



SDG 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER

Üsküdar University has been registered and listed within the scope of Life Below Water, which is the SDG 14 label of the international ranking agency Times Higher Education (THE). Within the scope of SDG 14-Life Below Water; educational programs, educational outreach activities, events, policies, standards and guidelines, action plans, Research and/or engagement with industries, Programs and incentives, collaborations and activities to prevent damage on aquatic ecosystems and to protect life below water are listed.

- Educational programs on freshwater ecosystems

- Does your university as a body offer educational programmes on fresh-water ecosystems (water irrigation practices, water management/conservation) for local or national communities?

- Üsküdar University offers educational programs, including compulsory and elective courses, focused on freshwater ecosystems, specifically addressing water irrigation practices, water management, and conservation for local and national communities.

The Environmental Health Associate's Degree Program within the Vocational School of Health Services includes essential courses such as "Water Quality and Treatment," "Ecology," and "Environmental Impact Assessment."

In addition, a range of elective and compulsory courses—including Ecology, Environmental Health, Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Journalism, Environment and Nature Education, and Environmental Sustainability—are taught across various undergraduate and graduate programs at Üsküdar University.

Furthermore, academics at Üsküdar University, who specialize in these areas, actively engage with the public through interviews and seminars on radio, television, newspapers, and social media to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge about freshwater ecosystems.

Evidence related to these courses, seminars, and participation in media and social media activities is provided in the section below.

[Environmental Health Associate's Degree Courses](#)

[Water Quality and Treatment](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)

[Environmental Health](#)

[Environment and Nature Education](#)

[Environmental Sociology](#)

[Environmental Journalism](#)

[Environmental Sustainability](#)



Media participation and seminars

[LINK 1](#)

[LINK 4](#)

[LINK 7](#)

[LINK 10](#)

[LINK 13](#)

[LINK 2](#)

[LINK 5](#)

[LINK 8](#)

[LINK 11](#)

[LINK 14](#)

[LINK 3](#)

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[LINK 12](#)

- Educational program/outreach on sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism

- Does your university as a body offer educational programme / outreach for local or national communities on sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism?

- Üsküdar University offers educational programs and outreach activities for local and national communities focused on the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. The university's Environmental Health Associate's Degree Program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify challenges and develop solutions for the sustainable management of water ecosystems, which are a critical component of environmental health systems.

The program's curriculum includes mandatory courses such as "Water Quality and Treatment," "Ecology," and "Environmental Impact Assessment," all of which provide detailed insights into sustainable practices in fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. Additionally, elective and compulsory courses such as Environmental Health, Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Journalism, Environment and Nature Education, and Environmental Sustainability are integrated into various undergraduate and graduate programs at Üsküdar University.

Academic staff at Üsküdar University actively participate in media initiatives to inform the public about the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems. Students are also engaged in these informative activities through the "Sustainable Development" and "Climate and Environment" student clubs, which organize various programs and events related to these topics.

From a broader perspective, Üsküdar University, as a health-themed institution, conducts significant research in health tourism. This includes the Health Tourism Application and Research Center (SATUMER), which is actively engaged in research and initiatives, and the annual "Health Tourism Education" certificate program.

Additionally, Asst. Prof. Dr. Hacer Kayhan participated in the MARTERA Project in 2022 as a subcontractor with Üsküdar University, collaborating with fish farms in Turkey, with the project set to continue until the end of 2024. Evidence related to these courses, student clubs, projects, and media participation is provided in the section below.



Courses:

[Environmental Health Associate's Degree Courses](#)

[Water Quality and Treatment](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)

[Environmental Health](#)

[Environment and Nature Education](#)

[Environmental Sociology](#)

[Environmental Journalism](#)

[Environmental Sustainability](#)

Media Participations:

[Media Participation 1](#)

[Media Participation 2](#)

["Sustainable Development" and "Climate and Environment" Student Clubs](#)

[Health Tourism Education](#)

[Application and Research Center for Health Tourism \(SATUMER\)](#)

[MARTERA Project](#)

- Educational outreach activities to raise awareness about fishing

- Does your university as a body offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices?

- Üsküdar University actively offers educational outreach activities for local and national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices. The university demonstrates its commitment to environmental responsibility through its policies and the implementation of various regulations communicated to the public. The post-pandemic "Global Well-Being Manifesto" was published, and the Environmental Ethics Forum was established to further these initiatives.

In addition, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the "Al-Mizan" World Environmental Agreement, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2022. Al-Mizan highlights critical issues such as overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices (as noted in section 5.10) to enhance awareness. Dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan have continued into 2023, with Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir engaging in outreach through various scientific platforms (seminars and congresses) as well as media and social media channels.



The university's Environmental Health Associate's Degree program features mandatory courses such as "Water Quality and Treatment," "Ecology," and "Environmental Impact Assessment." These courses provide detailed knowledge about the sustainable management of fishing activities and their effects on aquatic ecosystems. Elective and compulsory courses—including Ecology, Environmental Health, Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Journalism, Environment and Nature Education, and Environmental Sustainability—are also integrated into various undergraduate and graduate programs at Üsküdar University.

Furthermore, Asst. Prof. Dr. Hacer Kayhan participated in the MARTERA Project as a subcontractor with Üsküdar University in 2022, collaborating with fish farms in Turkey, with the project set to continue until the end of 2024. Evidence related to these educational outreach activities, seminars, projects, and participation in media and social media on this subject is provided in the section below.

[Environmental Ethics Forum Directive](#)

[Media Participation 1](#)

[The post-pandemic "Global Well-Being Manifesto"](#)

[Media Participation 2](#)

[Media Participation 3](#)

[Al-Mizan Agreement](#)

[Media Participation 4](#)

[MARTERA Project](#)

[Media Participation 5](#)

Keynote speeches, lectures, and panel discussions of Professor Ibrahim Özdemir, the director of the Environmental Ethics Department:

- **Keynote Speech: Qur'anic Ecology and Resonances with Laudato Si'**, London, October 19, 2023.
- **Panel Discussion: The Role of Migration in Addressing Economic and Ecological Crises, Cambiare rotta. I migranti e l'Europa**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, September 28, 2023.
- **Lecture: Islamic Ethics for Environment**, Center for Islamic Studies, Universitas Nasional, Indonesia, August 21, 2023.
- **Panel Discussion: Islam & Climate Emergency**, Fes, Morocco, February 24-26, 2023.
- **Lecture: Post-Materialist Science and Its Promise for Environmental Awareness: Role of Religious Worldviews**, International Conference on Post-Materialist and Holistic Science, April 7, 2023, Istanbul, Turkey.



Courses:

[Environmental Health Associate's Degree Courses](#)

[Water Quality and Treatment](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)

[Environmental Health](#)

[Environment and Nature Education](#)

[Environmental Sociology](#)

[Environmental Journalism](#)

[Environmental Sustainability](#)

- Events for conservation and sustainable utilization of the water bodies

- Does your university as a body support and/or organise events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources?

- Üsküdar University actively supports and organizes events aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources. The university demonstrates its commitment to environmental responsibility through its policies, implementing various regulations and publicly announcing them. The post-pandemic “Global Well-Being Manifesto” and “Manifesto for Universal Human Values and Rights” were published, and the Environmental Ethics Forum was established to further these goals.

In addition, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental Agreement, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2022. Al-Mizan specifically emphasizes the conservation and sustainable utilization of aquatic resources to raise public awareness. Although published in 2022, dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan have continued into 2023, led by Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir, who has engaged with various scientific platforms (seminars and congresses) and utilized media and social media channels for outreach.

Academics at Üsküdar University are also involved in numerous media and social media initiatives that focus on the conservation and sustainable utilization of aquatic ecosystems. They particularly address issues such as water consumption, plastic and microplastic pollution, and the associated public health implications.

Moreover, students at Üsküdar University participate in these activities through the “Sustainable Development” and “Climate and Environment” student clubs, both of which carry out various projects in this area. The university conducts events and open public activities aimed at creating social impact and enhancing awareness through press and social media tools. Evidence related to all these activities is provided in the section below.



[Environmental Ethics Forum Directive](#)

[The post-pandemic "Global Well-Being Manifesto"](#)

[Al-Mizan Agreement](#)

[Manifesto for Universal Human Values and Rights](#)

Media participation and seminars

[LINK 1](#)

[LINK 4](#)

[LINK 7](#)

[LINK 10](#)

[LINK 13](#)

[LINK 2](#)

[LINK 5](#)

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- **Panel Discussion: Islam & Climate Emergency**, Fes, Morocco, February 24-26, 2023.
- **Lecture: Post-Materialist Science and Its Promise for Environmental Awareness: Role of Religious Worldviews**, International Conference on Post-Materialist and Holistic Science, April 7, 2023, Istanbul, Turkey.

- Policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested

- Does your university as a body have a policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested?

- Üsküdar University has a policy to ensure that food on campus, particularly from aquatic ecosystems, is sustainably harvested. Food service companies operating in the university's dining halls across five campuses are required to comply with the "Technical Specifications for Meal Service." These specifications include specific requirements for seafood procurement.



The policy primarily recommends using fresh seafood sourced according to national sustainable fishing standards. If frozen seafood products are used, they must come from two companies recognized for their sustainability practices. The technical specifications, effective from October 1, 2021, will remain valid until September 30, 2024. Relevant evidence related to the technical specifications, the national fishing standard (2023), and the sustainability reports (2023) from the companies is provided in the section below.

[Technical Specifications for Meal Service](#)

[National Fishing Standard](#)

[Sustainability Reports \(2023\) of Company 1](#)

[Sustainability Reports \(2023\) of Company 2](#)

- Research and/or engagement with industries to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity

- Does your university work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat?

- Does your university as a body work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat?

Üsküdar University actively works to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, encompassing both plants and animals, especially in threatened ecosystems. The university demonstrates its commitment to environmental responsibility through its policies, implementing various regulations and announcing them to the public. The post-pandemic “Global Well-Being Manifesto” has been published, and the Environmental Ethics Forum has been established to promote environmental stewardship.

In addition, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental Agreement, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2022. Dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan have continued throughout 2023, with Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir and other academics conducting outreach through various scientific platforms (seminars and congresses) alongside media and social media channels.

To enhance research efforts focused on biodiversity and ecosystem preservation, Üsküdar University has established numerous laboratories, including the Microbial Biotechnology Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory, and Herbarium Techniques



Laboratory. These initiatives are developed in collaboration with its BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research, Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER). The activities of these centers and laboratories are overseen by the Non-Interventional Research Ethics Board and the Animal Research Ethics Board, ensuring ethical practices in research. In 2023, 11 new research projects have been launched within PROMER and BIOTEKMER.

Lastly, several working groups have been established by academics at Üsküdar University to support the preservation and enhancement of ecosystems and biodiversity. The most notable of these working groups are documented below with supporting evidence.

[Technology Transfer Office](#)

[PROMER](#)

[BİYOTEKMER](#)

[Non-interventional Research Ethics Board](#)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/animal-research-ethics-committee>

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BİYOTEKMER](#)

Laboratories

[LINK1](#)

[LINK2](#)

[LINK3](#)

[LINK4](#)

[LINK5](#)

Working Groups (WGs)

[Biological Activities WG](#)

[Department of Sociology WG](#)

[Molecular Biotechnology WG](#)

[Political Science and International Relations WG](#)

[Business and Working Ethics WG](#)

[Public Health and Health Policies WG](#)

[Social Innovation Projects WG](#)

- Research and/or engagement with industries on technologies or practices that enable marine industry to minimize or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems.

- Does your university as a body work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) on technologies or practices that enable marine industry to minimize or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems?

- Üsküdar University works directly on technologies and practices that enable the marine industry to minimize or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems, reflecting its commitment to environmental responsibility through its policies. The university actively supported relevant research initiatives and contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental



Agreement, backed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2022. Dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan have continued throughout 2023, led by Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir, who has presented at various scientific platforms (seminars and congresses) and utilized media and social media channels to raise awareness.

To foster research in this critical area, Üsküdar University established numerous laboratories—including the Microbial Biotechnology Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory, and Herbarium Techniques Laboratory—in collaboration with its BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research, Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER). The activities of these centers and laboratories are meticulously supervised by the Non-Interventional Research Ethics Board and the Animal Research Ethics Board. In 2023, 11 new research projects were launched within PROMER and BIOTEKMER, focusing on sustaining aquatic ecosystems.

The university encourages research on aquatic ecosystems by providing necessary laboratory facilities and supporting relevant initiatives through its BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER). Additionally, evidence from relevant laboratories is accessible through linked resources.

Finally, various working groups have been established by academics at Üsküdar University to further support these efforts, and the most notable of these working groups are documented below with supporting evidence.

[Technology Transfer Office](#)

[PROMER](#)

[BIYOTEKMER](#)

[Non-interventional Research Ethics Board](#)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/animal-research-ethics-committee>

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BIYOTEKMER](#)

Laboratories

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[Business and Working Ethics WG](#)



Political Science and International Relations *Public Health and Health Policies WG*
WG

- Water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges

- Does your university as a body have water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges (to uphold water quality in order to protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare, etc.)?

- Üsküdar University is actively working on enhancing water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges to uphold water quality, thereby protecting ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare. However, all university campuses fall under the jurisdiction of the Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration of the Municipality (İSKİ). As a result, the university is required to adhere to the "Wastewater Discharge Regulations" revised by this institution in 2023 and is legally prohibited from establishing its own wastewater discharge regulations or standards.

Furthermore, Üsküdar University complies with the national "Regulation on Monitoring of Surface Water and Groundwater" to ensure water quality protection. The university also adheres to the "Waste Management Regulation" in managing waste generated on its campuses and in laboratories to safeguard ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare.

Finally, Üsküdar University's affiliated hospital, NP Istanbul Neuropsychiatry Hospital, has implemented procedures for the collection of medical and hazardous waste to further protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare.

İSKİ Wastewater Discharge Regulations

Regulation on Monitoring of Surface Water and Groundwater

Waste Management Regulation

- Action plan in place to reduce plastic waste on campus

- Does your university as a body have an action plan in place to reduce plastic waste on campus?

- Üsküdar University has developed an action plan to reduce plastic waste on campus as part of its commitment to the "Zero Waste Project," initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change in 2017. The university adheres to this action plan by actively implementing a zero waste management system across all campuses, which earned it "Zero Waste Certificates" in 2021, valid until 2026. To further reduce plastic consumption among students, the university has installed water dispensers throughout its campuses and provided thermoses to all academic and administrative staff. Recognizing that current measures may not be sufficient, the



university has set new goals and objectives in its “2024-2028 Strategic Plan,” prepared in 2023, to enhance efforts to reduce plastic waste production.

Additionally, university academics engage in media and social media platforms to raise awareness about plastic consumption, the issue of plastic waste, and the impacts of microplastics on human health and the environment.

[Zero Waste Project](#)

[2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#)

[Media participation 2](#)

[Zero Waste Certificates](#)

[Media participation 1](#)

[Media participation 3](#)

- Policy on preventing and reducing marine pollution

- Does your university as a body have a policy on preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities?

- Üsküdar University has established a policy aimed at preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, reflecting its commitment to environmental responsibility in its policies. The university implements various regulations and communicates them to the public to emphasize its stance on these issues. Among its initiatives, the post-pandemic “Global Well-Being Manifesto” was published, and the Environmental Ethics Forum was established to further promote environmental awareness.

In 2022, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental Agreement, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Al-Mizan specifically addresses critical issues such as overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices (as outlined in section 5.10) to raise awareness about marine sustainability. Although published in 2022, dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan have continued throughout 2023. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir and other academics from the university have actively engaged in dissemination efforts at various scientific platforms, including seminars and congresses, as well as through media and social media channels to raise awareness about the prevention and reduction of marine pollution.

Supporting evidence related to these policy directives, seminar participation, and engagement in media and social media regarding marine pollution is documented in the section below.

[Environmental Ethics Forum Directive](#)

[Al-Mizan Agreement](#)

[The post-pandemic “Global Well-Being Manifesto”](#)

[MARTERA Project](#)



Media Participation

[LINK1](#)

[LINK 3](#)

[LINK 5](#)

[LINK 7](#)

[LINK 9](#)

[LINK 2](#)

[LINK 4](#)

[LINK 6](#)

[LINK 8](#)

[LINK 10](#)

- Plan to minimize physical, chemical and/or biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems

- Does your university as a body have a plan to minimize physical, chemical and/or biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems?

- Üsküdar University has developed a comprehensive plan to minimize physical, chemical, and/or biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems. The university demonstrates its commitment to environmental responsibility through its policies, referencing declarations and ethical initiatives designed to address these issues. Notably, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental Agreement, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2022, with dissemination activities continuing into 2023. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir, an academic at the university, has engaged in various dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan at scientific platforms (seminars and congresses) as well as through media and social media channels throughout 2023.

To further support efforts to minimize or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems, Üsküdar University encourages research on technologies and practices relevant to the marine industry. The university has established a robust administrative framework and a supportive academic atmosphere that fosters intrinsic motivation among its faculty. Numerous laboratories, including the Microbial Biotechnology Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory, and Herbarium Techniques Laboratory, have been created in collaboration with entities such as the BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research, Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER), enhancing research capabilities in this domain. Additionally, the university has introduced the “Scientific Incentive Evaluation Directive” to encourage project development among its academics and has implemented an Activity Tracking System to monitor ongoing projects. As a result of these initiatives, Üsküdar University is building expert research capacity in this field, evidenced by publications from studies conducted within PROMER and BIOTEKMER, with 11 new research projects launched in 2023.

The university's regulations regarding aquatic ecosystem preservation are evident in various practical applications, including the drinking water and supply system at Üsküdar University NP Istanbul Hospital, designated areas for hazardous waste collection, irrigation sourced from a nearby well, off-campus afforestation initiatives, and an oxygen concentrator facility to reduce



waste and carbon emissions at the affiliated hospital, among others. The lower section provides supporting evidence in the form of images and documents related to these applications. The university is adopting clean energy solutions to reduce the pressure fossil fuels exert on the water ecosystem. The project and tender processes for a solar power plant have been completed, and construction has begun on the university's Health Campus.

Looking forward, the university's "2024-2028 Strategic Plan," prepared in 2023, outlines new goals and objectives specifically aimed at minimizing physical, chemical, and/or biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, numerous working groups have been established by academics at Üsküdar University, with notable initiatives documented as evidence of their efforts.

[Technology Transfer Office](#)

[FTS](#)

[Scientific Incentive](#)

[PROMER](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Evaluation Directive](#)

[BİYOTEKMER](#)

[Solar Power Plant](#)

[Non-interventional Research Ethics Board](#)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/animal-research-ethics-committee>

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BİYOTEKMER](#)

Laboratories

[LINK1](#)

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Working Groups (WGs)

[Biological Activities WG](#)

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[Political Science and International Relations](#)

[Business and Working Ethics WG](#)

[WG](#)

[Social Innovation Projects WG](#)

[Public Health and Health Policies WG](#)

- Monitoring the health of aquatic ecosystems

- Does your university as a body monitor the health of aquatic ecosystems?

- Üsküdar University actively monitors the health of aquatic ecosystems through its established Application and Research Centers. PROMER (Istanbul Protein Research Development and Innovation Application and Research Center) and BIYOTEKMER (Biotechnology Application and



Research Center) contribute to the monitoring of aquatic ecosystems, including the development of biosensors designed for this purpose.

In Turkey, the health of aquatic environments is regularly monitored through a network managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which shares the findings from these monitoring studies with the public. Academics at Üsküdar University stay informed about the current health of aquatic ecosystems by reviewing relevant literature and conducting observations, making efforts to raise public awareness of these critical issues.

Additionally, many working groups have been established by university academics to further support the monitoring and understanding of aquatic ecosystem health.

[Monitoring Network of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry](#)

[Media Participation](#)

[Technology Transfer Office](#)

[PROMER](#)

[BİYOTEKMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BİYOTEKMER](#)

Laboratories

[LINK1](#)

[LINK2](#)

[LINK3](#)

[LINK4](#)

[LINK5](#)

Working Groups (WGs)

[Biological Activities WG](#)

[Public Health and Health Policies WG](#)

[Molecular Biotechnology WG](#)

- Programs and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices

- Does your university as a body develop and support programs and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices?

- Üsküdar University actively develops and supports programs and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices. The university has established a well-organized bureaucracy and a positive academic climate that fosters intrinsic motivation among its academics. To assist with scientific research and development initiatives, Üsküdar University



founded the Scientific Research Projects (BAP) Commission, which provides funding for both independent studies and those conducted at the university.

Furthermore, the university has established several laboratories, including the Microbial Biotechnology Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory, and Herbarium Techniques Laboratory, in collaboration with its BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research, Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER) to enhance research in aquatic stewardship. The activities of these centers and laboratories are overseen by the Non-Interventional Research Ethics Board and the Animal Research Ethics Board, ensuring ethical practices in research. In 2023, the launch of 11 new research projects within PROMER and BIOTEKMER further underscores the university's commitment to these initiatives.

Additionally, Üsküdar University supports emerging scientists and researchers by partnering with the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of National Education to host a "Science and Ideas Festival," which celebrates high school students' scientific achievements. This festival, now in its ninth iteration, featured numerous applications directly or indirectly related to water ecosystem sustainability, further promoting good aquatic stewardship practices.

[Scientific Research Projects \(BAP\) Commission](#)

[BrainPark Technology Transfer Office](#)

[PROMER](#)

[BİYOTEKMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BİYOTEKMER](#)

[FTS](#)

[Scientific Incentive Evaluation Directive](#)

[Science and Ideas Festival](#)

- Collaboration with the local community to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems

- Does your university as a body collaborate with the local community, e.g. through partnerships, in efforts to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems?

- Üsküdar University actively collaborates with the local community through various partnerships aimed at maintaining shared aquatic ecosystems. The university supports programs and incentives that foster this collaboration, promoting a positive academic environment that enhances the



motivation of its academics. To facilitate scientific research and development initiatives, Üsküdar University established the Scientific Research Projects (BAP) Commission, which funds independent and university-based studies.

Moreover, the university has set up numerous laboratories, such as the Microbial Biotechnology Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory, and Herbarium Techniques Laboratory, in conjunction with the BrainPark Technology Transfer Office, Istanbul Protein Research, Development and Innovation Center (PROMER), and Research Center for Biotechnology (BIOTEKMER). The activities of these centers, which contribute significantly to aquatic ecosystem research, are monitored by the Non-Interventional Research Ethics Board and the Animal Research Ethics Board. In 2023, 11 new research projects were initiated within PROMER and BIOTEKMER.

To ensure comprehensive progress, the university developed an Activity Tracking System to oversee completed projects and implemented the "Scientific Incentive Evaluation Directive" to motivate faculty in creating new research endeavors. Notably, Asst. Prof. Dr. Hacer Kayhan represented Üsküdar University in the MARTERA Project as a subcontractor in 2022, collaborating with fish farms in Turkey, with the project slated to continue until the end of 2024.

Looking ahead, the "2024-2028 Strategic Plan" crafted in 2023 outlines new goals and objectives for collaboration with the local community focused on maintaining shared aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, Üsküdar University promotes emerging scientists and researchers by partnering with the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of National Education to host a "Science and Ideas Festival." This festival recognizes high school students' scientific contributions, with numerous applications linked to water ecosystem sustainability.

[Scientific Research Projects \(BAP\) Commission](#)

[BrainPark Technology Transfer Office](#)

[PROMER](#)

[BIYOTEKMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within PROMER](#)

[Links to publications \(WOS\) produced from studies carried out within BIYOTEKMER](#)

[FTS](#)

[Scientific Incentive Evaluation Directive](#)

[MARTERA Project](#)



[2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#)

- Watershed management strategy

- Does your university as a body have implemented a watershed management strategy based on location specific diversity of aquatic species?

- Üsküdar University has implemented a watershed management strategy based on the location-specific diversity of aquatic species, aiming at the protection of aquatic ecosystems and regional species diversity. The “Protection Action Plan” for the Marmara Watershed, which encompasses Üsküdar University, is detailed in the section below (among the evidence). Additionally, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Adiller has played a significant role in developing the “Watershed Information System” for the Ergene watershed.

Past reference declarations and ethical initiatives regarding this subject have been documented under previous titles. Furthermore, in 2022, Üsküdar University contributed to the publication of the “Al-Mizan” World Environmental Agreement, which is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Although Al-Mizan was published in 2022, its dissemination activities have continued in 2023. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir, an academic from Üsküdar University, has engaged in dissemination activities related to Al-Mizan across various scientific platforms (seminars, congresses), as well as through media and social media channels throughout 2023.

The university's new goals and objectives for sustainable watershed management are articulated in its “2024-2028 Strategic Plan,” prepared in 2023, thereby reinforcing its ongoing commitment to effective watershed management aligned with the diversity of aquatic species in the region.

[Protection Action Plan” for the Marmara Watershed](#)

[Ergene Watershed Information System](#)

[2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#)

[Environmental Ethics Forum Directive](#)

[The post-pandemic “Global Well-Being Manifesto”](#)

[Al-Mizan Agreement](#)

Keynote speeches, lectures, and panel discussions of Professor İbrahim Özdemir, the director of the Environmental Ethics Department:

- **Keynote Speech: Qur’anic Ecology and Resonances with Laudato Si’**, London, October 19, 2023.



- **Panel Discussion: The Role of Migration in Addressing Economic and Ecological Crises,** Cambiare rotta. I migranti e l'Europa, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, September 28, 2023.
- **Lecture: Islamic Ethics for Environment,** Center for Islamic Studies, Universitas Nasional, Indonesia, August 21, 2023.
- **Panel Discussion: Islam & Climate Emergency,** Fes, Morocco, February 24-26, 2023.
- **Lecture: Post-Materialist Science and Its Promise for Environmental Awareness: Role of Religious Worldviews,** International Conference on Post-Materialist and Holistic Science, April 7, 2023, Istanbul, Turkey.