جامعة ابن طفيل
Université Ibn Tofaïl
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2025

SDG 15 REPORT

EARTHLY LIFE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IBN TOFAIL UNIVERSITY

SDG 15

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15) aims to preserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and reverse biodiversity loss. At Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, raising awareness of these crucial environmental issues has become a priority. This report examines the initiatives, partnerships, and actions implemented by our institution to contribute to the achievement of SDG 15 and ensure the conservation of biodiversity as well as the protection of terrestrial ecosystems.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

Assessment of the year

Programs:

- Master's in Improvement and Valorization of Plant Resources
- Master's in Environmental Biology
- Master's in Microorganisms and Plant Protection
- Master's in Engineering for the Valorization of Natural Resources and Quality Management
- Master's in Eco-Engineering of Wetlands
- Bachelor's in Water Science and Techniques in Agriculture

Project PRIMA: Safe Sustainable Water Reuse Practices Improving Safety in Agriculture, Food, and Environment

The PRIMA project focuses on improving the quality of irrigation water to enhance food safety and preserve biodiversity. It studies wastewater treatment, water reuse for irrigation, the promotion of environmentally friendly practices, and benefits for biodiversity. The goal is to help farmers sustainably increase their yields.

Project Adaptation of Olive Trees to Climate Change:

This project aims to understand flowering processes, drought adaptation, and identify genomic regions related to these characteristics to better select olive varieties suited to climate change.

Research Team: Biodiversity and Valorization of Plant Resources

- Identify, map, and document the diversity of plant species in the study region, with an emphasis on endemic or threatened species.
- Develop conservation strategies for endangered plant species.
- Study the medicinal properties of local plants, particularly those used in traditional medicine, and develop sustainable harvesting and processing practices.
- Promote agroforestry systems.
- Analyze the impact of climate change on the distribution of plant species and develop adaptation strategies.

Research Team: Animal Biodiversity and Environment

- Conduct surveys to identify, monitor, and document the diversity of animal species in the study region.
- Design and implement conservation programs for endangered animal species.
- Examine the interactions between wildlife and their environment.
- Develop conservation strategies for habitats essential to animal biodiversity.
- Monitor and analyze migration patterns of animal species, particularly migratory birds, to better understand their conservation needs.
- Analyze the behaviors of wild animals, including communication, reproduction, foraging, and territorial defense.

International Partnership: Ibn Tofail University and Leiden University Unite Efforts for Sustainable Agriculture

The esteemed Ibn Tofail University has taken a significant step forward in sustainable agriculture by signing a memorandum of understanding with the renowned Leiden University in the Netherlands (The Leiden Delft Erasmus). This prestigious event marked a fruitful meeting between the two academic institutions, sealing a promising partnership in agricultural research and environmental sustainability. The signing ceremony was followed by an important visit from a Leiden University delegation to Ibn Tofail University's laboratories in Kenitra, further strengthening ties between the two universities and opening new avenues for collaboration in sustainable agriculture and scientific innovation.

This collaboration between Ibn Tofail University and Leiden University promises positive outcomes for both institutions and sustainable development in the region. By combining their strengths and expertise in sustainable agriculture, the two universities can conduct innovative research and pilot projects aimed at promoting environmentally friendly and economically viable farming practices. This international cooperation will also enhance Ibn Tofail University's global presence and contribute to positioning the institution as a leader in agricultural research and environmental sustainability.

For Ibn Tofail University, this partnership with Leiden University represents an exceptional opportunity to strengthen its research and innovation capacities in the crucial field of sustainable agriculture. Through this strategic partnership, the university will gain access to new resources, share cutting-edge knowledge and technology, and contribute significantly to addressing the environmental and food challenges facing the region.

Sustainable Initiatives

Projects

Study of Appropriate Technologies for the Conversion of Organic Waste and Biomass into Renewable Energy and Sustainable Bio-Fertilizer

Funding Partners: CNRST- Ibn Tofail University – Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University– Hassan 1St University.

Description:
The university catering sector is one of the largest producers of bio-waste from food. The enormous amount of waste poses a risk to the environment and public health if it is thrown directly into the environment. Anaerobic digestion is a possible solution for the better management of this type of food waste.

Project Objectives:
Design of a pilot prototype for the methanization of organic waste from the university restaurant in Kenitra.
Project beneficiaries: Restaurants

Means necessary for the realization of the project:

- Human resources: Biomass and Biogas Energy Team, Faculty of Sciences Kenitra-Morocco: Professors, Doctors, and PhD Students. Environmental Biotechnology Team, Biotechnology Laboratory, Sidi Mohamed Benabdellah University: Professors, PhD Students and Students.
- Material resources: CSTR Digester and Scientific laboratory equipment.

Project Status: Prototype, Sample

Project Assessment:

- Innovative aspect: A first university-scale digester for waste treatment
- Environmental Impact: Treatment of university restaurant waste, reduction of greenhouse gases and production of renewable energy
- Development prospects: Pilot scale, capacity expansion, diversification of treatment and recovery types
- Sustainability prospects: Provide the university restaurant with a prototype for processing their waste.



Sustainable Initiatives

MEDGOAT: Goat farming systems characterization and novel strategies to sustain production in the changing climate scenario in the Mediterranean regions

MEDGOAT, a project set to run from September 1, 2023, to August 8, 2026, holds a crucial mission to equip pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Mediterranean region with the necessary tools to combat climate change and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The project's vision is not just a goal but a significant step towards enhancing the sustainability of agriculture and the associated value chain of species better suited to agro-pastoral systems and climate change, with a particular focus on goats.
MEDGOAT's primary goals are as follows:

- Provide agro-pastoral communities and policymakers with the necessary knowledge to refocus on local goat breeds as livestock;
- Preserve and rehabilitate the pastoral ecosystem;
- Improve landscape management;
- Boost the livelihoods of rural Mediterranean areas.

MEDGOAT will also address the need for more information on local goat breeds, their resilience to climate change, the nutritional value of alternative food resources, and their potential effects on ruminal function.

Demonstration and outreach activities will be organized in Tunisia and Morocco to raise awareness and provide crucial technical support. These activities will include information on the limits of inclusion and feeding practices for new nutritional sources and guidelines for managing these new feeds, ensuring that the communities are not alone in this journey.

Funding Partners:

Country	PI name	Organisation
FRANCE	Lotfi Abdennebi-Najar* (Coordinator)	IDELE - Institut de l'Elevage
	Jean Joseph Minvel	INRAE - L'Institut national de la recherche agronomique
SPAIN	Sonia Andrés	CSIC - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Italy	Fabrizio Cecilani	UMIL - Università degli Studi di Milano
Portugal	David Pereira	UPFP - University of Porto, Faculty of Pharmacy
Tunisia	Hanen Falfah	LPAM - Centre de Biotechnologies de Borj Cédria
	Hichem Ben Salem	INRAT - National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia
	Henda Hannefi	OEP - Office de l'élevage et des Pâturages
	Nahla Zghonda	SBSV - Société Boudjebel S.A. VACPA
Morocco	Tahar Srairi	HAVMI - Hassan II Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Institut
	Youssef Aboussalen	LIT - Biology and Health Laboratory, Ibn Tofail University, Kenit
	Said Chatibi	AMOC - Association Nationale Ovine et Caprine



Sustainable Initiatives

Olive tree adaptation

Project Title:
Olive Tree Adaptation to Climate Change: Using Genomics and Association Genetics for Varietal Selection (ClimGenOlive)

Duration: 2022-2025

Objectives:

- Flowering Processes: Study the biological processes of flowering (induction, cold/heat needs, flowering rate) to define the main phenological traits, enabling classification of varieties by temperature needs.

- Drought Adaptation: Analyze the structural and functional traits ensuring water status maintenance, vital for the physiological and productive integrity of olive trees.

- Genomics and Genetics: Identify genomic regions associated with key adaptive traits (cold/flowering requirements, drought tolerance) to create genomic markers for local resource characterization and selection of climate-resilient genotypes.

Funding Partners:
Ministry of Higher Education, Hassan II Scientific Academy, Cadi Ayyad University, Ibn Tofail University, National Agronomic Research Institute.

I**mpact:**

- Research Impact: Improved understanding of flowering biology, temperature requirements, and eco-physiological responses to drought. Identification of genes for olive adaptation to cold and water deficits, with markers for adaptive phenotypes.

- Application Impact: Classification of 200+ Mediterranean olive varieties by flowering dates, cold needs, and drought tolerance. Selection of elite varieties suited to cold and drought, creation of reliable genomic markers for genetic resource management, and adaptation mapping for Moroccan Picholine across bioclimatic gradients.



Sustainable Initiatives

ActinOmics: Bioprospecting and Genomics of Actinobacteria Isolated from the Marchica Lagoon

Funding Partners:

- Morocco: MESRSI (Direction of Scientific Research and Innovation)
- Switzerland: The Leading House for the Middle East and North Africa (LHMENA)

Description:

The ActinOmicsproject, proposed as part of the cooperation program between Switzerland and Morocco, is an original and innovative initiative to study the biotechnological potential of a unique ecosystem: the Marchica Lagoon. The isolation of new indigenous strains will lead to the discovery of novel natural compounds with potential therapeutic applications. Furthermore, the project will provide the first scientific insights into the microbial biodiversity of this unexplored habitat through an in-depth genomic analysis of selected actinobacteria strains.

Expected Outcomes:

This project will expand current scientific knowledge and provide new data on the microbial biodiversity of Moroccan aquatic environments, specifically the Marchica Lagoon. Exploring these habitats will facilitate their valorization through the discovery of biotechnologically relevant compounds with applications in various technological fields, including therapeutics.

Activities Undertaken:

- A sampling campaign was conducted in December 2023.
- Preliminary screening of actinobacteria isolates was performed to determine their capacity to produce bioactive molecules.
- Morphological and cultural isolates were characterized, along with partial sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene.

Scientific, Environmental, and Economic Impact:

This project is designed to significantly contribute to the scientific community by providing new insights into the microbiological biodiversity of the Marchica Lagoon. It also aims to exploit the biotechnological potential of this marine environment as a source of novel, potentially valuable molecules, especially for applications related to human health. Moreover, the project is not just about scientific discovery. It aims to generate significant socio-economic benefits, adding value through enhancing the efficiency of academic research and aligning it with environmental, economic, and social concerns. This alignment ensures that our work will have a positive impact beyond the scientific realm.



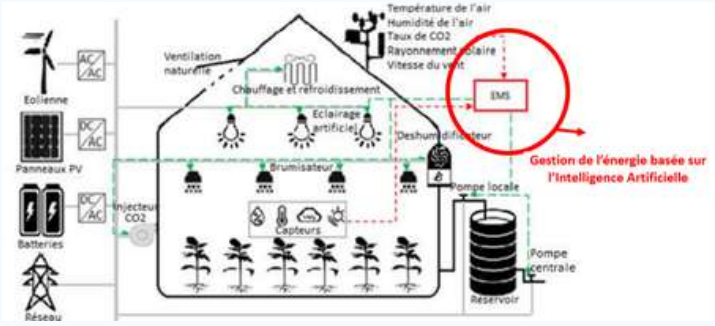
Sustainable Initiatives

Advanced Control System for intelligent and Sustainable Management of Connected Agricultural Greenhouses Linked to Hybrid Microgrids

Among the 61 projects selected as part of the Multidisciplinary Research Project Call (APRD), jointly initiated by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, the OCP Foundation, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, and the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research, stands out the project from the Advanced Systems Engineering Laboratory (LISA). From 2022 to 2025, this project is titled 'Advanced Control System for Intelligent and Sustainable Management of Connected Agricultural Greenhouses Linked to Hybrid Microgrids.

The main objective of this project is to design and validate an intelligent management product for a network of greenhouses connected to a hybrid microgrid. This objective will be achieved by implementing an innovative centralized predictive control algorithm that considers stochastic production models and advanced predictions based on artificial intelligence.

A management platform for the system, utilizing Machine Learning, will enable real-time monitoring of the greenhouses' bioclimatic indicators.
The system will be equipped with optimized control and decision-making modules for heterogeneous energy systems that host various renewable energy sources, smart greenhouses, energy storage devices, pumps, water tanks, smart meters, and sensors. The main objective is to facilitate the transition to precision and smart agriculture by developing integrated information and control technologies based on consistent data analysis and high-performance control systems.



Sustainable Initiatives

Vegetable Tanning

This project is for the characterization and improvement of the tanning process in the craft sector.

Objective:

This project aims to characterize and improve the tanning process to enhance leather quality and competitiveness in the craft sector, addressing issues like raw material control and process operations.

Through research and development, the project will refine tanning methods, producing higher-quality leather.

Activities:

- Literature review and analysis of existing tanning processes
- Development of technical protocols and lab experiments
- Field visits, plant sampling, and tannin extraction
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Crafts, and Social Economy

Expected Impacts:

- Scientific: Research on natural tanning agents could yield new sources of tannins, better process efficiency, and advanced understanding of plant-skin interactions.
- Environmental: Improving vegetable tanning reduces pollutants and minimizes chemical use, promoting eco-friendly practices.
- Economic: Enhanced process efficiency will lower production costs, boost artisans' competitiveness, and tap into eco-conscious markets, supporting local economies and fostering circular economy principles.



Sustainable Initiatives

PROMEDRICE

PROMEDRICE aims to develop and promote the adoption of innovative and environmentally friendly agricultural practices and to produce evidence to support policymakers in making decisions regarding water resource management.

The main objective of PROMEDRICE is to develop and promote the adoption of site-specific agricultural practices that reduce contamination and salinization of soils and water bodies while maintaining or improving water use efficiency and productivity in rice agroecosystems.

The project will identify and quantify the primary pollutants affecting surface water and groundwater concerning rice production under specific pedological and environmental conditions. Effective and sustainable agricultural practices will be developed and demonstrated to reduce water pollution risks and salinization in seven case studies across the Mediterranean region, from Turkey and Egypt in the East to Portugal and Spain in the West.

Detailed studies on soil salinity management will be conducted in cases where it is a significant issue for rice cultivation (namely, Spain, Egypt, and Morocco).
The trade-offs between salts and nitrates leached with vertical water flows, salt accumulation, and the reuse of nitrates through recirculation concerning surface drainage.
The ultimate goal is to identify on-farm management solutions to minimize the effects of nitrate leaching and salinization of water and its pollution while also addressing rice productivity.

The consideration of on-site water treatment methods, such as chemical or electromagnetic techniques, will be assessed when restoring water quality. Economic sustainability and social acceptability will be evaluated to ensure the profitability of rice production.

Sustainable Initiatives

Treatment of Industrial Effluents With High Pollutant Loads Through Biomethanation

The Rabat Salé Kénitra (RSK) region, due to its prominent position as an agricultural area, is characterized by sustained demographic and economic growth, hosting numerous agri-food industries. However, this industrial expansion has consequences, as these industries are often criticized for being significant polluters.

An example that highlights this issue is the effluents produced by the Gharb Molasses Processing Company (Sotrameg). These effluents are known for their high levels of COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) and BOD5 (Biochemical Oxygen Demand over five days), reaching levels of approximately 60,000 mg/L and 40,000 mg/L, respectively. When these industrial effluents are discharged into the sewage system, they combine with domestic wastewater, leading to a significant adverse impact on groundwater and soil quality.

The fundamental objective of this project is to conduct a comprehensive study on the treatment and valorization of industrial effluents from a food alcohol production unit that uses molasses as a raw material, a by-product of the sugar industry.
This innovative initiative aims to evaluate the feasibility of biomethanation as a treatment method, targeting biogas production while generating a valuable by-product in the form of a biofertilizer that can be used in agriculture.

The biomethanation process relies on Saccharomyces cerevisiae's mesophilic fermentation of molasses, resulting in the production of biogas and the formation of ethanol as a by-product. By implementing this integrated approach, the project aims to provide a holistic and sustainable solution, thereby contributing to the mitigation of environmental issues while exploring innovative opportunities for local agriculture.



Sustainable Initiatives

Innovative Collaboration between Ibn Tofail University and the Climate-U Network

The Climate-U network, a one-of-a-kind international platform, plays a crucial role in promoting climate action and sustainable development through education and research. It brings together committed universities from around the world to combat the climate crisis.

Since its inception in February 2020, the network has experienced significant growth, expanding from its origins in the original Climate-U project, Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate. This expansion was made possible by the support of the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The Climate-U network is guided by the following objectives:

- To assess existing coverage of climate change in the curricula, research, and community engagement activities of universities in the four countries;
- To contribute to theory and understanding of the impact of higher education on climate change and sustainable development;
- To build and strengthen national, regional, and global university networks and knowledge exchange on climate change.

The network aims to strengthen climate action within each institution and create new collaborative ventures through international dialogue and exchange.
It also aims to benefit communities in four low—and middle-income countries by enhancing universities' contributions to addressing climate change.

Collaborating with other networks, it coordinates events with international stakeholders and policy-makers.

The collaborative efforts between UIT and the Climate-U network have significantly impacted the university's academic programs and research. This partnership has facilitated the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices, fostering a robust ecosystem for developing innovative solutions to combat climate change. By leveraging its international partners' diverse expertise and resources, UIT has enriched its academic programs with a strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental studies. This integration has enhanced the quality of education and equipped students with the necessary skills and perspectives to become active contributors to the global sustainability agenda.

UIT's partnership with this network is a testament to its global significance in the fight against climate change.

Climate-U
Transforming Universities
for a Changing Climate

Sustainable Initiatives

Spotlight on the Arganeraie: A Cultural and Environmental Jewel

The "Journée d'Éclat" (Day of Brilliance) event aimed to enhance global recognition of the arganeraie's exceptional value, particularly following its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2014. This designation highlighted traditional argan-related practices as intangible cultural heritage. The event focused on the arganeraie's significant ecological, cultural, and economic roles, featuring contributions from renowned specialists who explored various facets of this vital ecosystem.

The event served as a premier academic forum, bringing together experts, researchers, and doctoral students to discuss crucial topics related to the arganeraie. It provided an invaluable opportunity to share knowledge, advance research, and strengthen global recognition of the arganeraie as a major cultural and environmental heritage.

This event promotes sustainable agricultural practices and enhances the recognition of traditional knowledge related to food production. By highlighting the arganeraie's ecological and economic importance, the event supports efforts to develop resilient and sustainable food systems that contribute to global food security and sustainable development.
Ibn Tofail University participated in the Red Fruit Festival in Kenitra as part of the university's policy and commitment to promoting local agriculture and Moroccan heritage. The event was attended by many prominent figures, including Mohammed Sadiki, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water, and Forests; Dr. Mohammed Al-Arabi Karkab, President of Ibn Tofail University; and several notable figures at the national, regional, and local levels, all aiming to provide an ideal platform for exchanging knowledge and experiences, as well as promoting economic growth and sustainable practices in agriculture.
The interactive booths set up by the university as part of the festival allowed for exploring the latest developments in agriculture and biotechnology that contribute to conserving natural resources. They not only showcased advanced research in the field but also emphasized practical applications that could benefit the local agricultural community.

These initiatives are crucial for stimulating regional economic development by encouraging the adoption of innovative agricultural practices. The university helps local farmers increase production and profit, thus contributing to poverty reduction in the region. The synergy between the university and the agricultural sector is a path to achieving positive outcomes in advancing research, enhancing skills, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

In line with the aforementioned partnership alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the university supports scientific research on local agriculture through the establishment of research programs focused on sustainable innovation, which also includes encouraging projects that enhance agricultural diversity. In addition to all that has been mentioned, universities can direct their research to align with the United Nations goals, such as eradicating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture, thereby ensuring inclusive development.



Sustainable Initiatives

Climate, Environment, and Health: Scientific Dialogue for Sustainable and Inclusive Territories



From November 27 to 29, 2025, the Faculty of Sciences at Ibn Tofail University hosted the 3rd edition of the Scientific Days of the Environment, an international conference held in Kenitra and at the Exotic Gardens of Rabat. Organized under the theme "Climate, Environment and Health: For Sustainable, Green and Inclusive Territorial Development," the event brought together researchers, academics, experts, and practitioners to engage in collective reflection on the environmental and health challenges shaping contemporary societies.



The conference highlighted the growing interconnection between climate change, environmental conditions, and human health, particularly within local and regional contexts. Scientific discussions highlighted how climate variability, environmental degradation, and pollution are directly influencing ecosystems, living conditions, and public health. Through these exchanges, the event emphasized the urgent need to rethink development pathways in a way that balances environmental protection with social well-being.

Throughout the sessions, participants explored environmental challenges such as the degradation of natural resources, waste accumulation, ecosystem vulnerability, and environmental risks affecting communities. These issues were examined not only from a scientific standpoint, but also through their concrete implications for territories and populations. The discussions underscored the importance of sustainable management of water, soil, and natural ecosystems, as well as the preservation of fragile environments, including coastal and terrestrial areas.





A defining strength of this third edition was the interactive dimension of the conference. The event fostered open dialogue between researchers, professionals, and institutional actors, enabling the exchange of experiences and perspectives across disciplines. These interactions allowed participants to connect scientific research with real environmental challenges, encouraging thoughtful discussion on how knowledge can support territorial planning, environmental governance, and informed decision-making.

The conference also served as a space for proposing practical orientations and solutions. Participants stressed the importance of preventive approaches to environmental and health risks, the adoption of responsible and sustainable practices adapted to local realities, and the integration of scientific expertise into public and environmental policies. Collaboration between universities, institutions, and civil society was repeatedly highlighted as a key factor for ensuring long-term and inclusive environmental solutions.



Health remained a central concern throughout the discussions, reinforcing the idea that environmental protection and human well-being are inseparable. The exchanges emphasized that sustainable development must place people at its core, recognizing that environmental policies are effective only when they contribute to improved living conditions while safeguarding ecosystems for future generations.

By combining academic spaces with ecological settings, the Scientific Days of the Environment conveyed a strong message: science must remain closely connected to nature, territories, and society. This third edition illustrated the essential role of universities in fostering dialogue, responsibility, and engagement around major environmental and societal challenges.

Sustainable Initiatives

Event: May 10–11, 2025
Partners : Faculty of Sciences of Kenitra, Ibn Tofail University – Mohammed VI Foundation for Research and the Safeguarding of Argan Tree – The Commune of Idaougomad – Ibn Zohr University of Agadir – UNESCO
"In every branch of the argan tree lies a story of resilience, and in every drop of its oil, flows the wisdom of generations."
Morocco recently witnessed a meaningful celebration honoring one of its most iconic natural treasures. On May 10 and 11, 2025, the International Day of the Argan Tree was celebrated in Idaougomad, located in the province of Taroudant. This significant event was organized by the Faculty of Sciences of Kenitra – Ibn Tofail University, in partnership with Mohammed VI Foundation for Research and the Safeguarding of the Argan Tree, the commune of Idaougomad, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, and UNESCO. Held under the theme: "The World of the Argan Tree: Five Years Before the 2030 Goal," the celebration aimed to reflect on the progress made and the path forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It emphasized the importance of strengthening collective efforts to protect biodiversity and preserve cultural heritage.
The argan tree (Argania spinosa), native to southwestern Morocco, is much more than a botanical marvel; it represents a cultural and ecological legacy. Recognized for its resilience in arid climates and its role in preventing desertification, the argan tree symbolizes the harmony between humans and nature. Its oil is valued worldwide for its nutritional and cosmetic benefits. More importantly, it provides crucial economic support to thousands of rural families, especially women, who manage cooperatives focused on its cultivation and processing. These cooperatives not only create income but also act as centers for women's empowerment and inclusive development.
Recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the argan tree embodies traditional knowledge, environmental adaptation, and national identity. At a time when climate change threatens natural ecosystems, protecting such unique species is a global imperative. In this context, the 2025 celebration in Idaougomad served as a dynamic platform for raising awareness, sharing scientific insight, and promoting sustainable action.
This year's event also highlighted the increasing role of universities and scientific institutions in addressing environmental challenges. Ibn Tofail University, through its Faculty of Sciences and strategic partnerships, continues to invest in research, education, and public engagement. Events like this one are part of a broader movement to connect science with society and link ancestral wisdom with modern innovation. The involvement of UNESCO and Ibn Zohr University further underlined the synergy between local commitment and global environmental agendas.
As the 2030 deadline for the global sustainable development agenda approaches, the argan tree stands out as a powerful symbol of what can be accomplished through unity, long-term vision, and persistent effort. Its impact extends well beyond the environment, supporting climate resilience, promoting gender equity, strengthening rural economies, and preserving biodiversity. The theme "Five Years Before the 2030 Goal" presented a valuable opportunity to connect more deeply with the progress made so far, to analyze the actions already taken critically, and to reflect on how to reinforce efforts moving forward.







Sustainable Initiatives

National Scientific Symposium at Ibn Tofail University: In-Depth Reflections on the Sustainability of Natural Resources in Morocco

by CAPS Training and Workshops Edit Ibn Tofail University had the honor of organizing a large-scale national scientific event focused on the sustainability challenges of natural resources in Morocco. This initiative brought together experts, researchers, and decision-makers from the country to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources, in a context where environmental issues are of increasing global importance.

During this event, in-depth debates took place, highlighting the specific challenges that Morocco faces in managing natural resources, as well as the promising strategies and initiatives underway to ensure their long-term sustainability. Participants had the opportunity to exchange their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, aiming to strengthen collaboration and propose innovative solutions to address the environmental challenges facing the country.

The impact of this event on Ibn Tofail University is significant. As a leading academic institution, it has solidified its role as a leader in promoting research and expertise in environmental sustainability. Moreover, this event has enhanced the university's visibility on the national and international stage, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development and its driving role in addressing the environmental challenges facing Morocco.



Sustainable Initiatives

A Campus in Bloom: When Ibn Tofail University Plants Seeds of Change

Event : 22 April 2025

On April 22, 2025, in celebration of Earth Day, Ibn Tofail University came alive with green energy as students, staff, and volunteers gathered for a collective tree-planting initiative under the banner "Campus Vert 2025."



With no experience needed, just motivation and a smile, participants rolled up their sleeves to plant trees and flowers across the university grounds. The result: a vibrant, greener campus and a powerful message about environmental responsibility.
Students from diverse academic backgrounds worked side by side, united by a shared commitment to nature and sustainability. Beyond planting greenery, this initiative fostered a spirit of cooperation, volunteerism, and environmental awareness among the university community.
"Campus Vert 2025" was more than just a gardening day. It was a meaningful reminder that change starts with small, tangible actions and that universities can be fertile ground for both education and ecological impact.
Ibn Tofail University once again affirmed its role as a space not only for learning, but for living responsibly and acting collectively for a better future.





Sustainable Initiatives

Grand Voyage 2.0 "Rifq": A Journey of Compassion, Action, and Animal Protection

Date: April 13, 2025

Some initiatives go beyond activity reports and numbers; they become acts of humanity. On April 13, 2025, the Green Act Club, a student club affiliated with Ibn Tofail University, launched "Rifq, a large-scale humanitarian initiative driven by compassion, responsibility, and a deep sense of solidarity toward those who cannot seek help for themselves, as part of "The Grand Voyage 2.0".

This initiative was designed as a concrete response to the vulnerability and neglect of animals. Rather than limiting its impact to awareness, the project focused on direct action, on-site intervention, and sustainable support. The destination was Tangier, where the club supported Sanctuary for Tangier (SFT), a refuge that works daily to protect and care for abandoned and mistreated animals under challenging conditions.

One of the major actions carried out during this mission was the organization of a veterinary caravan, conducted in collaboration with IVSA IAV, the International Veterinary Students' Association branch of the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II. This student-led organization brings together veterinary students committed to animal health, welfare, and ethical veterinary practice. The caravan provided medical examinations, treatments, and essential veterinary care for the animals housed at the shelter. For many of them, this intervention represented their first real access to professional medical attention, helping relieve pain, prevent disease, and restore basic health and dignity.

In parallel, the members of the Green Act Club actively contributed to the reorganization and rehabilitation of the shelter's spaces. This included physical labor aimed at improving the living environment of the animals, enhancing safety, cleanliness, and comfort. Wooden pallets were installed to optimize the layout of the shelter and create more suitable and structured areas for rest and movement, reflecting a practical and sustainable approach to space improvement.

The initiative also included a significant distribution of donations in kind, consisting of dry and wet animal food valued at over 60,000 Moroccan dirhams. These supplies ensured food security for the shelter over an extended period and reduced the daily operational pressure faced by the refuge. In addition, medications and clothing were provided for the shelter's staff, recognizing their continuous efforts and supporting the human resources behind animal protection work.

Beyond the tangible actions, the Grand Voyage 2.0 "Rifq" was a profoundly human experience. Through direct contact with the realities of animal suffering and rescue, the members of the club were confronted with the urgency of compassion translated into action. The mission strengthened team spirit, reinforced shared values, and deepened the understanding that solidarity is not an abstract concept, but a daily commitment built through presence, effort, and responsibility.







Sustainable Initiatives

Harnessing Nature: Phytotherapy for Stress Relief and Cognitive Enhancement

In a world increasingly marked by stress and mental fatigue, many are turning to natural remedies for relief. Phytotherapy, the use of plant-based treatments, has emerged as a promising solution. Researchers at Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra have recently conducted a groundbreaking study, presented on October 1st, 2024, exploring the potential of herbal remedies in alleviating mild stress and improving cognitive performance.

The Science Behind Phytotherapy

Phytotherapy involves harnessing the therapeutic properties of plants to support physical and mental health. Unlike synthetic medications, herbal remedies often have fewer side effects and can provide holistic benefits. With stress and cognitive challenges becoming global concerns, the potential of medicinal plants is garnering significant scientific interest.

The Researchers and Their Mission

A dedicated team of experts—Imane Kherrab, Miloud Chakit, Amina Ez-Znafry, Abdelhalem Mesfioui, and Aboubaker Elhessni—led this study with a clear vision: to offer natural, effective alternatives to conventional treatments for stress and cognitive impairments. Their work focused on plants known for their calming and brain-boosting properties, aiming to validate these remedies through rigorous scientific methods.

Looking Ahead

The research team from Ibn Tofail University hopes their work will inspire further studies and investments in phytotherapy. Beyond stress management, medicinal plants hold potential for addressing a range of health issues, from insomnia to chronic fatigue and beyond.

The official presentation of these findings, held on October 1, 2024, marks a pivotal moment in the field of natural medicine.

The event, hosted at Ibn Tofail University, promises to spark discussions and collaborations among researchers, healthcare professionals, and the public.

Conclusion

As society grapples with the pressures of modern life, turning to nature for solutions feels both intuitive and innovative. The work of these researchers reminds us of the untapped potential of plants, urging us to explore and embrace their benefits for a healthier, more balanced life.



Sustainable Initiatives

Creation of the National Thematic Institute for Scientific Research on Water: A Key Step Forward

On 14 October, 2024, marked a landmark event for scientific research in Morocco, the President of Ibn Tofail University, in the presence of the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation, signed an agreement to establish the National Thematic Institute for Scientific Research on Water. This new institute is set to become a cornerstone in advancing water-related research, addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time: water resource management and sustainability.

The creation of the institute marks a pivotal moment for national research efforts. It aims to pool expertise, resources, and research initiatives from across Morocco, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists, engineers, and policymakers. This strategic synergy will enhance the country's capacity to tackle water scarcity, ensure efficient use of water resources, and develop innovative solutions to meet the demands of growing populations and climate challenges.

Addressing a Critical Issue

Water scarcity is a global concern, but it holds particular significance for regions like Morocco, where climate variability and increasing demands place immense pressure on water supplies. The new institute will prioritize research in areas such as:

- Sustainable water management technologies.
- Climate change impacts on water availability.
- Wastewater treatment and reuse.
- Policy frameworks for equitable water distribution.

By consolidating efforts under a single thematic umbrella, the institute will play a critical role in translating research into actionable strategies to safeguard water resources for future generations.

The signing ceremony highlighted the commitment of Moroccan academia and government to address key developmental challenges. The Minister of Higher Education praised the initiative, emphasizing its alignment with the nation's strategic priorities for sustainable development and innovation. The President of Ibn Tofail University also expressed his enthusiasm, noting the institution's proud tradition of fostering groundbreaking research and its readiness to lead this vital initiative.

SDG 15

Conclusion

In conclusion, the efforts undertaken by Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra in favor of Sustainable Development Goal 15 reflect its deep commitment to preserving biodiversity and the sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems. The innovative projects, partnerships established with external stakeholders, and internal initiatives demonstrate the university's willingness to play a proactive role in protecting our planet. By continuing on this path, our institution actively contributes to building a future where the harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature is at the heart of our concerns.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

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LET'S PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS!
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