited by Wendy A. Wiseman and Burak Kesgin and published by Vernon Press. The review offers an in-depth evaluation of the book's central theme—animal death in the Anthropocene—from ethical, ecological, and philosophical perspectives.

By providing a comprehensive analysis of the thirteen chapters compiled by Wiseman and Kesgin, the article emphasizes that Lost Kingdom is not merely a narrative of "loss," but also presents a discourse of hope shaped around life, loss, and love. Akilli argues that the volume contributes to a new ethical framework that goes beyond anthropocentric thinking by embracing the responsibility of planetary stewardship. In its structural analysis, the review discusses the book's two main sections: "Animal Interventions: Beyond Anthropos" and "Animal Illuminations: Storying Relations in the Age of Extinction." The chapters in these sections are highlighted for addressing animal death not solely as a biological reality, but as a cultural, political, and moral issue. Drawing particularly on Justin McBrien's concept of the "Necrocene," the review suggests that our era may be defined as an age of death and destruction, while Donna Haraway's call to "make kin" is presented as offering the potential to establish reparative relationships between human and more-than-human life forms.

Akilli further notes that the final section, "The End of Nature: Pedagogies of Grief and More-than-Human Relations," provides an important model for developing new pedagogical approaches within university settings, particularly in relation to collective mourning, emotional awareness, and human-more-than-human relations.

In conclusion, the review asserts that Lost Kingdom is not only a work that bears witness to the ecological crises of the Anthropocene, but also a powerful ethical and aesthetic call to rebuild the fragile bonds between human and non-human life. Akilli underscores that, through its intellectual depth, interdisciplinary approach, and hopeful tone, the volume makes a significant contribution to the field of environmental humanities.

For More Information : <https://ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr/index.php/ecocene/article/view/222/168>



## EVENTS

- Human Rights and Democracy Week – Bracelet Workshop – 11 December 2024
- Policy Research Society Activities (Rights- and Freedoms-Themed)
- July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day Seminar – 15 July 2025
- ANKSAM Seminar Series
- Current Issues in Turkish Foreign Policy
- Geopolitical Change and Current Developments in the South Caucasus
- Strengthening Pakistan-Türkiye Ties Through Shared Values
- Liberal Thought Society Congress
- Cultural Heritage Conservation and Restoration (KAM Talks)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### "INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUES" PROJECT

Global and regional competition has led to a dizzying process of change and transformation in international relations. Interstate wars, civil conflicts, terrorism, economic and technological rivalry, the increasing criticality of scarce resources due to rapid population growth, regular and irregular migration flows, and pandemics are rapidly reshaping states' security perceptions. Within this complex and fast-changing global agenda, decision-making and implementation processes have become increasingly difficult.

For instance, the Russia-Ukraine War is becoming more dangerous with the growing risk of nuclear weapons use, while the international community remains largely passive in the face of the genocide in Gaza. As the threat of terrorism continues to rise, even states within the same alliance do not refrain from supporting terrorist organizations that pose threats to their allies. International organizations—most notably the United Nations—have proven insufficient in providing effective solutions to regional and global challenges.

Closely monitoring international contemporary issues and accurately interpreting ongoing developments play a fundamental role in foreign policy decision-making. Alongside relevant state institutions, universities and think tanks also hold a crucial responsibility in this process. Within the framework of this project, to be carried out in cooperation between Cappadocia University (KÜN) and the Ankara Center for Crisis and Political Studies (ANKASAM), international contemporary issues will be discussed and examined with subject-matter experts. The project aims to contribute analytical insights that may help inform decision-making processes in Turkish Foreign Policy regarding these global challenges.

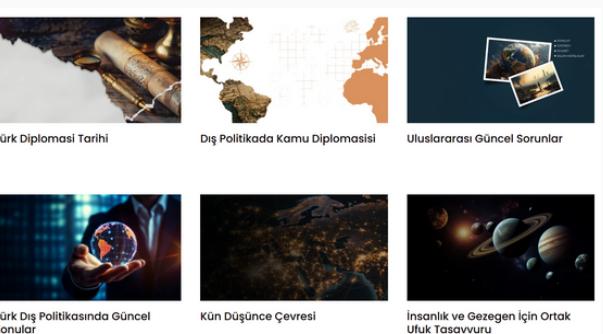
For More Information: <https://commonhorizon.kapadokya.edu.tr/uluslararası-güncel-sorunlar/>

## PROJECTS

Shared Horizon Vision for Humanity and the Planet Project

## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- Ulusoy, C. (2025). Sun Yat-sen as a Modernist Nationalist and His Political Legacy. *BRIQ Belt & Road Initiative Quarterly*, 6(2), 147–168.
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## HIGHLIGHTS

### COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL (GSTC) AND THE TÜRKİYE TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TGA)

In 2021, our university became a corporate member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), thereby joining global efforts to promote sustainable tourism. The GSTC sets internationally recognized standards for sustainable travel and tourism. In line with the studies and recommendations of our university's Social and Strategic Research Center - Sustainable Tourism Research Group, the university has been contributing to the development of the Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Program, which has been implemented nationwide since 2022 in cooperation with GSTC, TGA, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

### SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY CRITERIA PROJECT

Led by Cappadocia University and initiated in collaboration with the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA) and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), the Sustainable Gastronomy Criteria Project continued its activities during the 2024-2025 academic year. The project holds a pioneering position both nationally and internationally, as it involves the adaptation of sustainability criteria—developed for

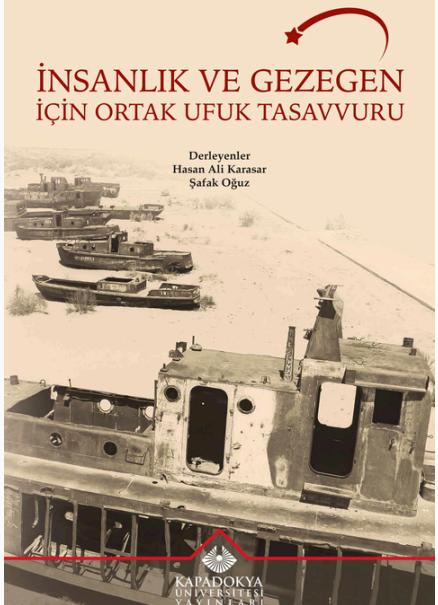
the first time globally specifically for restaurants—to the conditions of Türkiye.

Within the scope of the project, nine pilot restaurant businesses across Türkiye were visited to assess the applicability of the criteria in local contexts. Based on field observations, implementation analyses, and stakeholder feedback gathered during these visits, the criteria set was further refined and tailored to suit the operational realities of gastronomic enterprises in Türkiye.

Beyond developing sustainability criteria, the project also aimed to establish the human capital necessary for the dissemination of sustainable restaurant practices. To this end, specialized training programs were designed for sector professionals and independent auditors. As a result, a new standard and implementation framework for sustainable gastronomy has been established in Türkiye.

Continuing its activities throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, the project has contributed significantly to the wider adoption of sustainable gastronomy practices and has become an internationally recognized model, both in terms of local implementation and capacity-building through education.

For More Information : <https://sscm.kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/surdurulebilir-gastronomi-kriterleri-projesi>



## EVENTS

- Opening of the Cappadocia Slow Food Earth Market – 24 May 2025
- Slow Food Seminar Series (Ürgüp Campus) – 22-24 May 2025
- Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival IV – University, Local Government, and Producer Collaboration
- Symposium on Sustainable Tourism and Gastronomy
- Preparations for the EurSafe 2026 Conference (EurSafe-TARGET Collaboration)
- Collaborations with Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, QS Sustainability, and Biosphere

## PROJECTS

- Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake (ELEVATE) Project (R&D-SSCM-1150) "Anadoludakiler" Project
- (R&D-BBF-190) Minstrelsy (Âşık) Art: European Year 2025 Project
- (R&D-MTGSF-854) Inventory of Small-Scale Handicraft Workshops in Cappadocia Project (R&D-SSCM-1194) Tourism Development Roadmaps Project
- (R&D-SSCM-945) Sustainable Restaurant Criteria Project
- (R&D-SSCM-1180) Sustainable Industry Criteria Handbook Project
- (R&D-SSCM-937) Sustainable Tourism Destination Assessment Project



## Kapadokya Üniversitesi

For having demonstrated compliance with actions of Biosphere Sustainable , aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 by the United Nations, engaging employees in a common project and being positively valued by their customers.

Dr. Tomás de Azcárate Bang  
RTI President



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## GENERAL EVALUATION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES (2024–2025)

The establishment of the Sustainability Office in August 2023 has enabled more effective and efficient coordination of all sustainability and climate action activities at our university. Through this institutional structure, sustainability was incorporated into the KÜN 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, and the plan's objectives and targets were aligned with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All activities were carried out under the leadership of the KÜN Sustainability Office, and significant achievements were realized throughout the reporting period.

### Key Structural Reforms and Policy Documents

- The Regulation of the Sustainability Commission was revised.
- The Gender Equality Policy Document and Action Plan were published, marking significant progress toward gender equality at the university.
- The Climate Action Policy Document was completed, and strategies aimed at improving environmental performance were developed.
- A Water Efficiency Policy Document was prepared in draft form.

### Education, Reporting, and Activities

- Sustainability activity reports covering 2019–2023 were completed, and the 2023–2024 academic year Activity Report was published.
- The Sustainable Development Student Society organized exhibitions, competitions, talks, and similar events that increased student engagement.
- Training sessions on sustainability-related certification and ranking systems were delivered to students and staff.
- The Sustainability Office website and YouTube talk series were actively maintained and regularly updated, and social media content was produced in connection with international awareness days.

### International Collaborations and Certification Achievements

- The Biosphere Sustainability Certification was renewed for 2025.
- The university ranked 399th in the GreenMetric 2024 rankings, achieving its highest performance levels since 2019.
- Participation in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability was initiated, and preparatory work for the QS 2026 rankings commenced.
- The university was included for the first time in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, placing in the 1100–1500 band worldwide.

### Sustainable Campus and Improvement Initiatives

- "Eco-Path" informational panels were installed at the Mustafapaşa Campus and the Ürgüp Health Campus.
- Awareness-raising and visual communication activities were carried out across all campuses, utilizing posters, display boards, and freestanding panels to support sustainability awareness.



## SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING (2025–2026)

Kapadokya University is working to strengthen its achievements in the field of sustainable development and to implement new projects starting from the 2025–2026 academic year. The Sustainability Office will continue to expand environmental, social, and economic sustainability activities in close coordination with all university units. The university aims to contribute to local and national sustainable development initiatives while increasing cooperation with both on-campus and off-campus stakeholders.

### International Collaborations and Certification Initiatives

- Sustainability Advisory Board:
- An internationally qualified Sustainability Advisory Board will be established to guide the university's strategic sustainability initiatives.
- QS Sustainability Rankings Application:
- The university will submit its first application to the QS Sustainability Rankings.
- Biosphere Sustainability Certification:
- Efforts to renew the certification will continue, and the application process will be completed by 30 July 2026.
- UI GreenMetric 2026 Application:
- Preparations will be undertaken to achieve higher rankings in the GreenMetric assessment.
- THE Impact Rankings 2026 Application:
- Necessary preparations will be carried out to improve the university's position in the THE Impact Rankings.

### Events, Training Programs, and Academic Collaborations

- Activities with the Sustainable Development Student Society:
- The events, competitions, and talks outlined in the Sustainability Office's budget request will be implemented in collaboration with student organizations.
- Sustainability Talks and Seminars:
- The sustainability talk series will be conducted regularly and shared via the university's YouTube channel. Sustainability-focused seminars will also be organized.
- Sustainability Weeks:
- Sustainability Weeks will be held during both the Fall and Spring semesters.
- 1st KÜN Sustainability Summit:
- The 1st Kapadokya University Sustainability Summit will be organized.
- Social Media Activities:
- Content will be prepared for internationally recognized sustainability-related days and shared through the university's social media channels.
- Curriculum Development:
- In collaboration with academic units and the Office of Educational Programs Coordination (EPKD), interdisciplinary elective sustainability courses will be planned and offered.

### Institutional Sustainability and Waste Management

- Certification and Application Processes:
- Informative training sessions will be organized for university staff to support data collection processes and ensure progress in institutional sustainability applications and certification procedures.
- Waste Management Practices:
- Waste segregation, monitoring, and management processes will be carried out in cooperation with relevant units. Detailed informational materials will be prepared and placed on waste bins to ensure proper usage.
- Recycling Training Programs:
- Comprehensive training sessions will be provided for students and staff to promote waste separation and recycling practices.
- Mustafapaşa Zero Waste Project:
- The Mustafapaşa Zero Waste Project will be implemented.
- ISO 14064-1 Carbon Footprint Verification:
- The ISO 14064-1 Carbon Footprint Verification certification process will be completed.

### Academic and Administrative Collaboration

- SDG Definitions and Graduate Programs:
- In collaboration with the Institute of Graduate Education, Teaching, and Research, efforts will be undertaken to incorporate SDG definitions into the institute's regulations.
- Internal Stakeholder Collaboration:
- Improvements will be made to sustainable campus projects such as waste separation systems, composting areas, and rainwater harvesting systems. Corresponding budget requests will be prepared.





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