13.3.5 University collaborates with NGOs on climate adaptation

Climate change represents a major environmental and socioeconomic challenge for coastal cities around the world. Alexandria, located on Egypt's Mediterranean coast, is particularly vulnerable to climate-related risks, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, water stress, and flooding.

Alexandria University has demonstrated the value of cooperation between academic institutions and civil society in advancing environmental sustainability.

The Green Universities for a Better Future project provides a particularly relevant example of this approach. Through cooperation with Our Earth Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and the GEF Small Grants Programme, the university has supported environmental awareness, green education, and the transformation of the Faculty of Pharmacy into a more environmentally sustainable institution.

The Green Circle initiative further illustrates how environmental responsibility can be integrated into everyday university activities.

However, Alexandria's coastal vulnerability means that sustainability efforts should continue to develop toward more comprehensive climate adaptation programmes.

Strengthening partnerships with NGOs, expanding research collaboration, involving local communities, and developing measurable adaptation projects can help Alexandria University become an even stronger contributor to climate resilience in Alexandria and the wider Mediterranean region.

Ultimately, university–NGO partnerships provide an important foundation for connecting scientific knowledge with practical environmental action.

Addressing these challenges requires cooperation among universities, government institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities.

Alexandria University has an important role in this process through scientific research, environmental education, community service, and partnerships with organizations working toward sustainable development.

One particularly relevant example is the university's collaboration with the **Our Earth Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation**, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) through the project *Green Universities for a Better Future*.

Climate Change Challenges in Alexandria
Alexandria's coastal location makes climate adaptation an important priority.
The city faces several interconnected environmental challenges:

- **Sea-level rise:** Increasing sea levels create long-term risks for coastal infrastructure, settlements, and ecosystems.
- **Coastal erosion:** Changes in coastal processes can threaten beaches and protective natural systems.
- **Urban flooding:** Heavy rainfall and pressure on drainage infrastructure can disrupt transportation and public services.
- **Water management:** Increasing pressure on freshwater resources makes conservation and efficient water use essential.
- **Environmental degradation:** Pollution, waste generation, and ecosystem deterioration can increase the vulnerability of local communities.

These challenges demonstrate the importance of combining scientific knowledge with community participation and practical environmental initiatives. Alexandria University contributes by producing research, educating students, supporting local decision-makers, and cooperating with NGOs to develop effective adaptation measures.

Alexandria University's Collaboration with NGOs

Alexandria University recognizes the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development and addressing climate change.

One important documented partnership involves the **Our Earth Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation**.

The collaboration is part of the project entitled:

Green Universities for a Better Future: Transforming the Faculty of Pharmacy at Alexandria University into an Eco-Friendly Green Faculty.

The initiative was implemented through cooperation between:

1. Alexandria University's Faculty of Pharmacy.
2. Our Earth Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation.
3. Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
4. Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme.

The project combines academic expertise, civil society participation, environmental awareness, and financial support for sustainability activities.

According to the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme, the cooperation agreement aimed to reduce the Faculty of Pharmacy's carbon footprint, introduce green economy and environmental entrepreneurship concepts into academic programmes, and encourage students to participate in sustainability initiatives.

The foundation also organized an awareness workshop at Bibliotheca Alexandrina, where participants discussed the faculty's carbon footprint assessment and opportunities to develop practical environmental interventions.

The Green Universities for a Better Future Project

The Green Universities for a Better Future project represents an important example of cooperation between a university and a civil society foundation.

Launched in May 2025, the project sought to transform Alexandria University's Faculty of Pharmacy into a model environmentally friendly faculty.

The project was designed to integrate sustainability into university education and encourage students and academic staff to participate in climate action.

Its main objectives included:

- Reducing the environmental footprint of university facilities.
- Promoting energy and water conservation.
- Introducing green economy concepts into higher education.
- Encouraging environmental entrepreneurship.
- Increasing student participation in environmental activities.
- Developing environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

An important part of the project was the assessment of the Faculty of Pharmacy's carbon footprint. This assessment provided a scientific basis for identifying priorities and planning future environmental interventions.

The project concluded in May 2026, with a closing ceremony at Bibliotheca Alexandrina. University representatives highlighted the importance of cooperation between academic institutions, civil society, and supporting organizations.

The university also indicated its intention to expand the experience to other faculties.



The Green Circle Initiative at the Faculty of Pharmacy

The Green Circle initiative is another important component of the Faculty of Pharmacy's environmental sustainability efforts.

According to Alexandria University's May 2026 announcement, the initiative began in October 2022 and gradually developed into a broader sustainability model.

It emphasizes environmental responsibility, conservation, and behavioral change within the university community.

The initiative illustrates how university departments can translate environmental objectives into practical activities.

Its relevance to climate adaptation includes:

- Encouraging responsible use of natural resources.
- Supporting more sustainable waste-management practices.
- Promoting environmental awareness among students.
- Encouraging water conservation and efficient resource management.
- Developing a culture of environmental responsibility.

The initiative demonstrates that climate action is not limited to large infrastructure projects. Changes in everyday institutional practices can also contribute to environmental resilience.



University–Community Environmental Collaboration





November 26,2025: Vice President of Alexandria University Receives the Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo to Enhance Academic and Research Collaboration. The two sides discussed opportunities for collaboration in several fields, including medicine and dentistry, artificial intelligence, marine sciences, marine environment, climate change, and aquatic biology. They also explored cooperation between business acceleration centers, particularly the Velocity Center at the University of Waterloo and the Alexandria University Technology Park, with the aim of supporting students and researchers in developing startup ideas and transforming them into successful, scalable ventures.





May 13,2025: The Alexandria EU 4 Water-Preneurs Bootcamp kicked off today in collaboration with Alexandria University, where young participants focused on water challenges and discussed various topics, including:

- 🔷Global trends in the water sector
- 🔷Climate adaptation and resilient water solutions
- 🔷Entrepreneurial mindset and innovation
- 🔷Circular water economy & non-conventional water resources
- 🔷The role of AI, tech, and digital tools in water management




January 21,2024: Egyptian Pioneers and Scholars Program Delegation Visits Alexandria University. the cooperation and joint coordination between Alexandria University and the Egyptian Pioneers and Scholars Program at the bachelor's level, and expressed her aspiration to develop this cooperation at the postgraduate level through grants provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and working to form scientific schools, support innovations and patents, and exchange opinions, ideas, and experiences in the fields of climate change and sustainable development.





June 14,2025: Empowering and increasing the collaboration opportunities for maintaining our region creative, sustainable, green, and resilient between north and south of the Mediterranean was the main aim of the Erasmus+ week for professionals held by EMUNI University. All the contributors across the Mediterranean, Egypt, Slovenia, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Albania, Serbia, Italy, Spain, and Turkey discussed the opportunities and challenges and the urgent need for increasing the collaboration opportunities between the two sides of the Mediterranean through joint education programs, knowledge transfer, research and innovation, and entrepreneurship to create integrated strategies that can benefit the whole region. One example of this new emerging collaboration across the Mediterranean countries is the agreement between Alexandria University, Egypt and EMUNI University, Slovenia.





December 24,2025: Within the framework of Alexandria University's commitment to supporting sustainability, innovation, and linking scientific research to development priorities, the University has launched the AGROW-HUB project, funded by the European Union. The project aims to promote sustainable solutions for agricultural waste management and transform it into value-added products, thereby supporting the circular bio-economy and strengthening academic and industrial partnerships at both the regional and international levels.

- **The Role of NGOs in Climate Adaptation**
  Non-governmental organizations can strengthen the capacity of universities to address climate change.
  Their contributions include:
  Community engagement: NGOs help universities communicate environmental information to residents and local communities.

  Environmental education: They can organize workshops, campaigns, and training activities for students and young people.

  Project implementation: NGOs can help translate research findings into practical environmental initiatives.

  Funding and partnerships: Civil society organizations can connect academic institutions with national and international funding opportunities.

  Local knowledge: NGOs can help identify community needs and environmental priorities that may not be fully captured by academic research.

  The partnership between Alexandria University and Our Earth Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation demonstrates how these roles can complement university expertise.

- **Recommendations for Strengthening Climate Adaptation Partnerships**
  Building on the documented experience, Alexandria University could further develop its collaboration with NGOs through the following recommendations.
  Coastal Resilience Projects

Establish collaborative research and community programmes addressing coastal flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise.

Water Conservation

Expand water-efficiency initiatives, rainwater harvesting studies, and appropriate wastewater reuse projects across university facilities.

Student and Youth Engagement

Develop joint training programmes with NGOs to prepare students to participate in climate adaptation projects and environmental volunteering.

Climate Awareness Campaigns

Organize public seminars, workshops, and community campaigns explaining climate risks and practical adaptation measures.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among university researchers, environmental organizations, local authorities, and community representatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Develop measurable indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental initiatives, including water savings, waste reduction, student participation, and community engagement.