

Goal 15. Life on Land.

«Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss».



International Day of Forests



<https://karazin.ua/en/news/mizhnarodnyi-den-lisiv/>

On March 21, the world celebrates the International Day of Forests. This memorable date was introduced by the UN General Assembly on November 28, 2012, and its first celebration took place in 2013. The main purpose of this memorable day is to remind humanity of the need to protect and preserve the forest resources of our planet.

Today, about 30% of the world's land is covered by forests, and the plants and animals that live in them account for up to 80% of the world's biodiversity. Forests play a key role in stabilizing the Earth's climate, providing food, water and medicine to billions of people. The 13th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations ("Mitigating the effects of climate change") is linked to forest conservation.

Vasyl Karazin, the founder of Kharkiv University and a prominent Ukrainian naturalist, was concerned about the preservation of forests in the first half of the nineteenth century. In his writings, he proved the favorable impact of forests on the climate and water balance of rivers, called for the protection of forests from ill-considered deforestation, pointed out the need to plant trees in beams and ravines, and to reforest sandy areas unsuitable for agriculture, thus organically combining environmental issues with economic ones. The educator also became one of the pioneers of steppe reforestation and in his writings gave advice on the optimal selection of tree crops, soil selection, etc.



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Geologist's Day: the University celebrates

On the first Sunday of April, Ukraine celebrates Geologist's Day. This professional holiday of geology, geodesy and cartography was introduced in 1995 in accordance with the Decree of the President of Ukraine. At the same time, this day is also the Day of the School of Geology, Geography, Recreation and Tourism of Karazin University.

Karazin University has a long tradition in the field of earth sciences. Even its founder Vasyl Karazin collected and classified fossil specimens and tried to investigate their origin. Over many subsequent decades, powerful scientific schools were formed at the university: paleontological, mineralogical and petrographic, lithological, physical geography and cartography, socio-economic geography and regional studies.



<https://karazin.ua/en/news/den-heoloha-universytet-vidznachaie/>

The results of scientific research and practical activities of the faculty members and graduates are not only of great theoretical but also of particular practical importance. After all, the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, which Karazin University shares, include the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, the fight against desertification, stopping land degradation and ensuring their restoration.



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International Mother Earth Day

This date was first celebrated on April 22, 2010, at the initiative of the UN General Assembly. However, the history of the holiday began much earlier.

In 1971, one of the US senators, Gaylord Nelson, proposed the idea of celebrating an annual Earth Week, as at that time the US celebrated Arbor Day on April 22, and in 2010, the International Mother Earth Day was officially celebrated for the first time. The UN resolution states that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and provide life for humanity.

The International Mother Earth Day reminds each of us that the planet and its ecosystems ensure our existence, and provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world about the issues that affect the well-being of our planet and all living things it supports.

On this occasion, Ukrainian communities abroad and foreigners from different parts of the world will hold the #StopEcocideUkraine campaign. On April 21-23, residents of all six continents of the planet: Eurasia, North and South America, Africa, Australia, and Ukrainian polar explorers from the Academician Vernadsky station in Antarctica, including Karazin University graduates, will form a human chain of unity to draw attention to the environmental crimes that Russia is committing during its war against Ukraine.



<https://karazin.ua/en/news/mizhnarodnyi-den-materi-zemli/>



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International Day for Biological Diversity

On December 20, 2000, the UN General Assembly declared May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity. On this day, the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted.

This holiday draws public attention to the conservation of biodiversity as the basis for sustaining life, as biodiversity is the basis for the many benefits that ecosystems provide to people.

Today we once again recall the need to preserve biodiversity and recognise our responsibility to protect this precious heritage for present and future generations.

At Karazin University, scientists of the School of Biology carry out diverse and multidisciplinary work in this area, in particular, practical environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, eco-education and eco-promotion.



<https://karazin.ua/en/news/mizhnarodnyi-den-biologichnoho-riznomanittia/>



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European Day of Parks



Every year on May 24, Europe celebrates the Day of Parks. The holiday was established in 1999 by the Europark Federation, which unites protected areas in 36 European countries.

The European Day of Parks symbolizes international solidarity in the protection of natural areas, which are one of the greatest values of the planet and have accumulated the cultural heritage of several centuries. Preserving such natural areas is considered a duty of humanity.

<https://karazin.ua/en/news/yevropeiskyi-den-parkiv/>



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Kharkiv Green Urban Fest 2023

On June 17, 2023, Kharkiv Green Urban Fest 2023 was held at the Yermilov Center of Karazin University as part of the international research project Fusilli (Fostering the Urban Food System Transformation through Innovative Living Labs Implementation). This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement №101000717.

The festival participants had the opportunity to listen to a lecture from the Karazin University's Educational and Research Institute of Ecology on "Retrospection of Kharkiv's Urban Space Development: Reflections on the Past for a Green Future," which focused on the urbanized spaces of Kharkiv and green infrastructure.

The next lecture was given by Anna Prokaieva, head of the Center for Public and Media Initiatives and head of Kharkiv Zero Waste, about waste management and governance. Anna told the participants about packaging, separate collection, responsible consumption, and public composting. Ruslan Zaporozhchenko, a junior researcher at the Fusilli project and senior lecturer at the Department of Political Sociology, also told the participants about food in movies and TV shows, the influence of culture and society on eating habits.



<https://karazin.ua/en/news/kharkiv-green-urban-fest-2023/>



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Karazin University participates in a project aimed at solving the problem of chemical pollution in war-torn Ukraine

Researchers from Karazin University and the University of York are launching a new joint project aimed at solving a number of pollution problems faced by Ukraine during the war.

The project "Kharkiv-York Partnership Towards a Zero Pollution Environment in Post-War Ukraine" is the result of a partnership between Karazin University and the University of York, launched as part of the Twinning initiative, which involves higher education institutions from across the United Kingdom and aims to support researchers, students and leaders of Ukrainian universities during the war.



<https://karazin.ua/news/karazinskyi-mdash-uchasnyk-proiektu-spriamovanoho-na-rozv/>

The goal of the project is to create a community of researchers with the skills and knowledge necessary to analyze the terrible consequences of war-related chemical pollution and develop ways to clean up Ukraine's natural environment.



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Karazin University, in collaboration with the University of York, participated in a seminar as part of the Kharkiv-York Partnership Towards a Zero Pollution Environment in Post-War Ukraine project



On August 29-30, 2023, a seminar was held at the University of York in the UK as part of the Kharkiv-York Partnership Towards a Zero Pollution Environment in Post-War Ukraine project, which was attended by 14 PhD students and Karazin University professors.

The seminar was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, Professor Abrose Field, Director of the Centre for New Crops at the University of York, Professor Neil Bruce, Project Manager from the University of York, Professor Alistair Boxall, and researchers from the Conflict and Environment Observatory, Anna McKeon and Johan Darbyshire. Karazin University was represented by Vice-Rector for Research and Teaching, Professor Borys Samorodov, Acting Head of the Department of Ecology and Environmental Management, Professor Andrii Achasov, and Director of the Education and Research Institute of Ecology, Associate Professor Hanna Titenko.

The seminar discussed ways to achieve an ecologically clean environment in post-war Ukraine, including the creation of transgenic plants for phytoremediation of explosives contamination. They discussed the possibilities of conducting joint research and training with the University of York to find ways to combat environmental pollution, as well as the specifics of assessing and restoring Ukrainian soils that were contaminated as a result of military operations. They also focused on prioritizing and finding funding for future joint projects.

<https://karazin.ua/en/news/karazinskyi-spilno-z-nbsp-universytetom-iorka-vziav-uchast-u/>



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Finalizing the project "Recording the damage caused to the natural complexes of the Kharkiv region as a result of the war"



The experts of the Karazin Education and Research Institute of Ecology, as part of the working group of the NGO Environmental Geographic Information Systems of Ukraine, have completed their work on the project "Recording the damage caused to natural complexes of the Kharkiv region as a result of the war". The research was conducted within the framework of the Initiative for the Development of Environmental Policy and Advocacy in Ukraine, implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation with financial support from Sweden.

The territory of the Kharkiv region, where active hostilities were conducted from February 24, 2022 to October 15, 2022, was surveyed. The total area surveyed was 21,063 km².

In the course of the work, approximately more than 17,000 satellite images were examined. Based on the results of satellite image interpretation, more than 61 thousand craters formed as a result of ammunition hits were recorded. The results of the work are presented on the open geospatial data portal EcoSpace.

<https://ecology.karazin.ua/news/zavershennja-roboti-nad-proiektom-fiksacija-shkodi-zavdanoi-prirodnim-kompleksam-harkivskoi-oblasti-vnaslidok-vijni/>



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The Museum of Nature



The State Museum of Nature of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University is one of the oldest museums in Europe, a major scientific, educational and training center of Ukraine, which is engaged in exhibition, research, and educational work, and promotes scientific and environmental knowledge.

<https://karazin.ua/en/kultura/muzei-prirodi/>



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