

EXTENDED INFORMATION OF NAMANGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ON SDG 14

On May 24–25, 2024, Namangan State University hosted the I International Conference on the topic **“Conservation of Biodiversity in Central Asia: Problems, Solutions, and Prospects”**.

The main strategic goal of the conference was to identify current and future problems related to biodiversity, facilitate the exchange of modern knowledge and experience, and develop strategies for biodiversity conservation in Central Asia. Additionally, the conference aimed to consolidate the scientific research of scholars, exchange expertise on biodiversity issues in modern science, and pass this experience on to young researchers.

The conference also focused on supporting talented youth studying in higher education, promoting their participation in international integration processes, strengthening innovative cooperation, and analyzing, evaluating, and encouraging the innovative ideas and developments of young researchers engaged in scientific work.

Key topics discussed included:

- Modern research on biodiversity in Central Asia, achievements, and pressing issues;
- Conservation of Central Asian flora and fauna and prospects for their sustainable use;
- Regional problems in biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization.

The conference also provided a platform for exchanging ideas on the challenges and solutions for implementing the innovative ideas and projects of talented youth studying in higher education institutions in Uzbekistan.

The conference was closely aligned with the **Vth priority direction of the development of science and technology in the Republic: “Agriculture, Biotechnology, Ecology, and Environmental Protection.”**

During the conference, doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, and independent scientists presented and discussed their research work, leading to the preparation of scientific conclusions and recommendations.

The conference was attended by the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, leading specialists from the Botany Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Institute of Genetics and Experimental Plant Biology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as distinguished scientists, professors, lecturers, and talented youth from other higher education institutions, along with young researchers from scientific research institutes and centers.

The conference was opened by Dilshodjon Sattorjonovich Kholmatov, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of Namangan State University. Key plenary presentations at the international scientific conference were delivered by:

- Academic Komiljon Sharobitdinovich Tojiboyev, Director of the Botany Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, Islam Nortashevich Khushvaqtoev and Moxira Mirzaaxmedovna Khodjayeva;
- Professor Liu Danhui from the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences;
- Professor Sergey Volis from Negev Ben Gurion University (Israel);
- PhD Brett Wilson, member of the Specialist Group on Wild Tulips, Species Survival Commission, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, Cambridge, UK) (online);
- Professor Rahman Ghaffarzadekan from Concordia University (Montreal, Canada);
- Professor Faxriddin Ne'matullayevich Kushanov, Head of Laboratory, Institute of Genetics and Experimental Plant Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the sectional meetings, representatives of various institutes under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, local and foreign specialists, highly qualified professionals, as well as professors and lecturers participated both online and offline. Four sections were conducted within the conference framework, during which over 50 presentations were delivered. Scientific research projects conducted by doctoral students, master's students, and talented young students were actively discussed.

At the conclusion of the conference, agreements were reached to involve young researchers, doctoral students, independent researchers, and talented students in plant breeding and other promising scientific research topics, and to strengthen cooperation with various organizations in science and industry.



