





FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.

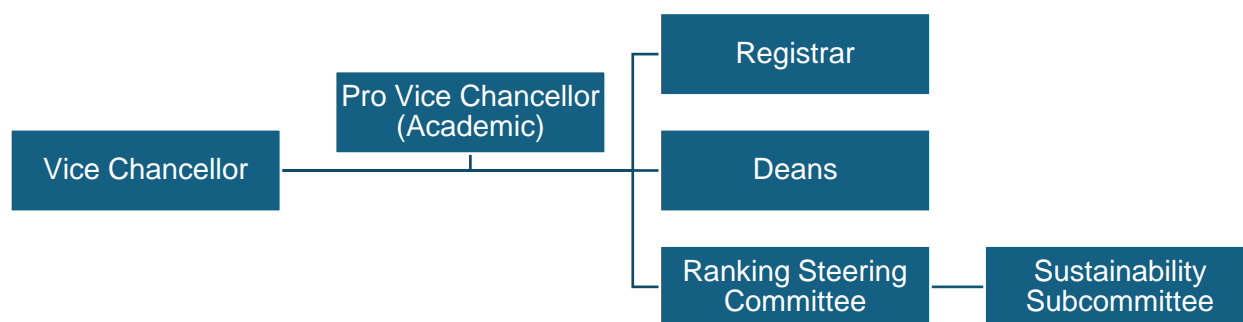
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.



Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of History	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of “learning to learn with others”—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU’s Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, “Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future.” [<https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission>]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation’s knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh’s flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.



SDG 15 — Life on Land

Executive Summary

DU protects biodiversity through its Botanical Garden, Zoology and Botany departments, wildlife conservation research, and ecological surveys across the country. Campus tree-plantation drives and green corridors enhance urban biodiversity.

High-Impact Claim: *DU houses one of Dhaka's most diverse urban ecozones and supports national biodiversity research and conservation.*

SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG 15 centers on protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing terrestrial ecosystems—an urgent priority for Bangladesh, where rapid urbanization, pollution, and climate pressures threaten biodiversity and land resources. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) advanced this goal through a multidimensional strategy combining environmental stewardship, research excellence, cultural engagement, and national–international partnerships. These initiatives demonstrate DU’s commitment to ecological resilience and responsible land management, both on campus and across the broader national landscape.

A key highlight of the year was DU’s tree-planting campaign, conducted in collaboration with Pubali Bank PLC, which expanded campus greenery, enhanced micro-biodiversity, and engaged students, faculty, and private-sector partners in hands-on environmental action. The installation of “bank beds” across the campus blended infrastructure upgrading with ecological improvement, demonstrating DU’s integrated approach to environmental design.

Research and technological capacity-building were central to DU’s SDG 15 contributions. The inauguration of an advanced Gas Chromatography Laboratory significantly strengthened DU’s ability to detect and analyze environmental pollutants, enabling more accurate ecological monitoring and data-driven conservation strategies. Recognition platforms such as the Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award incentivized high-quality scholarship in environmental sciences, while participation in global research networks—including the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology—demonstrated DU’s commitment to technological innovation that can support sustainable resource use and environmental monitoring.

Academic programming and cultural activities amplified environmental awareness and stewardship. Workshops advocating sustainable New Year celebrations, art exhibitions on ecological themes, and ethical committees promoting social responsibility contributed to a culture that links human well-being with ecological preservation. These initiatives helped students internalize sustainability as not only a scientific concern but also a cultural and ethical commitment.

Strategic partnerships broadened the reach of DU’s SDG 15 initiatives. Collaborations with organizations such as BIPSOT, Pubali Bank, and international agencies strengthened interdisciplinary projects and helped integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into university-led initiatives. Diplomatic engagement—such as meetings with the European Union—enhanced

access to research funding, knowledge exchange, and collaborative opportunities, positioning DU as a regional contributor to sustainable land management.

Student achievements and cultural programs reinforced DU's leadership. Fellowships, awards, and research grants highlighted the university's role in nurturing future scholars of biodiversity and environmental conservation. Creative programs and exhibitions fostered ecological literacy and encouraged the DU community to reflect on the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems.

Together, DU's activities in 2024 reflect a robust and integrated commitment to SDG 15. Through science-based monitoring, environmental action, academic leadership, and strategic partnerships, DU has cemented its position as a national leader in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management. The University's proactive initiatives signal a long-term vision of embedding ecological and ethical values into research, teaching, and community engagement.

DU Biodiversity & Land Stewardship — 2024 Highlights

Campus Greening & Ecosystem Restoration

Large-scale tree-planting campaign with Pubali Bank PLC

“Bank beds” installed to enhance green infrastructure & community spaces

Student–faculty–private sector collaboration



Figure 1: Pubali Bank holds Tree Plantation Program at Dhaka University

Full news link: <https://bmirror.net/pubali-bank-holds-tree-plantation-program-at-dhaka-university/>

Environmental Monitoring & Research Capacity

Inauguration of Gas Chromatography Laboratory for pollutant analysis

Supports chemical profiling, soil/water quality studies & conservation research

Awards: Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award, Lifetime Achievement Award (Full details: <https://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/nahar.1/rsphys/rsphys.pdf>)

Academic & Cultural Engagement

Seminars on sustainable celebrations

Ecological-themed art exhibitions

Ethical committees promoting environmental responsibility

Strategic Partnerships & Global Engagement

Collaborations with BIPSOT, Pubali Bank & other stakeholders

International cooperation through EU and global research consortia

Capacity building in ESG-driven land stewardship

Student & Faculty Achievements

Fellowships and recognitions for outstanding environmental research

Active student participation in conservation and awareness programs

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU's 2024 initiatives constitute one of the most comprehensive campus-based biodiversity restoration programs in Bangladesh's higher education sector.
- ✓ The Gas Chromatography Lab establishes DU as a national reference center for environmental pollutant monitoring, strengthening evidence-based conservation.
- ✓ DU demonstrated notable leadership in public-private partnerships for ecosystem improvement, including pioneering infrastructure-biodiversity integrations like "bank beds."

- ✓ DU's cultural and academic programming created a holistic environmental learning ecosystem, engaging thousands of students in sustainability thinking and ethical stewardship.
- ✓ International engagements, including EU partnerships and research consortia, position DU as a regional leader in ecosystem science and sustainable land management.
- ✓ By combining research, community action, capacity building, and policy-oriented collaboration, DU provides a model for SDG 15 implementation adaptable to universities nationwide.