

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence
University

**ALIGNMENT OF ACTIONS
TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY
WITH SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF
SRI LANKA**

2021

09. ALIGNMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF SRI LANKA

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, it is necessary to pool resources, knowledge, and experience, including that of universities. KDU, as one of the leading higher education providers in the country, was able to assist by aligning its strategies with those of the government. KDU's progress toward certain SDGs in 2021 is highlighted in the text below.

SDG 1 - End Poverty in all forms everywhere

1. KDU, as an educational provider, helped to alleviate intergenerational poverty by providing quality education to students from low-income families.

a. More opportunities for higher education

One of the primary barriers to higher education in Sri Lanka is the inadequacy of the current system. As a result, the vast majority of students with university entrance qualifications drop out, with the exception of a few students who can afford to study overseas. In this context, KDU welcomed over 1027 new students in 2021 and graduated 1048, thereby contributing to poverty eradication through quality education.

b. Financial aid and other support to students

One of the hurdles to participation in higher education is the financial ability to attend university. KDU contributed to SDG 1 by offering significant financial aid worth 117,040,000 million rupees to 1330 of undergraduate students admitted to its degree programs in 2021. It also provided laptop computers to all students (100%).

Regardless of their family income level, all cadet officers recruited are supported by providing food, lodging, and transportation to enable them to become professional officers in the tri-services and the police.

The total number of students registered	1330
Number of students receiving financial aid	
Course fee assistance	212
Laptops	907
Food/ accommodation/ transport	211

The Vice C'hancellor's and Dean's lists also offer opportunities for brighter students to have their annual tuition fees reduced by 50% and 25%, respectively.

c. Support to International students from low or low middle-income countries

Out of 58 international students registered in degree programs in 2021, 48% of them were given partial financial aid through agreements between KDU and foreign government entities. KDU has thus contributed to SDG 1 in the region's low or low-middle-income countries.

d. Ensured employability of graduates

Graduation/degree completion rates at KDU are 100% across all degree programs, including those who received financial aid. Furthermore, KDU provides career guidance advice to students through the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) ensuring that they continue to find gainful employment.

The implementation of Quality Assurance practices in all activities linked to Teaching, Learning, and Assessment ensures the quality of the education provided. KDU continues to improve its degree programmes to obtain the accreditation, recognition of professional bodies. All curricula of KDU degree programs are designed to help students improve their entrepreneurial skills. This will allow them to launch profitable business ventures.

2. As an employer, KDU played a direct role in reducing poverty.

a. Staff recruitment from all communities

KDU has hired 137 permanent and 106 temporary employees in 2021 alone. As a result, a substantial number of households' poverty was alleviated. Through its expanding operations, KDU continues to create new job opportunities.

b. Provided staff with facilities, services, and amenities

All KDU employees are entitled to free and prioritized medical treatment at the KDU hospital. Furthermore, KDU provides free health insurance to all of its employees. Staff Welfare allowance is given to members of the welfare society to support financially in case of a death of an immediate family member. All permanent staff at KDU have access to distress loans, welfare loans, and computer loan services.

3. Community anti-poverty alleviation through its teaching hospital.

KDU's university hospital plays an important role in enhancing people's health and living standards. KDU continues to make a greater influence on the health and well-being of the community around it by opening the state-of-the-art 804-bed hospital to the general public.

SDG 2 – Zero hunger

1. Measures taken to minimize food waste generated through catering activities

KDU has taken a number of measures to reduce the amount of food waste generated from food served within the university. In Ratmalana the total number of personnel living on the campus is 890, it was estimated that 100 metric tons of food waste were generated by all catering services on campus per year. By enforcing control measures at each level of the food production process: production, handling and storage, processing, distribution, and consumption, the proportion of food wasted/discarded per person on campus was kept at 14.2 kilos per year.

2. Measures taken to minimize food insecurity.

a. Affordable food choices for all

KDU provides healthy and affordable food choices for all on campus. From day scholars to military officers and academic staff members, all meals are provided at a concessionary rate year-round. Additionally, KDU has taken measures to reduce the food prices further by preparing food on campus through its mess network and by establishing units such as the bakery.

b. Zero food insecurity among students on campus

All officer cadets who live on campus receive free meals for the duration of their stay. All other resident day scholars and foreign students are provided with all meals at reduced rates.

SDG 3 – Good health and well being

1. Free medical care to all through the University Hospital

a. Free medical care for the community

The number of patients treated (136810), clinics held (83461), and surgeries performed (6523) by the UHKDU are indicators of the KDU's contribution to promoting well-being for people of all ages. UHKDU has introduced a number of novel therapeutic systems in 2021. It has provided care for 3717 Covid-19 patients and has performed 56176 PCR tests to support government efforts to curb the pandemic.

b. Free medical care for students and employees

KDU's University hospital provides free essential healthcare to all of its employees. Furthermore, their immediate family members are given the opportunity to receive the same treatments at UHKDU. KDU takes care of all of its international students' healthcare needs for a minimal fee. The quarantine services provided by UHKDU to inbound foreign students were completely free of charge. In addition, KDU provides comprehensive healthcare insurance to all permanent employees.

2. Research output on health and well-being

In 2021, 37% of KDU's research paper output was health-related. KDU provided 31 million rupees in grants for health-related research and development activities. In addition, conference registration, travel, paper publication support, and membership fee reimbursement totaled 2.8 million rupees.

3. Number of students graduating in health professions

For the period under consideration, KDU produced 235 graduates with degrees associated with health-related professions, including direct care practitioners such as MBBS and Nursing graduates as well as allied health professionals such as Midwifery, Radiography, Pharmacy, and Physiotherapy graduates. Therefore, out of all graduates KDU produced in 2021, 17 % were health professionals. Therefore, KDU's contribution to the healthcare sector of the country was substantial.

4. Collaborations and health services

a. Collaborations with health institutions

KDU is currently involved in 22 local and 24 international collaborations. KDU also helps the healthcare industry by developing new products and conducting research such as bioequivalence studies on generic drugs manufactured in the country. Through health-related international collaborations, KDU was able to attract \$120121 in 2021, which is a 37.5 % increase from 2020.

b. Shared sports facilities

KDU offers free access to the gymnasium and all other sporting facilities to all of its students and employees. KDU also maintains the country's tallest professionally built climbing wall, which is open to the public on request. The jogging track that circles Kandawala Lake is open to the public

year-round. Since its establishment, hundreds of residents have used the facility to stay fit and healthy.

c. Mental health support

KDU's support center continues to offer psychiatric counseling and psychotherapy to needy students and staff members. More than 250 people used the support center's services in 2021.

d. Smoke and drug-free policy

KDU maintains a strict drug and narcotic-free policy. It also maintains a very strict policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products at all indoor and outdoor campus locations.

SDG 4 – Quality education

high-quality education is the way out of inequalities. As a leading higher education provider in the country, KDU contributed to SDG 4 in a variety of ways.

1. Research publication output

One of the key indicators of the quality of education in an institution is the research publication output. In 2021, there were 224 publications in total, out of which 85 were in high impact factor indexed journals. Those publications were cited 55 times during the same period, which is an indicator of the excellence of academic output.

2. Equal opportunities for education

Since the opening of its doors to civilian students in 2012, KDU has given equal opportunities for all suitably qualified students to pursue a degree program of their choice. Students possessing either local Advanced level qualifications or equivalent foreign qualifications are allowed to join courses offered at KDU. Some of the KDU degree programmes allow for lateral entry of those with equivalent qualifications. Thus, providing inclusive and equitable higher education opportunities for all.

KDU provided 907 free laptop computers to all students who enrolled in degree programs in 2021. As a result, even during lockdowns, KDU could deliver an equitable education to all registered students.

3. Inclusiveness

KDU has a non-discrimination policy that assures that all students, regardless of race, religion, disability, or gender, have equal access to these programmes. As a result, KDU's student body includes students from all over the country and from all walks of life.

4. Quest for excellence

KDU invests its earnings in improving teaching and learning facilities, thereby fulfilling regulations imposed by professional bodies such as the IESL, CSSL, Medical council, and Nursing Council in order to obtain recognition/ accreditation for its degree programmes. Similarly, KDU participates in pathway programmes with reputable international universities in order to achieve indirect recognition for its degree programs through the acknowledgment of KDU academic credits toward foreign qualifications. The curricula of degree programs are also revised on a regular basis in order to remain relevant and increase the employability of KDU graduates.

5. Opportunities for Lifelong learning

KDU offers 13 Master and Ph.D. programmes as well as a variety of PG certificate and PG diploma programs that promote lifelong learning. The Staff Development Centre (SDC) organizes regular training and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes throughout the year for both academic and non-academic staff members. KDU also ensures that all its academic and administrative staff complete their postgraduate studies on time by granting study leave.

Professional development short courses such as English and IT offered by KDU as weekend programmes, provide its employees with opportunities for lifelong learning. All KDU employees are eligible for reduced course fees if they enroll in any of KDU's courses, ensuring equity. KDU also provides scholarships for non-academic staff to follow Diploma and Certificate courses and grant additional salary increments when they complete them successfully.

SDG 5 – Gender equality

The education of women is a key route to reducing inequality. Ensuring gender equality is also critical in tackling poverty and hunger.

1. Women in Academia and Research

a. Proportion of female academia

KDU currently employs 1149 permanent and contract employees, with 41% percent of the workforce being female, while 55% percent of the total number of academic staff members are females. These figures reflect KDU's efforts to ensure gender equity.

b. The proportion of research conducted with female authors

In 2021, 15 percent of all authors who contributed to research and publications were females. This demonstrates that women have been adequately represented as co-authors and in significant authorship positions in KDU.

c. Proportion of female academics in senior positions

During the financial year under review, there were 173 females in senior positions. During the same time period, KDU had a total of 605 senior posts available. This proves that KDU promotes women appropriately and that their leadership reflects a gender balance in key roles.

2. Proportion of female students receiving degrees

In 2021, KDU admitted 1027 students to all of its degree programs. The proportion of female students was 50%.

3. University-wide policies

a. The policy of non-discrimination against women

KDU adopts a no gender discrimination policy in all its recruitments and enrollments, thereby ensuring a healthy gender balance in all spheres.

b. Maternity and paternity policies

KDU adheres to all UGC circulars regarding maternity and paternity leaves for its academic staff members, while other applicable government circulars are followed for the other employees.

SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation

Safe water and sanitation are key foundations for good health. By managing water sustainably, KDU help preserves our water ecosystems and their biodiversity.

1. Water consumption per person

The total volume of water drawn from the mains supply by the university per year was 250142 units. The total number of employees in 2021 was 1012, together with 890 officer cadets and other personnel living on campus, the per capita water consumption per year has been estimated to be 131 units. KDU took several measures such as the complete renovation of KDU's main water holding tank and sump system and repairing of leakages/ damaged water pipes and fittings to reduce this number year on year basis.

2. Water usage and care

This section describes how KDU conserved, appropriately used, and protected the quality and quantity of water sources.

a. Wastewater treatment

Wastewater treatment plants installed at UHKDU recycle water using two different methods; biological treatment and chemical treatment reducing the environmental impact. The water thus recycled is used in landscape irrigation.

b. Preventing water system pollution

Carefully planned drainage systems and canal systems in KDU prevent polluted water from entering the water system.

c. Water-conscious building standards

Most KDU buildings are designed so that rainwater harvesting can be carried out. Water thus collected is used to irrigate foliage maintained on higher floors and to flush toilets.

3. Water reuse

Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants installed at KDU and in the Southern campus to purify water are also examples of KDU's commitment to sustainable water reuse strategies.

4. Water in the community

KDU will continue to maintain Kandawala Lake, as well as all internal water bodies and streams, exhibiting engagement activities to satisfy the community's water management needs.

SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity. KDU's progress toward energy conservation and the usage of clean renewable energy is detailed here.

1. Measures taken towards clean energy

KDU supports research on renewable energy generation. As a result, a number of researchers are working on efficient solar technology research.

a. Carbon reduction and emission reduction process

KDU encourages energy-saving measures in all of its facilities in order to lower its carbon footprint. It also preserves greenery on all of its campuses, including the late Prime Minister General Sir John Kotelawala's 48-acre garden. In addition, KDU encourages all of its campuses to generate Biogas from organic waste.

b. Reduce energy consumption and energy waste identification

To reduce overall energy consumption, KDU reviews the energy usage of all its facilities and units on a regular basis to identify areas of high energy waste and implement mitigating measures.

2. Energy use density

a. Energy usage per square meter

In all its campuses except for the university hospital, the total energy used for the year 2021 was 8985.5 Gigajoules. It was 49209.6 Gigajoules in the University Hospital totaling to 58195 Gigajoules for the year under review. In all its future plans for the expansion of available floor area, KDU has taken necessary steps such as the adoption of green building designs to minimize energy use to reduce the value further.

3. Community support to achieve energy efficiency

a. Energy efficiency services for industry

KDU assisted local industries in improving energy efficiency through consultancy services and renewable energy research.

a. Policies on clean energy use

As a matter of policy, KDU installs solar panels in all newly constructed buildings. It also installed solar energy lighting for the jogging path that circles Kandawala Lake. Solar power is being used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Engineering, the University Hospital, and the Southern Campus to reduce energy costs. As a result, KDU supported the government's renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, as well as SDG 7.

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth

1. Good employment practice

a. Decent salaries and wages

Salaries of all KDU employees are either equal or higher than government-defined rates. All KDU employees receive performance-based annual salary increments. KDU plans to introduce new technologies such as LMS and ERP to increase work efficiency. And to reduce the workload of existing employees.

b. Employment policy on discrimination

KDU maintains a strict policy on no discrimination in all its activities related to recruitment, pay, and job assignment.

c. Pay scale equity

When it comes to employee salary, KDU makes no discrimination based on gender. KDU adheres strictly to the policies of Gender equity ensuring equal opportunities and equal pay for both men and women for work of equal value.

d. Employee rights

As a responsible employer, KDU ensures the rights of its employees at all levels through clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

2. Expenditure per employee

Total university operational expenditure except for capital costs, depreciation, and interests paid for the financial year 2021 was 2438.5 million rupees. Therefore, in the year under review, the expenditure per employee was 2.14 million rupees. KDU has taken the necessary measures to lower the value in 2022 and beyond. Additionally, KDU provides free health insurance and Health Care at UHKDU for staff and their immediate family members.

3. Proportion of students taking work placements

It is important that students are given necessary exposure to the world of work. KDU provides all its students registered in Professional degrees at least three months' work placement. Therefore, in 2021, out of all the students in the final year of their professional degrees, 100% of them received work placement for more than a month.

4. Proportion of employees on contracts

Job security is one of the main factors that influence the productivity of an employee. As a university KDU ensures the job security of all permanent and performing employees. In 2021, KDU employed 106 individuals on a contract basis for both academic and non-academic positions. Therefore, in 2021, 4.4 % of employees of KDU were on contracts.

Through its expansion activities KDU not only provided opportunities for many students for higher education but also created jobs and opens up more employment opportunities for youth, contributing to the reduction of unemployability among youth.

SDG 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure

Investments in infrastructure, industry involvement, and innovation are important to achieve sustainable development. KDU has made significant strides with regard to this SDG.

1. Industrial research and innovations

a. Research with local industry partners

KDU has conducted five (05) industry-related research activities with five (05) local industries in 2021.

b. Patents applied and granted

There were 02 patent applications from various individuals of KDU and 02 patents were granted during the same period. This indicates the relevancy of KDU research to society and industry.

c. Support for industry research and innovation

KDU has increased opportunities to obtain research grants and other incentives to encourage more research and innovation. Accordingly, 3.67 million rupees worth of research grants were awarded to KDU researchers in 2021. Moreover, KDU has increased access to digital library facilities and eLibrary tools to millions of publications.

2. Research income from industry

KDU has generated 2.27 million rupees in 2021 from activities related to the industry. This shows the ability of KDU to generate new research income from the industry. It is also an indirect indicator of the confidence the industry has in KDU and its capabilities.

a. Research income from industry per academic staff

In 2021 the industry research income was 7006 rupees per academic staff member. This is an indicator of how successful KDU was at acquiring income from the industry regardless of its age and size.

3. Support for industry-oriented learning

Engineering students especially those undertaking Civil engineering degrees are trained from the beginning to adhere to resilient and sustainable infrastructure development concepts through activities. KDU also provides opportunities for students to take part in national exhibitions such as Architecture and IESL to showcase their inventions and innovations. KDU purchased 1,938 million rupees worth of lab equipment/ software and other physical resources required by faculties to further upgrade the quality of the teaching and learning environment. Similarly, by spending 15.9 million rupees KDU has established online teaching, learning and evaluation platforms using various software platforms to provide uninterrupted education during the new normal. For the first time in a university in Sri Lanka KDU has deployed Matlab®-campus-wide license by obtaining unlimited licenses for three years.

4. Resilient infrastructure

Despite the scarcity of material, the construction of new Faculty buildings for Faculties of Computing, Law, and Management, Humanities & Social Sciences, and the construction activities of the new auditorium has progressed as planned in 2021.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

KDU has maintained a welcoming environment for a diverse range of students from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. Currently, students from various nations study alongside local civil students, officer cadets, and officers. The core concept of KDU promotes cohesion and cooperation among various social strata.

1. Students from developing countries

The total number of international students both day scholars and officer cadets who received financial support to study was 43. KDU offers two fully-funded scholarships that include food, lodging, and course expenses for two students from regional countries. The list includes 20 regional countries. Under this granting mechanism, KDU received 24 cadets in 2021.

Similarly, KDU has two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the governments of Bhutan and Rwanda to admit suitably qualified students from those countries to KDU degree programs at reduced costs. There were total 125 overseas registrants, with 34.4 percent receiving financial assistance.

2. Measures against discrimination

a. Non-discriminatory admissions policy

KDU has an admission policy that was designed by senior scholars and approved by the Board of Management, ensuring non-discriminatory admissions.

b. Disability access/ support services

KDU ensures easy access for disabled people in all of its new structures by installing ramps and lifts that can accommodate wheelchairs. In addition, KDU ensures that at least one disabled toilet is available on each floor where such individuals work.

c. Freedom of Religion or Belief

KDU protects the freedom to believe and practice on all of its campuses. It has set up four (04) religious centers where Buddhists, Catholics, Muslims, and Hindus can practice their own faiths.

SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

1. Support of arts and heritage

a. Protection of national heritage

In its efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and national heritage, KDU maintains the historic walawwa and surrounding premises of former Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala. The KDU appointed a curator to keep it in the condition it was in at the time of the former Prime Minister's death. The museum is open to the public on request.

b. Public access to open spaces

Kandawala lake and the surrounding area including the jogging path are open for the public to use free of charge. This facility is maintained by KDU since the complete renovation of the lake a few years back. Moreover, when developing the master plan for the KDU Ratmalana campus, KDU made sure that ample green public spaces were maintained.

c. Arts and heritage contribution

KDU encourages and supports all faculties to organize cultural events. This also gives students a chance to showcase their skills. As a result, a variety of cultural events were held in 2021.

2. Expenditure on arts and heritage

a. Maintenance of heritage sites

The total annual expenditure to maintain walawwa and to carry out necessary repairs was 6,994,643 million rupees in 2021.

3. Sustainable practices

a. Sustainable transportation

KDU provided transportation to its employees on selected routes to commute to work during the pandemic. Plans are also in place to make this service available to all staff and students for a nominal fee. Thereby contributing to reducing the carbon emission and city traffic congestions.

b. Affordable housing for employees

Senior officers and staff members of the university are provided with accommodation on the Ratmalana Campus, whereas all academic and administrative staff members on the Sooriyawewa Campus are provided with free accommodation. KDU also intends to begin construction on its facility complex in Ratmalana, with the aim of providing affordable housing options to all of its executive-level employees.

c. Affordable accommodation for students

All the officer cadets in all its campuses are provided with free accommodation. All-day scholars received accommodation for a nominal fee in Sooriyawere, while only a selected group is given accommodation in Ratmalana. KDU has commenced the construction of two student accommodation buildings in Ratmalana and Boralasgamuwa, through which it intends to provide more sustainable accommodation options.

d. Pedestrian priority on campus

On all of its campuses, KDU maintains strict pedestrian priority access. As a result, all vehicular movement is limited to a maximum speed of 10 kmph, encouraging everyone to walk to various locations on campus.

e. Planning development - new build standards

All new buildings, both planned and under construction, have been designed with sustainability in mind. KDU expects to reduce energy consumption in those buildings as a result of this.

SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production.

1. Actions towards responsible consumption and production

a. Policy for minimization of plastic use

As a government institution, KDU adopted the National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021–2030. From July 2021.

2. Proportion of recycled waste

a. Amount of waste generated and recycled

In 2021, KDU generated 320 metric tons of waste other than food waste. While a portion of the organic component was utilized to make compost, the remainder, together with food waste, was used to make Biogas. KDU also promotes garbage separation and recycling, therefore properly labeled waste bins are located across campus. As a result, in 2021, the amount of garbage recycled was 219 metric tons.

3. Publication of a sustainability report

Regular publication of progress towards sustainability is an important indicator of an organization's commitment to achieving sustainability. KDU publishes a sustainability report every year as part of a larger annual report.

SDG 13 – Climate action

1. Low-carbon energy use

The solar panels installed in all of its buildings generate 1.5 Megajoules of low-carbon electricity. The total energy consumed during the year under consideration was 58195 Gigajoules. KDU intends to increase the usage of low-carbon energy by adopting sustainable construction standards and installing additional solar panels.

2. Collaborations on climate change impacts including disaster planning.

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With the support of Massey University in New Zealand, KDU established the 'Center for disaster management and research.' The center works with the 'National disaster management center' on disaster prediction, preparedness, planning, management, and mitigation efforts.

3. Environment/ Climate Action

KDU works with local organizations to plant trees on its campuses and in the surrounding area. Over 650 'ahala' trees were planted alongside the Kandawala road during one of the tree planting programs.

SDG 14 – Life below water

1. Research on life below water

KDU encourages and supports research related to marine and inland aquatic ecosystems. In 2021, 02 number of journal articles with research related to ‘life below water’ have been published. To facilitate similar studies, KDU has also established a fully equipped environmental engineering lab.

2. Educational programmes on water management and conservation

The civil engineering students of the faculty of Engineering, have the choice to study Environment Engineering, where they learn about fresh-water ecosystems, water irrigation practices, water management, and conservation.

3. Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education

a. Conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans

KDU student clubs organize beach cleaning initiatives on a regular basis to promote ocean conservation and sustainable use. KDU also maintains internal water bodies on all of its campuses, including Kandawala Lake, with minimal disruption to the ecosystems.

b. Maintain ecosystems and their biodiversity

In all of its environmental preservation initiatives, KDU places a strong emphasis on maintaining biodiversity, including both plants and animals. Having identified Kandawala Lake as a migratory bird sanctuary, KDU has taken great precautions to protect the flora throughout its renovation.

4. Water sensitive waste disposal

a. Water discharge guidelines and standards

KDU has well-defined water quality regulations and guidelines for wastewater disposal into local water ways and bodies. All wastewater, particularly at the University Hospital, is biologically and chemically treated before discharge.

SDG 15 – Life on land

1. Sustainable use of land

a. Sustainably farmed food on campus

KDU cultivates crops and utilizes them on its Sooriyawewa campus. There are also plans to expand the cultivated area and contribute to the government's initiatives to increase in-country food production.

b. Maintain and extend current ecosystems' biodiversity

KDU ensures that existing ecosystems are not disturbed on all of its campuses. KDU maintains the 48-acre garden on the Ratmalana campus in its natural state. The appointment of dedicated plant curators to maintain all the trees planted in KDU campuses is another pragmatic step taken. The vegetation on the campus of Sooriyawewa is kept to a minimum so that both flora and fauna are not harmed.

Renovation and maintenance of Kandawala lake and internal water bodies at Ratmalana and in Sooriyawewa ensured biodiversity and also reduced the impact of invasive alien species on land. Kandawala lake is a well-known breeding and resting ecosystem for rare migratory bird species such as pelicans.

c. Educational programs on ecosystems

Inculcating good practices among students by facilitating them to engage in nature conservation activities through Rotaract club and Nature club.

2. Land sensitive waste disposal

a. Water discharge guidelines and standards

KDU has well-defined water quality regulations and guidelines for wastewater disposal into local waterways and bodies. All wastewater, particularly at the University Hospital, is biologically and chemically treated before discharge.

b. Policy on plastic waste reduction and disposal

As a government institution, KDU adopted the National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021–2030. From July 2021.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

1. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:

The highly disciplined environment maintained at KDU is consistent with the goal of promoting peace, justice, and inclusion. Ragging and student harassment have never been tolerated at KDU. KDU, on the other hand, instills inclusiveness in all of its students through leadership and team bonding activities.

a. University principles on corruption and bribery

KDU maintains zero tolerance for corruption.

2. Working with government

As a state university that comes under the governing structure of the Ministry of Defence, KDU in all its activities supports government efforts and policies.

3. Proportion of graduates in law and civil enforcement

KDU has established the faculty of Criminal Justice in 2021. Accordingly, four-degree programmes have been introduced. KDU intends to make those degree programs available to junior police officers and civil candidates.

The Faculty of Law produced 114 graduates in 2021. As a result, 8.1 percent of the total graduates produced by KDU in 2021 were graduates in law and civil enforcement.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals

1. Collaborative research

Out of all the publications including book publications by KDU, 17 were co-authored with academics from foreign institutions. The annual International Research Conference is held to provide a forum for local and international researchers to network and form collaborations.

KDU has allocated 20M rupees for international collaborative activities and to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships with foreign Universities for knowledge transfer and commercialization activities of new inventions and innovations.

2. Relationship with local entities

Many of KDU's faculty units and centers work directly with the government or private entities. KDU-CARE (KDU's research arm) works closely with industry partners and conducts industry-related research. In order to further facilitate public-private partnerships. The University business linkage continues to establish and further improve the relationship with the industry.

3. International collaboration

The international relations office of KDU (IRO) continues to engage with international partners since its establishment. In 2021, KDU has signed nine (09) Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with other universities and institutes from around the world. The number of foreign delegates visiting KDU in 2021 was 02, demonstrating KDU's commitment to becoming globally connected.

The number of Research grants received through collaborative programs with foreign universities to the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Management Social Sciences and humanities, and KDU-CARE is also indicative of KDU's global connection.

KDU has appointed several adjunct professors and other senior staff members from internationally renowned universities in 2021 and has taken steps to attract foreign faculty by recruiting foreign academia as Research Fellows. In collaboration with foreign universities, efforts are also being made to offer dual PhD programs, pathway programs, and other types of split degree programs. KDU is also a member of the Commonwealth Universities Association and the International Association of Universities (IAU).