



CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NEVŞEHİR/TURKEY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Environmental Sustainability is a primary issue and an important focus area for Cappadocia University since its establishment as a university on July 1, 2017. This emphasis is clearly documented in two formal documents issued by the university administration:

1- In the official research policy statement entitled “Cappadocia University Research Goals and Principles,” academic leadership in Turkey in the field of Environmental Humanities, through the activities of Cappadocia University Environmental Humanities Center (<https://ehc.kapadokya.edu.tr/>), has been expressed as a major goal and priority.

2- In Cappadocia University's “Strategic Plan for 2018-2023,” several activities and practices related to environmental sustainability targets are among the performance metrics. In Cappadocia University Strategic Plan for 2018-2030, under the section “Protection of Natural and Cultural Entity” (Figure 1). According to this section anticipated activities and practices are defined as such:

1. Protection, maintenance and repair of historical buildings in our use.
2. Participation in the afforestation activities of our region.
3. Increasing the number of members of the Young TEMA (The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habits) student organization.
4. Increasing the number of activities on environmental awareness and protection.
5. Implementing trainings and cooperating with national and international stakeholders working in order to disseminate knowledge about the importance of the use of renewable energy sources and to ensure their adoption by our students.
6. Contributing to the protection of the ecosystem through the effective use of renewable energy solutions and setting an example for the environment.
7. Putting into practice of Mustafapaşa's signage project.
8. Sharing the knowledge accumulation of the university for the benefit of local governments and the public through developing joint projects and advising on public interest issues.

UOĞAL ve kültürel varlıkların korunması										
5	2	1	Kullanımdaki tarihi binaların korunması, bakım ve onarımlarının gerçekleştirilmesi	Kapsam	Medrese ana girişi kapısı	İzmir İline duvar resmi	Cansever Binası bahçe kapısı ve duvar resimleri	Güzelgöze Evi duvar resmi	Genel Sekreterlik	
5	2	2	Bilginin ağaçlandırma çalışmalarına katılım	Dikilen ağaç sayısı	300	400	500	600	700	Sağlık, Kültür ve Spor Dairesi
5	2	3	Genç TEMA topluluğunun üye sayısının artırılması	Genç TEMA üye sayısı	140	150	160	170	180	Sağlık, Kültür ve Spor Dairesi
5	2	4	Çevre bilinci ve korunması konulu aktivite sayısının artırılması	Aktivite sayısı	6	8	8	8	8	Sağlık, Kültür ve Spor Dairesi
5	2	5	Yenilenebilir enerji kaynakları kullanımının önemini anlatılması ve öğrencilerini tarafından benimsenmesinin sağlanması amacıyla bu doğrultuda yapılan ulusal ve uluslararası paydaşlarla iş birliği yapılması; eğitimler düzenlenmesi	Yüksek ortak seminer hedefi	2	2	2	2	2	Kapadokya Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü
5	2	6	Yenilenebilir enerji çözümlerinin etkin kullanımı ile ekolojik sistemin korunmasına katkıda bulunulması ve çevreye örnek teşkil edilmesi	Elektrik ve yakıt tüketiminde yıllık azalma	-	5%	5%	5%	5%	Genel Sekreterlik
5	2	7	Mustafapaşın'ın tabelalandırma projesinin hayata geçirilmesi	Proje tamamlanma yüzdesi	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	Kapadokya Araştırmaları Merkezi
5	2	8	Ortak projeler geliştirmek ve kamu yararına işlemlerinden konularında danışmanlık vermek yoluyla Üniversitemizin bilgi birikimini yeni yönetimlerin ve kamunun faydasına sunulması	Destek verilen coğrafi işaretleme sayısı (yılılık)	1	1	1	1	1	Kapadokya Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü

Figure 1: Sustainability related performance metrics in Cappadocia University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan.

CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES CENTER

Based on these targets the first "Environmental Humanities Research Center" in Turkey was established in October 2018. Environmental Humanities Center at Cappadocia University aims to spread environmental awareness with ecologically oriented conferences, seminars, and workshops both regionally and internationally.

Environmental Humanities Center at Cappadocia University is a site where inter/trans/cross-disciplinary and international conversations will be reinforced through collaborations. The Center will seek to offer new perspectives to the entangled ecological urgencies and ethical and social problems surrounding our fragile planet. However diverse and multifarious they may be, these perspectives represent a common and flexible platform to work together to achieve desired ecological outcomes. We also promote studying education, art, and literature that are conducive to ecological sustainability. One of our objectives is to disseminate environmentally just stories from both human and nonhuman perspectives. Stories are effective tools of resistance, and storying the world anew in environmentally just ways is as important as scientific efforts in finding palpable solutions to the planetary threat that we are all facing no matter where we live. And we all live in ecological uncertainties and have become what Donna Haraway calls "messmates" in the planet's geomorphological processes and natural cycles. If the current epoch is called a human age—the Anthropocene—it is due to our collective detrimental activities. That is why, we need a new earth-story which can materialize with new imaginative and lexical vocabularies that take into account the still unheard voices of the disrupted nonhuman entities, which do not necessarily have to remain mute. We want to



communicate a message of revaluing what we may lose, generating the creativity to imagine new accountabilities, more sustainable solutions, and also ethical responses.

Those interested in the environmental humanities perspectives on multispecies entanglements, human-nonhuman relations, biodiversity loss, global warming, Earth's deep history, environmental transformations, changing micro and macroclimates, disrupted geobiochemical forces, and what it means to be human on a damaged planet, have found the right place here. Our Center encourages coalitions among the scholars in the humanities and the natural and social sciences.

The Center will provide:

- a platform for cooperation between the environmental humanities, arts, and sciences,
- integrate insights from multiple disciplines, and
- develop new theoretical approaches, knowledge practices, and narratives on human-nonhuman relations.

The Center aims:

- to conduct multidisciplinary research in cooperation with national and international environmental humanities centers, academic institutions, global networks, environmental organizations, and relevant private entities. (We will collaborate with international research groups encouraging transdisciplinary initiatives by academic and other stakeholders from the private and public sectors);
- to work toward maintaining the sustainability of more-than-human environments in global and local contexts;
- to ensure social and political awareness and acknowledgement of the biotic rights of all species;
- to promote environmental ethics and sustainability, as well as to develop transdisciplinary projects on climate justice, biodiversity justice, and eco-cultural justice issues.

The Center will work:

- to move the focus from finding technological solutions to complex ecological challenges amplified in the Anthropocene age to framing them within ecocultural frameworks, in material-discursive contexts.
- work toward integrating environmental humanities programs in higher education and thus promote interdisciplinarity in Turkish universities. It will support interdisciplinary research projects, conferences, and publications.

Our conceptual model is Cappadocia's own ancient cultural heritage inseparable from its special geological history. We hope to make Environmental Humanities platform at Cappadocia University a center of attraction on the national and international fronts through cross-disciplinary collaboration. Located on the high plateau of central Anatolia in Turkey, Cappadocia is famous with the mushroom-like stones known as fairy chimneys, which are a result of a geologic process that began 30 million years ago when volcanic eruptions rained ash across Anatolia. The ash solidified into a porous rock, called tuff, and in the millions of years that followed, wind and water eroded the tuff into spires and cones. That is why, this is a magical landscape. In 1985 Cappadocia's Göreme National Park, the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, and the fascinating underground cities were declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.

Since its establishment, the Center has carried out the following activities:

1. International Conference on "Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene Age", March 7-8, 2019
2. Seminar on "The History-Climate Change Nexus through a Collection of Environmental Driven Migration Cases", March 5, 2019
3. Exhibition, "Tao Canyon: In Silence and Wisdom Exists the Human Form in Nature, February 1, 2019
4. Seminar on "Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene Age", November 6, 2018
5. Started an international scholarly publication named *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*. As of October 2019, the preparations for the publication of the inaugural issue are in progress.

Journal website: <http://ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr>

In addition to pursuing its objectives, the Environmental Humanities Center at Cappadocia University worked towards achieving the main goals given below in 2018-2019.

1. Starting an International Peer-Reviewed, Open Access Publication



Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities

Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities is a digital, open-access, peer-reviewed, international, and transdisciplinary journal of the Environmental Humanities. It is a biannual journal, publishing a Winter issue in December and a Summer issue in June. It aims to develop new insights and theories about the current material and conceptual challenges in the field. Since the complexities and questions raised by ecological and social changes, as well as pressures from global climatic crises, demand interrelated re-workings of humanities disciplines and social and natural sciences, the journal invites submissions that transcend disciplinary categories, allowing us to rethink and reimagine the human-nonhuman relationalities on our damaged planet to ensure a livable future.

Journal website: ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr

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2. Collaboration with Cappadocia University Press for an Environmental Humanities Series



Cappadocia University Press Environmental Humanities Series

Series Editor

Sinan Akilli (Cappadocia University)



The Environmental Humanities Series of Cappadocia University Press primarily aims to support the dissemination of local and global knowledge produced in the field of Environmental Humanities in the Turkish academy and society.

The series will publish Turkish translations of influential theoretical books and other original research in the field, as well as English-to-Turkish or Turkish-to-English translations of works reflecting world literature's response to the Anthropocene and climate crisis.

3. Membership of UNESCO-BRIDGES International Sustainability Science Coalition

BRIDGES: An International Sustainability Science Coalition



1
Cappadocia University EHC joins the BRIDGES coalition as Key Institutional Partner.

"The acronym BRIDGES stands for Building Resilience in Defense of Global Environments and Societies. The coalition is intended to foster and foreground new research, education and societal co-production initiatives harmonious with UNESCO's Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education. The ambition is to introduce exemplary transversal projects connecting the Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines with Natural Sciences, applied scientific fields and the Arts, while also enabling meaningful co-production between this broader and more inclusive configuration of academic actors and non-academic actors / stakeholders from society through co-designed case studies built on the renewed approach to sustainability science promoted in the Guidelines document.

Pilot projects to be developed through the coalition will aim to demonstrate proof of concept of the UNESCO Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education and share good practice from different case studies internationally and at multiple scales: locally, nationally, regionally. In this sense BRIDGES is expected to work in parallel with other efforts by UNESCO to promote its new sustainability science guidelines in dialogue with UNESCO's Member States (Permanent Delegations and National Commissions) and other international partners."

Source: "BRIDGES Concept Note"

4. Establishment of Anatolian Environmental Humanities Observatory

Anatolian Observatory



2
Cappadocia University EHC hosts a prospective Anatolian Observatory and contributes to the HfE Observatories network.



Anatolian Observatory
Harmony of Science Between Ancient Nature and the Anthropocene

Having use of the inheritance of varied Anatolian civilisations over the centuries, the Anatolian Observatory aims to investigate the shared heritage and common city histories from 2000 years to present underground sites of Ancient Anatolia. This investigation is essential in understanding a historical environment's consequences, which subsequently demonstrates the transformation of the historical civilisations into the 21st century form of urban, characterised by garbage heaps and dying natural areas. As having an alliance between ancient nature and the Anthropocene is helpful in reminding people of the lasting shared Natural/Cultural bond between human and non-human beings, the Anatolian Observatory seeks towards this building a shared narrative of cultural and historical inheritance from the ancient to the modern times. This observatory aims to raise an environmental awareness to assist human beings about the environmental problems of the Anthropocene on a global scale.

1st Action: Workshop in Cappadocia University in November 2019 with participation of leading archaeologists, anthropologists, biologists, and hydrogeologists.



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5. Initiation of the Anthropocene Curriculum in Turkey

Anthropocene Curriculum in Turkey

"In demanding structurally novel commitments, the Anthropocene predicament offers us the opportunity to make previously uncharted transdisciplinary connections, and to experiment with **new forms of higher education**. Universities, academies, research platforms, and cultural institutions, as situated spaces of knowledge production and dissemination, must deeply integrate cross-disciplinary thinking, mutual learning, new modes of research, and civic commitment in order to secure their future."



Cappadocia University EHC initiates and coordinates the implementation of the Anthropocene Curriculum in Turkey.



- Teaching and training
- Interdisciplinary research
- Action through collaborations with local authorities, administrations, and businesses engaged into transformative processes

6. Founding of a UNESCO Chair on Sustainability Science

UNESCO Chair on Sustainability Science



4



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Ministry of
National Education
Programme

Cappadocia University EHC hosts the UNESCO Chair on Sustainability Science in Turkey.

"UNESCO Guidelines on Sustainability Science in Research and Education" (2017)

"A New Humanities Agenda for the 21st Century" Outcome Document of World Humanities Conference, Liège, Belgium, 6-11 August 2017



Re-define the role of the Humanities in Turkey and contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals through trans-disciplinary and transnational projects/action.

7. Establishment of TASC: Turkish Anthropocene and Sustainability Coalition

TASC: Turkish Anthropocene and Sustainability Coalition



Cappadocia University EHC becomes the main hub of the Anthropocene and Sustainability Science studies in Turkey.

- Unite Turkish scholars from various fields under its banner
- Encourage and train young students and early-career scholars for the sustainability of the TASC force
- Mobilize increased funding from government and private sector entities
- Prepare Turkey for the Ecocene Age

UNESCO-BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE COALITION MEMBERSHIP

Cappadocia University, through its Environmental Humanities Center, is a key partner of UNESCO-BRIDGES Global Sustainability Science Coalition, which is an international and interdisciplinary initiative to promote sustainability science, chaired by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Program. The university participated to two UNESCO-BRIDGES establishment workshops in 2018 as the sole representative invited from Turkey. (<https://en.unesco.org/events/workshop-toward-establishment-bridges-action-promote-sustainability-science>)

In December 2017 exploratory discussions began among selected UNESCO sections, the International Council for Philosophy & Human Sciences (CIPSH), and various institutional and organizational partners active internationally in the sustainability domain¹ concerning the establishment of a global coalition on sustainability science. This initiative builds upon the refined sustainability science paradigm inaugurated in 2017 with the launch of UNESCO's Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education, which was the major output of the UNESCO-Japan/MEXT project "Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science Approach" (2015-2017)². The coalition now envisaged would affiliate with UNESCO as a close but independent partner.



The coalition's proposed name is **BRIDGES: An International Sustainability Science Coalition**. The acronym *BRIDGES* stands for *Building Resilience in Defense of Global Environments and Societies*. The coalition is intended to foster and foreground new research, education and societal co-production initiatives harmonious with UNESCO's Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education. The ambition is to introduce exemplary transversal projects connecting the Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines with Natural Sciences, applied scientific fields and the Arts, while also enabling meaningful co-production between this broader and more inclusive configuration of academic actors and non-academic actors / stakeholders from society through co-designed case studies built on the renewed approach to sustainability science promoted in the Guidelines document. Pilot projects to be developed through the coalition will aim to demonstrate proof of concept of the UNESCO Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education and share good practice from different case studies internationally and at multiple scales: locally, nationally, regionally. In this sense BRIDGES is expected to work in parallel with other efforts by UNESCO to promote its new sustainability science guidelines in dialogue with UNESCO's Member States (Permanent Delegations and National Commissions) and other international partners.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS MEMBERSHIP

In line with the strategic plan performance metric "Implementing trainings and cooperating with national and international stakeholders working in order to disseminate knowledge about the importance of the use of renewable energy sources and to ensure their adoption by our students," Cappadocia University has been a member of the Turkey Chapter of the International Solar Energy Society, GÜNDER (<https://www.gunder.org.tr/uyelik/universite-ve-liseler/>). GÜNDER continues its activities with the aims of developing science and technology in the application of solar energy, encouraging basic and applied research and development on solar energy, disseminating the use of solar energy and encouraging education in the fields related to solar energy. As an example of the implementation of this practice, on roofs of the dormitories in Mustafapaşa Campus, a solar PV power station is installed within the strategic plan of the university "to contribute to the protection of the ecosystem through the effective use of renewable energy solutions and to set an example for the environment." As another good practice, in all buildings of the university LED lighting is used. Cappadocia University intends to realize further energy savings by paying close attention to energy management.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

In 2018-2019, in line with the objectives of inclusion of environmental sustainability subjects in the curricula of various departments, 20 courses on environmental sustainability related subjects were offered in Cappadocia University. The master's program "Urban Policy,

Environment and Local Governments” focuses on the environment and aims to encourage academic research in this field. Moreover, the new master’s degree program in English Language and Literature is designed with an environmental humanities orientation and is the only such degree program in Turkey.

The curricula of the various associate, bachelor, and master’s degree programs in Cappadocia University include the following courses on environmental sustainability and/or related subjects:

1. Healthy Life and Training I / Nutrition and Dietetics / School of Health Sciences
2. Healthy Life and Training II / Nutrition and Dietetics / School of Health Sciences
3. Vegetarian Diet/ Nutrition and Dietetics / School of Health Sciences
4. Ecocriticism and Posthuman Studies/English Language and Literature/Faculty of Humanities
5. Environmental Psychology/Translation and Interpreting (English)/Faculty of Humanities
6. Travel Literature and the Environment /English Language and Literature/Institute of Graduate Studies and Research /Faculty of Humanities
7. Film and Eco-Criticism/ English Language and Literature/Institute of Graduate Studies and Research /Faculty of Humanities
8. Environment, Literature and Culture/English Language and Literature/Institute of Graduate Studies and Research /Faculty of Humanities
9. Media, Communication and the Environment / English Language and Literature/Institute of Graduate Studies and Research/Faculty of Humanities
10. Environmental Sustainability and Ecological Life/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ Institute of Graduate Studies and Research
11. Introduction to Urban and Environmental Law/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ Institute of Graduate Studies and Research
12. Green Political Thought/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ Institute of Graduate Studies and Research
13. Ecological Crisis and Climate Politics/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ Institute of Graduate Studies and Research
14. Environmental Health/ Mouth and Dental Health/ Dentistry Services
15. Equine-assisted Therapy-I/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
16. Equine-assisted Therapy-II/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
17. Equine-assisted Therapy-III/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
18. Equine-assisted Therapy-IV/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
19. Nature Sports/ First Aid and Emergency Care/ Medical Services and Techniques
20. Urban Identity and Cultural Sustainability/ Building Restoration/ Architecture and City Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

As part of Cappadocia University's Research and Development (R&D) efforts, two academic research projects related to environmental sustainability were supported in 2018 and these projects continue in 2019.

1. Synthesis of some novel ecofriendly block/graft copolymers from renewable resources (<https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/kopolimer-elde-edilmesi>)
2. Agriculture Implementation with Unmanned Air Vehicle (<https://iha.kapadokya.edu.tr/iha-arge>)

Moreover, the faculty affiliated with the Environmental Humanities Center continued to produce academic publications in the related subjects in international scholarly publications and were encouraged and funded to participate in key international academic events during 2018-2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Cappadocia University, in line with its objectives to increase the number of activities on environmental awareness and protection, increased the number of activities to 28 in 2016-2017 then to 37 in 2017-2018 and then to 49 in 2018-2019, which are about environment and sustainability. Among these, in addition to academic activities such as seminars, conferences and workshops organized by faculties and departments, nature trips, cycling days, sapling planting, TEMA (The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habits) volunteer meetings and environmental themed film screenings organized by environment related student clubs as well.

Some examples of events held in 2018-2019 are:

1. Bicycle Days (Fall) 28.09.2018
2. Energy Issues in Russia-Turkey and the Middle East (Workshop) 26 – 30.09.2018
3. "Human-Horse Relationships in Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname*" (Conference) 10.10.2018
4. Acorn Picking and Planting 09.11.2018
5. Hydropolitical and Hydroelectric Energy Issues in Turkey and Central Asia (International Workshop) 22 – 25.11.2018
6. 'We Are Present with Nature and Culture' Cleaning of Historical Places in Cappadocia - 1st Stage (Activity) 27.11.2018
7. On Cappadocia and Protection (Conference) 08.02.2019

8. Environmental Humanities (Workshop) 07 – 08.03.2019
9. Dibbling Event 08.03.2019
10. TEMA (The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habits) Volunteering Festival 28.03.2019
11. Water Awareness Day 01.04.2019
12. Documentary Screening “Water” 02.04.2019
13. “Leave aside Your Phone and Come” (Valley Walk) 07.04.2019
14. Wetlands and Birdwatching Tour 13.04.2019
15. An Overview of the Animal Symbols in Buket Uzuner’s Novels of the Natural Quartet from the Point of Ecocriticism (Conversation) 15.04.2019
16. ‘We Are Present with Nature and Culture’ Cleaning of Historical Places in Cappadocia - 2st Stage (Activity) 15.04.2019
17. Bicycle Days (Spring) 12 – 15 – 20 – 23.03.2019; 1 – 4 – 8 – 12 – 16 – 25.04.2019
18. Take a Walk for Health and Nature (Activity) 05.10.2019
19. “Economy of Goodness” (Seminar) 26.09.2019
20. The Importance of Ecology in Transforming Everyday Life (Seminar) 03.10.2019
21. Cappadocia Environmental Awareness Poster Competition 15.10.2019

CONCLUSION

In 2018-2019, Cappadocia University made visible and measurable progress towards its strategic goals regarding environmental sustainability as defined in its governing documents such as the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, the Research Goals and Principles policy document, and the vision and mission documents of its Environmental Humanities Center.

In the next reporting period for 2019-2020, Cappadocia University aims to further strengthen its efforts towards the dissemination of sustainability discourse in and outside of Turkey. The prospective plans to this end include the hosting of an influential international scholar in Cappadocia University through the Fulbright Program in 2020 and the exploration of the prospect of starting Anthropocene and Environmental Sustainability related trainings and courses within and outside of the university.