Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs

SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND

SDG[1]	DESCRIPTION[2]	UOC ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES
	**SDG 15** consists of 12 goals to be achieved by 2030 and 14 targets to monitor progress in protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss. SDG 15 aims to conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (15.1); eliminate deforestation and restore degraded land (15.2); combat desertification (15.3); ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems (15.5); protect access to genetic resources and the fair sharing of benefits (15.6); eliminate poaching and trafficking of	**15.2.1 Educational events that promote land conservation** ***"We Care for the Green Space of the University Campus", 4th Edition*** October 18 The activity consisted of an open call for an action to care for the green space around the Ovidius University of Constanța Campus. The event was organized by the Student League in collaboration with the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences and was carried out within the TELL Youth project: Train Environmental Lifelong Learning for the Youth. Participants were provided with: garbage bags, tools, coffee / water. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/evenimente/ingrijim-spatiul-verde-din-campusl-universitar ***Living Data 2025 Conference*** October 21–24 – Bogota, Colombia The conference brought together members of biodiversity networks, alongside hundreds of scientists, researchers, field specialists, and other experts from around the world. Knowledge and experiences were shared, with the aim of transforming the understanding of the state and trends of biodiversity and learning how, together, this work contributes to the conservation of the living world. Main topics: - developing standards that promote data exchange and interoperability; - bringing together and ensuring access to diverse sources of information; - monitoring our progress towards the conservation and restoration of the planet's biodiversity. https://www.livingdata2025.com/

	protected species (15.7); prevent invasive alien species on land and in aquatic ecosystems (15.8); and integrate biodiversity and ecosystem values into national and local planning (15.9). The means of achieving the goals are: mobilizing and significantly increasing financial resources for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems (15.a); financing and incentivizing sustainable forest management (15.b); combating global poaching and trafficking (15.c). At the national level, the specific targets under the 2030 Agenda are: - developing green infrastructure and using the services offered by natural ecosystems (especially in the floodplains of the Danube, its tributaries, and the Delta) through the integrated management of river basins and wetlands; - conserving and protecting wetlands, including the	***Symposium "Data on invasive alien species: current situation, challenges, and future prospects"*** October 24 Presentation "Mobilizing biodiversity data for the management of invasive species in Romania" Presenter: Cristina Preda Authors: - Cristina Preda, Dan Cogalniceanu, Daniyar Memedemin, Florina Stanescu, Marius Skolka, Marian Tudor – Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania; - Laurentiu Rozylowicz – University of Bucharest, Romania; - Nicolae Manta – Ministry of Environment, Waters, and Forests, Romania. https://www.livingdata2025.com/program.html **15.2.3 Education on maintaining existing ecosystems** ***ESA 2025 Annual Meeting. Presentation "OneSTOP: OneBiosecurity Systems and Technologies for People, Places, and Pathways"*** August 14 – Baltimore, USA Author of the presentation: Cristina Preda, "Ovidius" University of Constanța. Co-author: Laurentiu Rozylowicz, "Ovidius" University of Constanța. Biological invasions represent a challenge for biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and socio-economic stability. The EU "Horizon Europe OneSTOP" project is a pioneering project in the field of an integrated biosecurity system for terrestrial invasive alien species (IAS), addressing the fragmentation of detection processes, data mobilization, and policy actions. OneSTOP brings together emerging ecological technologies, interoperable data workflows, and stakeholder-driven governance, with the aim of strengthening the prevention, early warning, and response to IAS across Europe. Built around four pillars – detection, prioritization, dissemination, and socio-political action – OneSTOP will develop prototypes of new technologies and workflows to improve early warning and risk assessment-based decision-making. https://events.rdmobile.com/Lists/Details/3061299

	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, a unique wetland in Europe, as part of the European and world natural heritage; - ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits essential for sustainable development; - supporting research and development institutions and infrastructures of national and European interest for the study, management, protection, and conservation of the diversity of the natural heritage; - the sustainable management of forests, the elimination of illegal tree cutting, the development of the integrated IT system for monitoring the exploitation and transport of timber, including at border crossing points, ensuring the afforestation and reforestation of land in the forest fund and of degraded or desertification-prone land, carrying out the	***ENTO25 Annual Conference – Royal Entomological Society. Workshop "Meeting society's needs through image-based artificial intelligence technologies for insects" (InsectAI COST Action – pag. 6)*** September 10 – Glasgow, UK Facilitator: Dr Cristina Preda This workshop presented the "InsectAI COST" Action, a collaborative initiative that uses image-based artificial intelligence to monitor insect populations on a large scale. It analyzed how AI can contribute to biodiversity conservation, can remedy gaps in entomological data, and can offer practical solutions for environmental policy and public awareness. https://www.royensoc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Ento25-FINAL-PROGRAMME-higher-Res.pdf https://insectai.eu/working-groups/wg1/ ***Joint ESENIAS and DIAS 2025 Scientific Conference. "Invasive alien species in a changing climate: challenges for ecosystem resilience"*** September 30 – October 3 – Bucharest, Romania September 30: Plenary session, Keynote presentation 4. Cristina Preda – OneSTOP: OneBiosecurity Systems and Technologies for People, Places, and Pathways. Session 1: Marius Skolka, Dan Cogălniceanu, Daniyar Memedemin, Cristina Preda – Invasive species in the Somova–Parcheș complex (Tulcea County, Romania). Session 2: Chairs: Bella Japoshvili, Marius Skolka. October 2: Poster Session 1: Florina Stănescu, Sabina Elena Vlad, Anca Chisoi, Dan Cogălniceanu, Antonela Anca Nicolau – The alien species that harm us – an overview of the current state of knowledge. October 3: Session 7: Lucian-Marius Patrascu, Carla Gavrilescu, Daniyar Memedemin, Silviu O. Petrovan, Quentin Groom, Laurentiu Rozylowicz, Cristina Preda – From records to relevance: leveraging citizen science for the management of alien species in Romania https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lhjv3is5TGYo1kn56D9ftSAdQfbA9-Mc/view https://esenias2025.usamv.ro/

	planned planting of forest shelterbelts for the protection of agricultural crops and infrastructure elements in order to limit the impact of climate change; - the transition to a circular economy through complementary approaches involving traditional methods and state-of-the-art technologies for restoring natural capital and reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, to combat soil degradation; - combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soils, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods.	**15.2.4 Educational programs on ecosystems (with an emphasis on wild flora and fauna)** ***TELL Youth Project: Training young people in environmental protection through lifelong learning*** October 2023 – September 2025 The mission of the project is to create a bridge between digital innovation, environmental awareness, and cultural heritage conservation. The TELL Youth project promotes ecological awareness and lifelong learning among young people, combining digital technology with cultural heritage conservation. Over two years, partners from Romania, Greece, and France collaborated with 100 young people to document 100 plant species, create a virtual herbarium, and develop the "Environmental Stewards' Guide". Together, they succeeded in building a stronger link between young people, nature, and their communities, while promoting inclusion, ecological skills, and sustainability. https://digital-herbarium.com/ https://digital-herbarium.com/partners/ https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2023-1-RO01-KA220-YOU-000158579 ***The #ECOmpetiția Project*** March 22 – April 5 The project is an annual clean-up and civic responsibility initiative organized by the Student League of Ovidius University of Constanța in partnership with the sanitation operator Polaris M Holding. The main purpose of the project is to mobilize young people and the local community for the protection of the environment, promoting the importance of separate waste collection and the cleaning of green or heavily trafficked areas of the city of Constanța. <u>Key details about the implementation</u> - period and context: the actions usually take place every spring (march – april), often being correlated with the marking of World Water Day and Earth Day; - areas targeted for clean-up: volunteers intervene in critical points or major public spaces of the city, such as Modern Beach (the slope), "3 Papuci" Beach, Tăbăcărie Park, or even the perimeter of the University Campus of Ovidius University; - the logistical partnership: the Polaris M Holding company directly supports the student teams by providing them with the necessary materials (bags, gloves, caps) and ensuring the transport of all collected waste to the sorting station;

		- extended involvement: in addition to the Student League, other partner organizations frequently participate in the activities, such as the Community of Bessarabian Youth or the Constanța Local Youth Group. The Student League – Ovidius University of Constanța carried out a series of clean-up actions with separate waste collection (34 bags of waste were collected), carried out with the support of Polaris M Holding: - March 22 – the Badea Cârțan Stadium area; - March 29 – the slope towards Modern Beach; - April 5 – the Ovidius University Campus. https://polaris-mh.ro/index.php/2025/06/25/34-de-saci-colectati-pentru-un-campus-mai-curat/ ***Lecture "Life without light in sulfidic caves" – Dr. Șerban Sârbu*** April 10 The lecture "Life without light in sulfidic caves", delivered by Dr. Șerban Sârbu, researcher at the "Emil Racoviță" National Institute of Speleology and at California State University, addressed aspects regarding the biology and ecology of chemoautotrophic subterranean ecosystems and the adaptation of organisms to extreme conditions. The presentation focused on the latest discoveries made by an international team in an extremely exciting field of biology and ecology, a field whose functioning can help us understand how life can survive in extremely harsh conditions, including on planets other than Earth. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/anunturi/Anunt%20prelegere%20Serban%20Sarbu.pdf ***Summer School: Applications in Urban Ecology, 12th Edition – The Nature of Home – Pressures and opportunities in implementing nature-based solutions in residential areas.*** June 7–11 The event hosted non-formal scientific and educational activities that touched on aspects of urban ecology that are extremely important for the training of a specialist in the field of sustainable development. Aspects related to the following were addressed: - the organization of environmental research; - the collection of field environmental data; - the processing of environmental data through statistical methods and GIS techniques; - participatory methods of planning and sustainable development of the urban environment.

		https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/evenimente/FSNSA_Afi_coala_de_Var_2025_1.pdf **15.2.5 Educational or awareness programs on the sustainable management of land for agricultural purposes** ***Project "Systems Thinking for Agricultural Risk Management (SYSARM)"*** SYSARM brings together a transnational consortium of 9 partners from Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland, combining expertise in the fields of adult education, agriculture, systems thinking, simulation, policy dialogue, and dissemination. The partnership brings together expertise in the educational, technical, agricultural, and dissemination fields, with the aim of designing, testing, and promoting a learning pathway that supports adult learners, trainers, and professionals in the rural environment/agri-food sector in developing systems thinking and risk management skills, in managing complexity, and in developing more resilient practices. Through cooperation in diverse European learning contexts, the project will test and adapt its tools for wider use in the skills ecosystems of the agri-food sector. The project focuses on transversal skills that help learners understand interdependencies, feedback loops, uncertainty, and long-term impact at the level of agri-food systems. The partners involved in the project are: - Cosvitec; - SYDIC; - Federico II University of Naples; - EuroConsulting; - Agriventures; - Agricultural University of Plovdiv; - Ovidius University of Constanța; - Business Innovation Council; - CRS. https://sysarm.eu/partners/

		15.2.6 Educational or awareness programs on the sustainable management of land for tourism purposes ***International Mountain Day*** March 17 Program: 1. Presentation "Dobrogea Treasures. The Green School in the Măcin Mountains" (Gabriela-Raluca Nicoara, teacher and doctoral candidate, Mircea cel Bătrân National College of Constanța and the Doctoral School of Sciences, University of Craiova); 2. Presentation "Teachers on Via Transilvanica – Terra Saxonum" (teacher George Pavel, teacher Adrian Manea – Romanian Alpine Club, Constanța Branch); 3. Presentation "Trekking the Annapurna Circuit (Nepal)" (Ciprian Nicolau – Romanian Alpine Club, Constanța Branch); 4. Presentation "Monte Rossa Spaghetti Tour – On the roof of the Alps, between prudence and dream. An expedition of CAR Constanța Branch members to the Dufourspitze (4,634 m), the second highest peak in Western Europe" (Gabriel Vulpe, Romanian Alpine Club, Constanța Branch). https://web.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1736310777613636&set=a.1736313987613315&type=3&rdid=dABzUbRxgC9vRUSh&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F1CpBZAKecP%2F%3F_rdc%3D1%26_rdr# **15.3.2 Protecting any species included on the IUCN Red List and species included on the national conservation list** ***Lecture: From functional ecology to nature conservation: a long journey alongside the lizards of the Lacertidae family*** June 10 The lecture was delivered by Dr. Miguel A. Careterro (CIBIO – University of Porto). In a global context characterized by biodiversity loss, conservation policies can no longer rely exclusively on identifying spatio-temporal patterns, but should also highlight the processes underlying them. In this sense, the functional responses of organisms to disturbance factors must be recognized, quantified and, if possible, anticipated and minimized. The event illustrated this approach by focusing on the lizards of the Lacertidae family, which constitute essential elements in Mediterranean terrestrial networks.

		https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/anunturi/invitatie%20prezentare%20Miguel%20Carretero.pdf **15.3.4 Reducing the impact of alien / exotic species** ***Project "B-Cubed – Biodiversity Building Blocks for Policy"*** March 2023 – August 2026 B-Cubed is a European Union project that ran from March 2023 to August 2026. Its objective was to standardize access to biodiversity data, contributing to the transformation of fragmented biodiversity records into current and policy-relevant indicators. B-Cubed aims to respond to this challenge by transforming biodiversity monitoring into an agile and adaptable process. The project collaborates closely with existing biodiversity initiatives to identify and respond to policy needs. It leverages the concept of "data cubes" to standardize access to biodiversity data, using the "Essential Biodiversity Variables" framework. These cubes form the basis of models and indicators on past, present, and future biodiversity. The models will be accessible to users in real time and on demand in a cloud computing environment, providing information on the state of biodiversity and its evolution. To ensure the reuse of its results, the project creates exemplary automated workflows for modeling, using biodiversity data cubes, as well as for calculating change indicators. The usefulness of the B-Cubed tools was demonstrated through four case studies, which covered diverse environments, regions, and challenges, to ensure maximum relevance for stakeholders. - calculating regional indicators in Europe using the B-Cubed workflow; - the status and management of biological invasions in South Africa; - optimizing species assessment and reporting in accordance with the Habitats Directive; - the status and trends of biodiversity in Ramsar sites using GBIF data cubes. https://b-cubed.eu/ https://b-cubed.eu/partners https://zenodo.org/records/19625865

		15.3.5 Collaboration for maintaining shared terrestrial ecosystems ***Project "InsectAI – Using image-based artificial intelligence for insect monitoring and conservation"*** October 2023 – October 2027 The "InsectAI COST" Action supported the monitoring and conservation of insects at national and continental scales, with the aim of understanding and counteracting the widespread decline of insect populations. The Action brought together a critical mass of researchers and stakeholders in the field of image-based artificial intelligence technologies for insects, with the aim of guiding and driving the research agenda, strengthening research capacity at the European level, and supporting innovation and the application of results. The Action organized workshops, conferences, short-term scientific missions, hackathons, design sprints, and many others, within four working groups. These groups analyzed how image-based artificial intelligence technologies for insects can best respond to society's needs, can support innovation in image collection equipment, can create standardized approaches to image processing, and can develop new methods of data analysis and integration to turn data into useful information. https://insectai.eu/ https://insectai.eu/the-action/participants/ ***PLANTING THE OVIDIUS ROSE NURSERY TOGETHER*** November 26 The event was held under the Collaboration Agreement between Timac AGRO România and the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences – Ovidius University of Constanța. https://snsa.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2025-2026/evenimente/Afi%C8%99%20Pepinier%C4%83%20de%20trandafiri%20UOC.pdf **Relevant national legislation** ***Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural areas, the conservation of natural habitats, and of wild flora and fauna*** The ordinance transposes into national legislation the European directives in the field (such as the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive).

		Main purpose - biodiversity protection: guaranteeing the long-term conservation of the natural heritage, of the types of natural habitats, of wild flora and fauna species, and maintaining or restoring their favorable conservation status; - sustainable use: combining nature conservation with compatible socio-economic activities in these areas. Categories of protected natural areas 1. National interest: a) scientific reserves; b) national parks; c) natural monuments; d) nature reserves; e) natural parks (and priority areas for biodiversity / geoparks). 2. International interest: a) biosphere reserves (e.g. the Danube Delta), Ramsar sites (wetlands); 3. Community interest (Natura 2000 Network): a) Sites of Community Importance; b) Special Areas of Conservation; c) Special Protection Areas for Birds. 4. County or local interest Administration and coordination - the National Agency for Protected Natural Areas coordinates the administration of the network of protected natural areas in Romania, through its own structures or in collaboration with the designated administrators/custodians; - the management of the areas may involve non-intervention regimes (strict/integral protection) or active management (in buffer zones or sustainable development zones). Essential prohibitions and obligations - the killing, capture, destruction of nests, or intentional disturbance of protected species is prohibited; - activities in the perimeters of protected areas or in their vicinity that may generate a significant negative impact on species and habitats are prohibited, in the absence of specific environmental approvals, agreements, or authorizations;

		- acts that seriously harm these regimes (the destruction of habitats, poaching/illegal hunting, the illegal removal of land from the circuit, etc.) constitute misdemeanors or criminal offenses. https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/83289 ***Law No. 46/2008 – The Forestry Code*** The law is the main normative act regulating the forestry regime, the administration, protection, and exploitation of the national forest fund. <u>Main provisions and concepts</u> - the national forest fund: comprises all forests, land intended for afforestation, land for forest administration/production, water and unproductive land with a forest destination, being an asset of national interest; - the definition of forest: land with an area of at least 0.25 hectares, covered with trees that can reach a height of at least 5 meters at maturity; - administration: it is mandatory for the entire national forest fund, through state forest districts (such as Romsilva) or private forest districts; - the forest management plan: the sustainable management instrument, usually valid for 10 years (mandatory for areas larger than 10 hectares); - the integrity of the forest fund: reducing the area of the forest fund is in principle prohibited, except in strict cases of public utility or national interest, accompanied by physical or financial compensation measures (usually 3 to 5 times); - forestry offenses: acts such as illegal logging, theft of timber, or prohibited grazing are sanctioned according to the law (including prison sentences from 3 months to 7 years, depending on the damage). https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/151252
	General Label for Sustainable Development	

1 Images taken from the website https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/.
2 The descriptions were developed based on the following: https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ , https://sdg-tracker.org/ ; https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals, https://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/.