



# CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

## 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NEVŞEHİR/TURKEY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report is prepared by the Rectorate of Cappadocia University (KÜN) in accordance with the university’s governing documents related to institutional sustainability efforts. The report covers the academic year of 2020-2021 which corresponds to the period from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 and includes the progress made in sustainability efforts since the 2019-2020 reporting year.

The most notable developments within the reporting period were the more comprehensive and mature implementation of the activities aligned with strategic goals described in the “Green Cappadocia Policy Paper,” the pioneering activities of the Sustainability Commission, the expansion of the *Sustainable Cappadocia* Website, the more pervasive implementation of the Sustainability Programs (Water, Air, Earth, Fire, Bio), the granting of the first *Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award*, the hosting of the Inaugural General Assembly of *UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Sustainability Science Coalition*, a new UNESCO-MOST program since its approval in late March 2020, the installation of a major solar panel system at one of the main buildings on the central campus, the realization of the UNDP-supported *Sustainable Living Film Festival*, the implementation of project with Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey towards the “Determination of the Inventory for the Sustainability Performance of Turkish Tourism,” the implementation of the Orange Flag Project and last, but not least, the awarding of a “Safe Campus” certificate to Cappadocia University by the Turkish Standards Institute.

The report explains the major developments that took place in the academic year of 2020-2021 in separate headings and subheadings as necessary.

### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY’S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

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

#### 1.1. Green Cappadocia Policy Paper

“[Green Cappadocia Policy Paper](#),” first issued in the academic year of 2019-2020, is the main governing document detailing the mission, vision, larger strategic plans and objectives and aims of KÜN regarding sustainability efforts. Designed on the basis of the particular efforts under the headings of “Energy Management Program,” “Water Management Program,” “Waste Management Program,” and “Cultural Sustainability Program,” the Paper also reflects the university’s sustainability policies that are also in line with the “Cappadocia University (KÜN) Contribution to Society Objectives and Principles Policy Paper,” as well as with our mission, vision and fundamental values.

## 1.2. KÜN Sustainability Commission

The policies specified in “Green Cappadocia Policy Paper” are implemented by the KÜN Sustainability Commission founded in the academic year of 2019-2020. Accordingly, the “[Sustainability Commission Directives](#)” (Turkish only) is the second major document in KÜN’s sustainability-related legislation. The Directives document organizes the governance structure, duties and responsibilities, meeting procedures, and the timeline of the tasks undertaken by the Commission. In the 2020-2021 period, the Commission consisted of eight members with the addition of one member from the Public Relations Office of the university to connect and collaborate with outreach services more effectively.

## 1.3. Cappadocia University Research Goals and Principles

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

## 1.4. Cappadocia University’s “Strategic Plan for 2018-2023”

In Cappadocia University’s “[Strategic Plan for 2018-2023](#)” (Turkish only), several activities and practices related to environmental sustainability targets are among the performance metrics as explained under the section “Protection of Natural and Cultural Entity.” According to this section anticipated activities and practices are defined as such:

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

## **2. SUSTAINABLE CAPPADOCIA WEBSITE**

In order to provide wider visibility and dissemination as well as stronger outreach and functionality to its sustainability efforts, in the 2019-2020 academic year KÜN launched a bilingual (Turkish and English) sustainability website with the name [Sustainable Cappadocia](https://eko.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/home/) which can be accessed at the URL: <https://eko.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/home/>. During the 2020-2021 period the website was adequately maintained, updated and enriched in terms of its contents. The website now functions as the main channel through which all kinds of sustainability-related events, schemes, programs, initiatives and publications are shared not only with the university community but also with the larger public.

## **3. SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

In order to further institutionalize and systematize the university's sustainability efforts, KÜN administration operates via a Sustainability Commission formed of 8 members representing the different academic and administrative units of the university: <https://eko.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/sustainability-commission>. The Commission's Objectives are stated below:

In accordance with the relevant internal governing documents of Cappadocia University, the general objectives of KÜN Sustainability Commission are to create awareness about natural and cultural sustainability on the part of collegiate and external partners and stakeholders, and to plan, monitor, report, and assess sub-activities that encourage and support sustainability. The specific objectives of the Commission as regards the main impact areas that are aligned with the general objectives are as follows:

### *Setting and Infrastructure*

The development and expansion of open spaces, areas covered in forests and planted vegetation, as well as water absorbent surfaces on Cappadocia University campuses

### *Energy and Climate Change*

The increase of the usage of energy efficient appliances and the number of renewable energy sources; the minimization of the institutional carbon footprint on Cappadocia University campuses

### *Waste*

The reduction of the use of paper and plastic, and the development and wide implementation of recycling programs for organic and inorganic wastes on Cappadocia University campuses

### *Water*

The installation of the infrastructure components necessary for water conservation and recycling, and the development and wide implementation of customized water conservation and recycling programs on Cappadocia University campuses

### *Transportation*

The reduction of private vehicle traffic, the increase of public transportation use, the increase of the number of zero emission vehicles, and the development and expansion of the structural and infrastructural components toward minimizing transportation-generated carbon footprint on Cappadocia University campuses

#### *Education and R&D*

The creation of awareness about natural and cultural sustainability through curricular and extra-curricular activities (courses, publications, student organizations), as well as through research and development projects, and the qualitative and quantitative improvement of these activities and projects on Cappadocia University campuses

## 4. SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

In the academic year of 2019-2020, KÜN Sustainability Commission initiated the Cappadocia *Water, Air, Earth, Fire, and Bio* programs to structure its efforts under the relevant subheadings by matching the efforts with one of the foundational elements that are most impacted by the individual program.

As seen in the images below, custom-made buttons and stickers were procured and distributed to faculty and students to increase visibility and ownership of the programs at the beginning of the academic year of 2021-2022 as well. The stickers also feature square codes that directly take the viewer to the web page of the program on *Sustainable Cappadocia* website.



**Fig. 1:** Buttons prepared for the sustainability programs.



**Fig. 2-3:** Sustainability program stickers displayed in relevant locations.

#### **4.1. CAPPADOCIA WATER**



Cappadocia University's efforts regarding the management of drinking, utility and waste water are planned and implemented under the *Cappadocia Water* program. The main activity areas of this program are:

- Developing applications and policies that are based on the saving and recycling of water
- Erecting information boards and signs detailing the water management program in various locations on campuses to ensure that the students, administrative personnel and faculty members are kept informed
- Utilization of water collected naturally through rainwater harvesting applications, and the use of the water obtained from rainwater harvesting for the irrigation of the green areas, to support the growth of the trees and plants on campuses
- Use of permeable materials in construction and landscaping to allow the return of rainwater to the soil
- Use of water-saving appliances and machinery on campuses
- Provision of personnel with the necessary training to reduce water consumption in cleaning, and the determination of the procedures accordingly
- Taking the necessary measures to reduce the production of waste water on campuses, and to treat and rehabilitate toxic, chemically or biologically polluted water
- Taking the necessary measures to prevent evaporation and to ensure efficient irrigation, with methods such as drip irrigation

#### **4.2. CAPPADOCIA AIR**



Cappadocia University's efforts regarding the reduction of the carbon emissions resulting from transportation within and between its campuses are planned and implemented under the *Cappadocia Air* program. The main activity areas of this program are:

- Taking measures to regulate the entry and exit of vehicles to and from the campuses
- Limiting the use of cars by students on campuses, while promoting the use of vehicles that do not cause carbon emissions, such as bicycles and electric bicycles
- Creating parking spaces (i.e., bike racks) on campuses and making them available for students

- Lending bicycles to students who require them, where resources permit, promoting their use as a viable transportation mode
- Increasing the number of bicycle and pedestrian roads both on campuses and in the region, and promoting the efforts of local administrations in this regard

### **4.3. CAPPADOCIA EARTH**



Cappadocia University's efforts regarding the effective management of the waste produced on campuses, recycling, environmental protection, and reforestation are planned and implemented under the *Cappadocia Earth* program. The main activity areas of this program are:

- Taking the necessary measures to ensure the effective management of the waste produced on campuses
- Developing applications and policies to minimize waste, and supporting related projects
- Erecting information boards and signs detailing the waste management program in various locations on campuses to ensure that the students, administrative personnel and faculty members are kept informed
- Placing recycle bins all over the campuses to reutilize recyclable waste
- Promoting the use of recycled paper
- Promoting the use of both sides of the paper for printed materials
- The collection and recycling of all kinds of waste, particularly paper
- Promoting the use of digital and e-signed documents and forms rather than printed and wet signed documents
- Promoting the use of e-mails and similar technological media for communications and correspondence
- Reduction of the use of plastic packaging and plastic bags to reduce plastic waste
- Promoting the use of bags made of organic, eco-friendly and recyclable materials
- Developing various applications through which the organic waste generated by food production facilities of the university are reutilized in agriculture and food production
- Delivering surplus food stocks to people in need
- Disposal of the appropriate kinds of waste via various methods, particularly composting; the use of the organic products obtained from composting on the trees and plants grown by the university their distribution to local farmers free of charge, with a view to contributing to regional development
- The launching of litter collection campaigns on campuses and in the valleys of the Cappadocia region
- The launching of tree planting campaigns in collaboration with local governments and NGOs on campuses and in the Cappadocia region

#### **4.4. CAPPADOCIA FIRE**



Cappadocia University's efforts regarding the efficient and effective use of energy are planned and implemented under the *Cappadocia Fire* program. The main activity areas of this program are:

- Developing applications and taking measures to ensure the efficient and effective use of energy
- Carrying out studies to reduce total energy consumption, and organizing and promoting activities to inform the academic and administrative personnel and the students about efficient and effective energy use
- Taking measures to reduce carbon emissions from heating
- Designing new buildings in consideration of natural heating and cooling potentials
- Heating of existing and historical buildings using low-carbon energy sources, in addition to natural heating
- Prioritizing the use of natural gas on all campuses
- Exempting unused indoor spaces from heating and limiting the use of air conditioners for cooling
- Taking initiatives in the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources (hydro, solar, wind and bio fuel), and carrying out projects and supporting existing projects in this field
- Prioritizing facilities and buildings that do no harm to the natural and cultural structure of the region for renewable energy generation
- Using energy-efficient appliances to reduce electricity consumption, particularly in lighting
- Minimizing unnecessary and excess lighting
- Using photocells in indoor spaces that are not frequently used to economize electricity consumption

#### **4.5. CAPPADOCIA BIO**



Cappadocia University's efforts regarding the minimization of the impacts of collegiate life, educational activities and research-development initiatives on the natural and cultural texture of

the region, as well as those regarding cultural sustainability and the preservation of biodiversity at the global, national and local levels are planned and implemented under the *Cappadocia Bio* program. The main activity areas of this program are:

- Taking the necessary measures to ensure that the impacts of collegiate life, educational activities and research-development initiatives on the natural and cultural texture of the region are minimized
- Attributing importance to cultural sustainability in educational, research and social contribution activities
- Taking the necessary measures, and carrying out and supporting projects that support local traditions, contributing to their transfer to the next generations, protecting Turkey's cultural heritage, and particularly that of Cappadocia, as a unique example of cultural heritage in the world
- Designing and constructing new buildings and facilities in accordance with the natural and cultural features of the region
- Using locally supplied, recyclable or used materials for the construction of new buildings
- Carrying out environmental and social impact evaluations for new buildings, and designing the buildings accordingly
- The restoration of buildings and structures in the region that are in need of protection and restoration, thus contributing to cultural heritage
- Organizing initiatives to support the street animals and other living entities on campuses in collaboration with local governments, NGOs and student communities

## 5. ECO-CURRICULUM

Cappadocia University's commitment to increase awareness about sustainability issues also led to the designing and offering, during the 2020-2021 academic year, of a unique elective course on *Ecological Literacy and Sustainability* to the students of all undergraduate and graduate degree programs (*EOS 171* and *EOS 571* respectively).

### Course Content

In this course, the themes and concepts of ecological literacy, sustainability, interdependence principle in human and nature relationship, climate crisis, carbon footprint, sustainability issues in energy and food, consumption culture and waste, environmental justice will be examined and discussed through global examples of environmental problems, good practices and cultural works such as film, literature and design.

### Course Objective

Ecological literacy is a term that points to an awareness about the dynamics of the natural environment, humanity's role and responsibility in it; the critical interrogation of human relationship to non-human nature, and the environmental problems arising from that. In the current age of climate crisis, improving an ecological perspective to favor the rights of other living beings and ecosystems is considered as a citizenship consciousness. In that sense, this

course aims to provide a fundamental knowledge and perspective with a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to encourage awareness about environmental problems. The course aims to examine the current climate crisis with its social, cultural and economic aspects, and raise consciousness on environmental and social sustainability.

Moreover, another graduate level course, *KCY 532 Ecological Crisis and Strategies to Overcome* was also designed and offered to the students of the relevant graduate programs in the academic year of 2020-2021.

### **Course Content**

This course encapsulates the issues of current ecological crisis by its scope, causes, reflections from a perspective based on its political, philosophical, social, ethical and economical senses.

### **Course Objective**

The aim of this course is to analyze the ongoing ecological crisis through a perspective of causality.

In 2020-2021, in line with the objectives of inclusion of environmental sustainability subjects in the curricula of various departments, 24 courses (to be compared with 20 courses in 2019-2020) on environmental sustainability related subjects were offered in Cappadocia University in the academic year of 2020-2021. The master's program "Urban Policy, Environment and Local Governments" focuses on the environment and aims to encourage academic research in this field. Moreover, in addition to master's degree program in English Language and Literature, which is designed with an environmental humanities orientation and is the only such degree program in Turkey, the new MA in Cultural Studies program offered in Turkish medium of instruction also features sustainability-related courses such as "Ecocinema."

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

1. Ecological Literacy and Sustainability (General Elective Course)
2. Healthy Life and Training I / Nutrition and Dietetics / School of Health Sciences
3. Healthy Life and Training II / Nutrition and Dietetics / School of Health Sciences
4. Environmental Psychology/Translation and Interpreting (English)/Faculty of Humanities
5. Film and Eco-Criticism/ English Language and Literature/School of Graduate Studies and Research /Faculty of Humanities

6. Environment, Literature and Culture/English Language and Literature/School of Graduate Studies and Research /Faculty of Humanities
7. Media, Communication and the Environment / English Language and Literature/School of Graduate Studies and Research/Faculty of Humanities
8. Environmental Sustainability and Ecological Life/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
9. Introduction to Urban and Environmental Law/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
10. Green Political Thought/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
11. Ecological Crisis and Climate Politics / Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
12. Natural Assets and Environmental Policies / Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
13. Ecological Crisis and Solution Strategies / Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
14. Environment and Management Discussions: Analysis and Interpretation/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
15. Urban and Environmental Legislation in Turkey/ Urban Environment and Local Government Policies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
16. Ecocinema/ Cultural Studies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
17. Culture, People and Environment/ Cultural Studies/ School of Graduate Studies and Research
18. Advanced Ecological Literacy and Sustainability (General Elective Course-Graduate Level)
19. Environmental Health/ Mouth and Dental Health/ Dentistry Services
20. Equine-assisted Therapy-I/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
21. Equine-assisted Therapy-II/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
22. Equine-assisted Therapy-III/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
23. Equine-assisted Therapy-IV/Equine and Coaching/ Vegetable and Animal Production
24. Nature Sports/ First Aid and Emergency Care/ Medical Services and Techniques

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

First instituted in the latter part of the academic year of 2019-2020, the *Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award* was implemented in the 2020-2021 period. The award aims to support the achievements of senior students who have demonstrated outstanding success in participating in environmental sustainability projects and conducting awareness-raising activities for the development of ecological awareness throughout their university education.

The purpose of this award is to encourage the education of competent and ecologically sensitive students who can propose sustainable solutions to the ecological crisis, which is one of the top priorities of the global agenda in our age.

Environmental sustainability studies include the projects, applications, and research on sustainable energy, pollution, waste management, animal rights, natural agriculture and production, food security, ecological architecture, ecological economy, sustainable cities, etc. Awareness-raising activities for the development of ecological awareness include activities and projects aimed at making the importance of these issues understandable in the context of the climate crisis, raising awareness with the support of various cultural tools, and promoting lifestyles and daily practices that are more compatible with the natural environment.

Senior students can apply for the Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award by documenting their activities on or off campus during their education period.

The award is given to one student annually in the amount of 3,000 TL for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Senior students who have contributed to environmental sustainability studies, creating ecological sensitivity and awareness, designing and conducting projects on the following issues during their education period can apply for this award:

- Participating in environmental sustainability studies conducted across the university
- Designing projects for environmental sustainability across the university and/or carrying out academic studies
- Organizing awareness-raising activities and/or projects to increase ecological sensitivity and awareness across the university
- Participating in the activities of non-governmental organizations working outside the university with a focus on environmental sustainability and ecological sensitivity
- Designing activities and projects focusing on developing environmental sustainability and ecological awareness outside the university

### **Required Application Documents:**

An application letter in which the candidate explains why he or she deserves this award, expresses the effects and results of his or her environmental sustainability and ecological awareness activities, and talks about their future predictions in this field

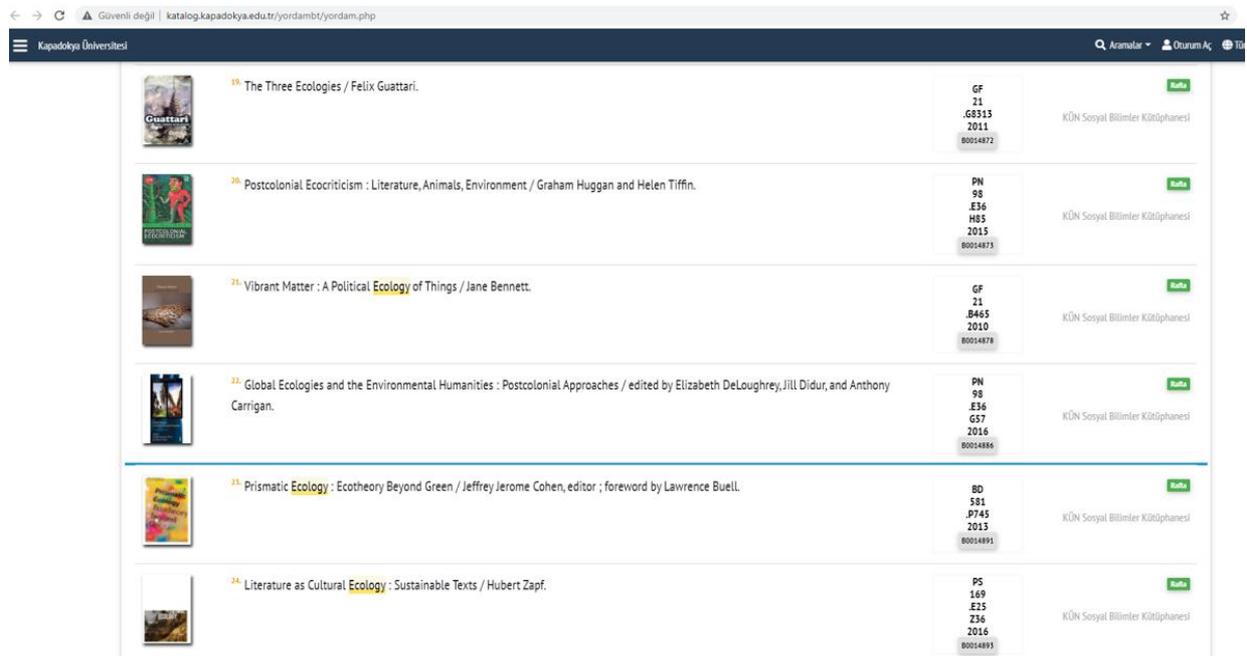
Proof documents such as activity reports, activity documents, news, activity visuals etc. for each study in accordance with the specified criteria

If requested, reference letters from the authorized persons of the activities carried out, from the instructors of the relevant courses, and from the consultants evaluating the performance of the candidate in this field.

In the academic year of 2020-2021, the title of “Sustainability Leader of the Year” and the award was granted to Mr. Kaan Göktaş who was also the president of the TEMA Youth Chapter at Cappadocia University.

## 7. THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES LIBRARY

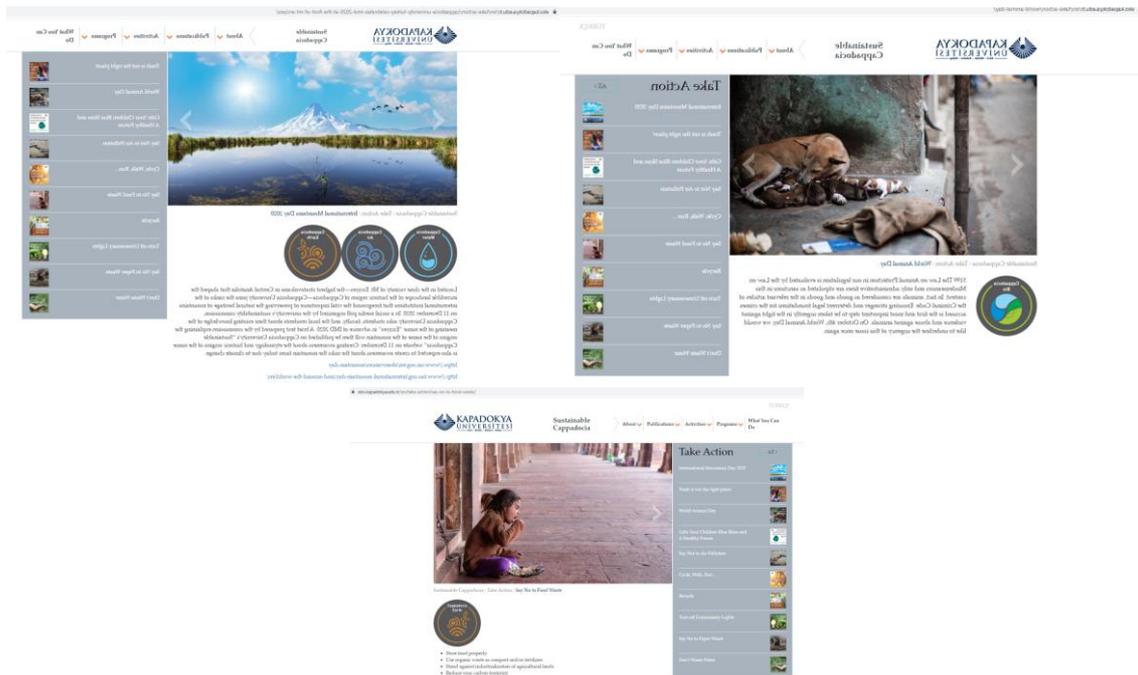
As part of Cappadocia University’s commitment to sustainability-related research and knowledge production, the university administration has initiated a scheme in the 2019-2020 academic year for the establishment of an Environmental Humanities Library as a major research resource for scholars and students conducting research in this specific area. An order list was prepared by the Environmental Humanities Research Center and a large order consisting of 74 seminal books and reference sources. A total budget of 2600 USD has been planned for the procurement of these books in the 2020-2021 academic year. While the procurement of the books continued with major delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the cataloguing of the ones that were delivered began and is still in progress. As of October 2021, the university’s library offers access to more than 640.000 print and online sources on “Ecology” including the electronic sources from databases.



**Fig. 4:** Some of the books that are in the Environmental Humanities Library in 2020-2021

## 8. SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Since late in the 2019-2020 academic year, the Sustainability Commission, in collaboration with the Public Relation department of the university, started implementing social media campaigns to keep important national and international dates on the agenda and thus to increase visibility of and awareness about sustainability-related issues. In the reporting period, these efforts continued, attracting growing interest and participation from inside and outside of the university.



**Fig. 5-7:** Examples of the images and messages used in the social media campaigns in 2020-2021

## 9. CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES CENTER

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

Environmental Humanities Center at Cappadocia University is a site where inter/trans/cross-disciplinary and international conversations will be reinforced through collaborations. The Center will seek to offer new perspectives to the entangled ecological urgencies and ethical and social problems surrounding our fragile planet. However diverse and multifarious they may be, these perspectives represent a common and flexible platform to work together to achieve desired ecological outcomes. We also promote studying education, art, and

literature that are conducive to ecological sustainability. One of our objectives is to disseminate environmentally just stories from both human and nonhuman perspectives. Stories are effective tools of resistance, and storying the world anew in environmentally just ways is as important as scientific efforts in finding palpable solutions to the planetary threat that we are all facing no matter where we live. And we all live in ecological uncertainties and have become what Donna Haraway calls “messmates” in the planet’s geomorphological processes and natural cycles. If the current epoch is called a human age—the Anthropocene—it is due to our collective detrimental activities. That is why, we need a new earth-story which can materialize with new imaginative and lexical vocabularies that take into account the still unheard voices of the disrupted nonhuman entities, which do not necessarily have to remain mute. We want to communicate a message of revaluing what we may lose, generating the creativity to imagine new accountabilities, more sustainable solutions, and also ethical responses.

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

The Center will provide:

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

The Center aims:

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

The Center will work:

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

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

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

1. International Conference on "Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene Age", March 7-8, 2019
2. Seminar on "The History-Climate Change Nexus through a Collection of Environmental Driven Migration Cases", March 5, 2019
3. Exhibition, "Tao Canyon: In Silence and Wisdom Exists the Human Form in Nature, February 1, 2019
4. Seminar on "Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene Age", November 6, 2018
5. Started an international scholarly publication named *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*. As of June 2020, the inaugural issue was published. Journal website: <http://ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr>
6. Hosted the [Humanities for the Environment Network](#) Anatolian Observatory Establishment Workshop on 27 March 2020.
7. Hosted the [UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Global Sustainability Coalition](#) Establishment Workshop, 6-7 June 2020.
8. In December 2020, the Center submitted the *Adaptation to Climate Change in the Tourism Sector of Cappadocia Project* to the Turkey's Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning for an EU funded scheme. The evaluation of the application is still in progress at the time of the preparation of this report.

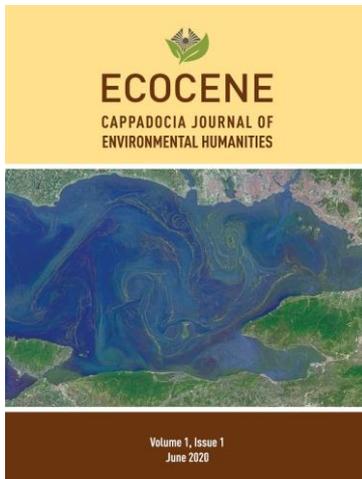
9. In collaboration with Movies that Matter and UNDP, the Center hosted the Sustainable Living Film Festival in February 2021. For details, please see: <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/surdurulebilir-yasam-film-gunleri>
10. In May 2021, the Center hosted the Inaugural General Assembly of the UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Global Sustainability Coalition, approved as a new UNESCO-MOST program in late March 2021. For details, please see: <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/unesco-most-bridges-inaugural-general-assembly->
11. In May 2021, the Center hosted The First National Environmental Humanities Conference. For details, please see: <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/1-ulusal-cevreci-beseri-bilimleri-konferansi->
12. In May 2021, the Center hosted Prof. Dr. Scott Slovic of the University of Idaho as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program. For details, please see: <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/ehsp-graduate-seminars>
13. In June 2021, the Center began implementing the R&D project titled “Climate Crisis Awareness Database” with a budget provided by the Cappadocia University administration.

In addition to pursuing its objectives, the Environmental Humanities Center at Cappadocia University worked towards achieving the main goals given below in 2020-2021.

- Initiation of the Anthropocene Curriculum in Turkey
- Establishment of TASC: Turkish Anthropocene and Sustainability Coalition

The work towards these objectives was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 academic year, but will be pursued toward progress in the 2021-2022 academic year.

#### **10. *ECOCENE: CAPPADOCIA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES***



**Fig. 8:** Cover of the inaugural issue of *Ecocene*

*Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities* is a digital, open-access, peer-reviewed, international, and transdisciplinary journal of the Environmental Humanities. It is a biannual journal, publishing a Winter issue in December and a Summer issue in June. It aims to develop new insights and theories about the current material and conceptual challenges in the field. Since the complexities and questions raised by ecological and social changes, as well as pressures from global climatic crises, demand interrelated re-workings of humanities disciplines and social and natural sciences, the journal invites submissions that transcend disciplinary categories, allowing us to rethink and reimagine the human-nonhuman relationalities on our damaged planet to ensure a livable future. It will thus seek articles that move beyond species-centered parameters and contest anthropocentric conceptions of reality. Recognizing the relevance and value of deep time experiences of social, cultural and environmental changes, *Ecocene* addresses the present and future challenges facing our planet. The journal also invites new Anthropocene stories, poetry, artwork and other creative works that advance our cognitive, imaginative and ethical capabilities. The purpose of *Ecocene* therefore is to create a space for transdisciplinary research and new modes of knowledge in what Donna Haraway calls “collaborative” but also “competitive entanglements” of human-nonhuman worlds.

Having published its inaugural issue in June 2020, *Ecocene* features research articles by eminent interdisciplinary scholars from across the world. Some of these include:

Braidotti, Rosi. “[‘We’ May Be in This Together, but We Are Not All Human and We Are Not One and the Same.](#)” *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, 26-31, 2020.

Sagan, Dorion. “[‘Gaia versus the Anthropocene: Untimely Thoughts on the Current Eco-Catastrophe.](#)” *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, 137-146, 2020.

Preparing to publish its Winter 2021 issue at the time of the preparation of this report, *Ecocene* has had 4.642 users from 110 different countries (top 5 countries the users connect from are USA (23%), Turkey (14%), Canada (8%), UK (7%), and Germany (4%)) and received about 22.000 page views in the 9-month period between 1 January 2021 (when the journal migrated to the OJS platform) and 30 September 2021. For the latest issue of *Ecocene*, please visit: <https://ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr/index.php/ecocene>

## **11. UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE COALITION MEMBERSHIP**

Cappadocia University, through its Environmental Humanities Center, is a key partner of UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Global Sustainability Science Coalition, which is an international and interdisciplinary initiative to promote sustainability science, chaired by UNESCO’s



Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Program. The university participated to two UNESCO-BRIDGES establishment workshops in 2018 as the sole representative invited from Turkey. (<https://en.unesco.org/events/workshop-toward-establishment-bridges-action-promote-sustainability-science>). In the 2019-2020 academic year, Cappadocia University hosted the UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Global Sustainability Coalition Establishment Workshop on 6-7 June 2020.

Upon the Coalition's formal approval by the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO-MOST in late March 2021, Cappadocia University also hosted, as mentioned above, the Inaugural General Assembly of the UNESCO-MOST/BRIDGES Global Sustainability Coalition in May 2021.

In December 2017 exploratory discussions began among selected UNESCO sections, the International Council for Philosophy & Human Sciences (CIPSH), and various institutional and organizational partners active internationally in the sustainability domain<sup>1</sup> concerning the establishment of a global coalition on sustainability science. This initiative builds upon the refined sustainability science paradigm inaugurated in 2017 with the launch of UNESCO's Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education, which was the major output of the UNESCO-Japan/MEXT project "Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science Approach" (2015-2017)<sup>2</sup>. The coalition now envisaged would affiliate with UNESCO as a close but independent partner.

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

## 12. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS MEMBERSHIP

### **The International Solar Energy Society**

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

### **Humanities for the Environment (HfE) Network**

The Humanities for the Environment is a global initiative of regional Observatories that aim to bring out how the humanities may contribute to pro-environmental behaviour. The Network conducts global projects at eight research observatories (i.e. European Observatory, North American Observatory, Circumpolar Observatory, etc).

Cappadocia University continued to work with the HfE network during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years toward the establishment of an Anatolian Observatory based in Cappadocia University’s Environmental Humanities Center. Accordingly, Humanities for the Environment Network Anatolian Observatory Establishment Workshop on 27 March 2020 with the participation of interdisciplinary scholars from different universities in Turkey. Consequently, formal collaboration began with institutions such as The Research and Application Center for Climate Change at İstanbul Technical University. However, the desired progress could not be achieved for the formalization of this network due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The plans for the formalization will be revised as circumstances improve.

For further details of the Partners and Stakeholders, please visit the page on *Sustainable Cappadocia* Website: <https://eko.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/partners-and-stakeholders/>

## 13. UI GREENMETRIC WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING

As a higher education institution prioritizing environmental sustainability from the beginning of its establishment, KÜN is committed also to becoming a member of the international collegiate



community with similar priorities. Hence, in October 2019 the university administration formally applied for participation to the [UIGreenmetric World University Ranking](#).

In UI GreenMetric 2019 rankings, Cappadocia University was ranked 4th among Turkish foundation universities in the overall ranking; 7th in “Education and Research” and 18th in the overall ranking among all Turkish universities. In the world rankings of 2019, our university was ranked 392nd among the 780 UI GreenMetric universities and was granted a certificate.

Aware of the importance of international collegiate collaboration and knowledge sharing on a global level, Cappadocia University further improved and systematized its sustainability-related practices during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years.

In UI 2020 rankings, Cappadocia University, with an improved performance as compared to previous year, was ranked 4th among Turkish foundation universities in the overall ranking and 16th in the overall ranking among all participating Turkish universities. In the world rankings of 2020, our university was ranked 321st among the 912 UI GreenMetric universities and was granted a certificate.

An online event, “UI Greenmetric and Sustainability at Cappadocia University” was also held on 14 June 2021 to introduce the ranking systems to a greater number of students and faculty and to invite them to the activities of Sustainable Cappadocia that are aligned with this ranking system. For details of the event, please see <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/ui-greenmetric-siralamasi-ve-kun-surdurulebilirlik>.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

As part of Cappadocia University’s Research and Development (R&D) efforts, seven academic research projects (to be compared with four projects in the 2019-2020 period) related to environmental sustainability were supported in the academic year of 2020-2021.

### **1. Climate Crisis Awareness Resources Database Project**

Project Manager: Dr. Ekin Gündüz Özdemirci

Start Date: 07.06.2021

Project Duration: 24 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/iklim-krizi-farkindaligi-veri-tabani-projesi>

### **2. Reliable Energy Generation Project with High Energy Efficiency and Low Emission Values by Taking Advantage of the Rock Space Heat Potential of the Cappadocia**

Project Manager: Prof. Dr. Rifat Yıldız

Start Date: 07.06.2021

Project Duration: 12 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/kapadokya-bolgesi-kaya-mekan-isi-potansiyelinden-faydalanarak-enerji-verimliliği-yüksek-düşük-emisyon-değerlerine-sahip-guvenilir-enerji-uretimi-projesi>

### **3. Determination of the Inventory for the Sustainability Performance of Turkish Tourism and Suggestions for Increasing the Sustainability Performance**

Project Manager: Dr. Sinan Akıllı

Start Date: 01.03.2021

Project Duration: 3 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/turkiye-turizminin-surdurulebilirlik-performansina-yonelik-envanterin-tespiti-ve-surdurulebilirlik-performansini-arttirmaya-yonelik-oneriler-projesi>

### **4. Agriculture Implementation with Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV)**

Project Manager: Dr. Rıfat Benveniste

Start Date: 01.03.2019

Project Duration: 36 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/insansiz-hava-araci-ile-tarimsal-uygulamalar>

### **5. Synthesis of Some Novel Ecofriendly Block/Graft Copolymers from Renewable Resources**

Project Manager: Dr. Rıfat Benveniste

Start Date: 01.03.2019

Project Duration: 36 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/dogal-urunlerden-biyobozunur-yeni-cevre-dustu-blokgraft-kopolimerlerin-elde-edilmesi-projesi>

### **6. Synthesis and Characterization of New Ecofriendly Materials**

Project Manager: Prof. Dr. Baki Hazer

Start Date: 19.10.2020

Project Duration: 36 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/cevreye-uyumlu-yeni-malzemelerin-sentezi-ve-karakterizasyonu>

### **7. Improving Hospital Menus and Reducing Food Waste**

Project Manager: Prof. Dr. Vesile Şenol

Start Date: 15.10.2020

Project Duration: 36 Months

Link: <https://bap.kapadokya.edu.tr/projeler/hastane-menulerinin-iyilestirilmesi-ve-yemek-israfinin-azaltilmasi>

Moreover, the faculty affiliated with Cappadocia University continued to produce academic publications in the related subjects in international scholarly publications and were encouraged and funded to participate in key international academic events during 2020-2021. A total of 43 (to be compared with 30 in the 2019-2020 reporting period) academic works (books, book chapters, and articles) were published either by Cappadocia University affiliated faculty or by other scholars contributing to the scholarly journals published by Cappadocia University Press. The list of the publications is given below:

1. Sophia Perdikaris, What is Environmental Consciousness? A Thematic Cluster, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 1-4
2. Peter Mortensen, “There is a Great Joy that Comes from the Wild Creatures:” Greening Happiness across Cultures and Disciplines, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 5-18
3. Heather I. Sullivan, The Dark Pastoral: Material Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 19-31
4. Nuno Filipe da Silva Marques, A New Song for Ourselves—Contributions of Gary Snyder’s Poetics of Place to Current Ecopoetics, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 32-46
5. Margaret Tedford, Dominion and Stewardship: Unpacking Environmental Consciousness in Some Old English Saints’ Lives, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2,2020, 47-61
6. C. Parker Krieg, “A Better-Informed Citizen of North America: Environmental Memory and Frames of Justice in William T. Vollmann’s Transnational Metafiction, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 62-75
7. Dominic Hinde, Narrative Ethics, Media and the Morality of the Ecological Modern: The Case of Sweden, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 76-91
8. Sophia Perdikaris, Katie Rose Hejtmanek, The Sea Will Rise, Barbuda Will Survive: Environment and Time Consciousness, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 92-108

9. Ryan Heryford, Book Review: Jane Bennett's influx & efflux: writing up with Walt Whitman, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 109-113
10. William V. Lombardi, Book Review: Simone Schleper's Planning for the Planet: Environmental Expertise and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1960–1980, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 114-118
11. Killian Quigley, Book Review: David Farrier's Anthropocene Poetics: Deep Time, Sacrifice Zones, and Extinction, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 119-124
12. Paul Lindholdt, Loved Badly on Your Bank, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 125-140
13. Kim Trainor, Excerpt from "Seeds:" Seed 5. Tiny house, caracol, snail + Seed 19. SARS-CoV-2, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 141-146
14. prOphecy sun, Environmental Traces, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 147-149
15. Caitlin Chaisson, And Even Dust Can Burst into Flames, Genevieve Robertson—Carbon Studies: Walking in the Dark, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 150-158
16. Maja Smrekar, The Survival Kit for the Anthropocene—Trailer, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 159-161
17. Pınar Yoldaş, An Ecosystem of Excess, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 1, No:2, 2020, 162-165
18. Patrick Degeorges, Making Peace with the Earth—The Diplomatic Turn, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 1-6
19. Alan Ereira, Luci Attala, Zhigoneshi: A Culture of Connection, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 7-22
20. Ohad Ben Shimon, Eco-immunology and Superweeds, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 23-31
21. Chris Dymond, New Growth: To Film Like a Plant, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 32-50

22. Dan Tamir, In Search for Hope: Human-Mosquito Relations as a Model for Global Environmental Cooperation (A Research Note), *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 51-56
23. Kevin Wamalwa, The Problem of (un)Belonging: Memory, Land Conflict, and Environmental Degradation in Mt. Elgon, Kenya, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 57-67
24. Camilla Nelson, Book Review: Poetics for the More-Than-Human World: An Anthology of Poetry and Commentary, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 68-72
25. Amy Stambach, Kilimanjaro Below the Glaciers, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 73-80
26. prOphecy sun, Elemental Entanglements, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 81-83
27. Stephanie Moran, Maggie Roberts, Exploring the Pluriverse: Fictioning, Science and Interspecies Communication, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 84-93
28. Sara-Jeanne Bourget, Mining—On the Horizon, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 94-101
29. Esteban Pérez, The Earth Project, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 102-08
30. Carollyne Yardley, Holobionts: Making and Living through Squirrealism, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 109-17
31. Teo Monsalve, Neotropical Fabulation, *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, Vol 2, No:1, 2021, 118-25
32. Yusuf Gökkaplan, Duygu Oylubaş Kaftar (Eds.), [“Gezeğenin Geleceği: Kaygılar ve Umutlar” Seçme Öyküler](#) (Selected Stories, “The Future of the Planet: Anxieties and Hope”), Çevreci Beşeri Bilimler Serisi (Environmental Humanities Series), Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları (Cappadocia University Press), 2021
33. Simon C. Estok, Ekofobi Hipotezi (The Ecophobia Hypothesis), M. Sibel Dinçel (trans.), Çevreci Beşeri Bilimler Serisi (Environmental Humanities Series), Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları (Cappadocia University Press), 2021

34. Eyüp Doğan (Ed.), ICEEE 2021 Conference Proceedings: International Conference on Economics, Energy and Environment, Kapadokya Üniversitesi Yayınları (Cappadocia University Press), 2021
35. Halil Burak Sakal, Daniela Pastarmadzhieva, Energy and environment in Turkish-Bulgarian relations, 8th International Scientific Conference: Social Changes in the Global World, Stip, Macedonia, 2021
36. Leila Akbarishahabi, Ekolojik Kent Mobilyalarında Eko-Tasarım İlkeleri (Eco-Design Principles in Ecological Urban Furniture), 7th International Engineering Architecture and Design Congress, 2021
37. Ekin Gündüz Özdemirci, Nilay Kaya, Embodied Anthropocentrism in Anatolian Novel and Film, in Environment and Fiction, Özden Sözalın, İnci Bilgin Tekin (Eds.), Peter Lang, 2020
38. Halil Burak Sakal, “Havza Yönetiminde Bölgesel Elektrik Ticareti Modeli: Aral ve Kura-Aras Havzaları Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme”. *bilig – Türk Dünyası Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi* 95: 241-269, 2020
39. Mustafa Akdağ, Merve Özdemir, Çevreye Duyarlılık Ve Sorumluluk Bağlamında Yeşil Halkla İlişkiler Ve Antroposen Kavramı: Billboardlar Üzerinden Bir Göstergibilimsel Analiz (Green Public Relations And Antropocene Concept In The Context Of Environmental Sensitivity And Responsibility: An Indicative Analysis On Billboards). *OPUS Uluslararası Toplum Araştırmaları Dergisi* , Cilt 16 - 29 Ekim Özel Sayısı , 3505-3532, 2020, DOI: 10.26466/opus.791359
40. Goodbody, A. H. Junquera, C. F. Oppermann, S. (2020), Introduction, *Ecozona*, 11(2), 1-7.
41. Oppermann, S. (2021), “Diffractive Narratives, Prismatic Ecologies”, In Panayotov, S. (Ed.), *O-Zone: An Ecology of Objects*. Santa Barbara: Punctum Books.
42. Oppermann, S. (2021), “New Materialism and the Nonhuman Story”, In Foote, S. and Cohen J. J. (Ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
43. Akıllı, S. (2020), “Henry Rider Haggard's Posthumanist Eco-consciousness”, *E-rea: Revue e/lectronique d'etudes sur le monde anglophone*, 18(1).

## 15. CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY PRESS ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES SERIES

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

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

**Series Editor:** Sinan Akıllı (Cappadocia University); **Advisory Board:** Serpil Oppermann (Cappadocia University), Yusuf Eradam (TED University), Ufuk Özdağ (Hacettepe University), Aytül Özüm (Hacettepe University), Nurten Birlik (Middle East Technical University), Özlem Ögüt Yazıcıoğlu (Boğaziçi University), Barış Ağır (Osmaniye Korkut Ata University), Fatma Aykanat (Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University), Can Batukan (Paris Diderot University), Oya Bayılmış Öğütçü (Adıyaman University), M. Sibel Dinçel (TOBB ETU University), Meliz Ergin (Koç University), Gülşah Göçmen (Aksaray University), Ekin Gündüz Özdemirci (Cappadocia University), Burcu Kayışçı Akkoyun (Koç University), Emre Koyuncu (Koç University), Pelin Kümbet (Kocaeli University), Murat Öğütçü (Munzur University), Hatice Övgü Tüzün (Bahçeşehir University), Kerim Can Yazgünoğlu (Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University), Zümre Gizem Yılmaz (Ankara Social Sciences University), Hakan Yılmaz (Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University)

Series websites is available in English at the following URL: <https://kapadokyayayinlari.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/yayinlar/environmental-humanities/>

In the 2020-2021 academic year, two more Turkish books were published in the series.

“*Gezeenin Geleceği: Kaygılar ve Umutlar*” (*The Future of the Planet: Concerns and Hopes*) *Selected Short Stories* which was the output of the second short story competition organized by the Department of Turkish Language and Literature of Cappadocia University and targeted high school students who were expected to submit stories especially in the genres of utopia and dystopia. To access the e-book as an open access resource in Turkish, please visit: <https://kapadokyayayinlari.kapadokya.edu.tr/en/yayin/the-future-of-the-planet-concerns-and-hopes-selected-stories/> Please also see below “2020 Short Story Competition” for details.

The other publication of the series was a Turkish translation of Simon C. Estok's influential book *The Ecophobia Hypothesis* (Routledge, 2018). The online launch event of *Ekofobi Hipotezi* (<https://kapadokyayayinlari.kapadokya.edu.tr/yayin/ekofobi-hipotezi/>) on June 4, 2021 was attended by Simon C. Estok as well. Please see event details at <https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/simon-c-estok-ile-ekofobi-hipotezi-kitap-lansmani>.

## 16. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Cappadocia University, in line with its objectives to increase the number of activities on environmental awareness and protection, continued to plan and realize several activities about environment and sustainability in the academic year of 2020-2021.

Events related to environment and sustainability hosted or organized by the university in the academic year 2020-2021 are listed below:

1. 19 September World Clean Up Day - Nature Clean Up Event, 19.09.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/19-eylul-dunya-temizlik-gunu-dogada-temizlik>)
2. 19 September World Clean Up Day - Digital Clean Up Event, 19.09.2020 (Image 1)  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/19-eylul-dunya-temizlik-gunu>)
3. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Food Security and Pesticides”, 16.10.2020 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-konusmalari-gida-guvenligi-ve-pestisitler>)
4. Online seminar on “Reliable Food”, 16.10.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/guvenilir-gida>)
5. International Day of Climate Action event, 24.10.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/24-ekim-uluslararası-iklim-eylem-gunu>)
6. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Urban Landscape Design and Recent Trends in Architecture”, 09.11.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-konusmalari-kentsel-mekan-tasarimi-ve-mimaride-guncel-yaklasimlar>)
7. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “How can we prevent erosion?”, 26.11.2020 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-konusmalari-erozyonu-nasil-onleyebiliriz>)
8. 27 November Buy Nothing Day social media event, 27.11.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/27-kasim-satin-almama-gunu>)
9. 11 November International Mountain Day social media event, 11.11.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/11-aralik-uluslararası-dag-gunu>)
10. Reading Club with Nükhet Okutan Davletov, online event on “Ecocritical Perspective on the Novel *Dry Summer* and its Film Adaptation”, 19.12.2020

<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/nukhet-okutan-davletov-ile-okuma-kulubu-susuz-yaz-romani-ve-film-uyarlamasi-uzerine-ekoelestirel-bir-bakis>)

11. Online seminar on, “Best Practices for Avoiding Food Waste”, 28.12.2020  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/gida-israfini-onlemede-iyi-uygulamalar-turuncu-bayrak-uygulamasi>)
12. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Green Building Practices and Energy Saving”, 12.01.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-konusmalari-yesil-bina-uygulamalari-ve-enerji-tasarrufu>)
13. International Online Conference: “Living in the End Times: Utopian and Dystopian Representations of Pandemics in Fiction, Film and Culture”, 15.01.2021 (Image 2)  
(<https://blog.kapadokya.edu.tr/akademik/ingiliz-dili-ve-edebiyati/international-conference-living-in-the-end-times-utopian-and-dystopian-representations-of-pandemics-in-fiction-film-and-culture>)
14. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Birds in Turkey”, 03.02.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-turkiye-kuslari>)
15. Sustainable Living Film Days, online event, 04-07.02.2021 (Image 3)  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/surdurulebilir-yasam-film-gunleri>)
16. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “Organic Production and Regenerative Communities”, 04.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCoaiVTLzpM&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=2>)
17. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “Local and Fair Production Solutions: Example of Gdl Farmers Market”, 05.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQX1L0LN-O0&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=3>)
18. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “Sustainable Fashion”, 06.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6rq0JpmhgI&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=3>)
19. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “Climate Change”, 06.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdrVRI-KSXs&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=4>)

20. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “Right to Health and Global Pandemics”, 07.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQR8zOF6mYo&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=5>)
21. Sustainable Living Film Days, online conversation on “War and Ecology”, 07.02.2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qILuUoCe20&list=PLD1BbRKpWk6F4PFivhUDHv-ugrFO4nDCM&index=6>)
22. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “E-Waste and its Impacts”, 19.03.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-e-atiklar-ve-etkileri>)
23. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Forest Therapy Practices”, 22.03.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-orman-terapisi-uygulamalari>)
24. Online seminar on “Protect your Food”, 24.03.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/gidani-koru>)
25. Sustainable Gastronomy Workshop, online event, 26.03.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/surdurulebilir-gastronomi-calistayi>)
26. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Turkey’s Water and Drought”, 28.03.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-turkiyenin-suyu-ve-kuraklik>)
27. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Nature and Children”, 20.04.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-doga-ve-cocuk>)
28. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Roots and Shoots Movement and Universities”, 21.04.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/kapadokya-surdurulebilirlik-konusmalari-roots-and-shoots-hareketi-ve-universiteler>)
29. Online event, “Our students Meet with Roots and Shoots”, 10.05.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/universitemiz-ogrencileri-roots--shoots-ile-bulusuyor>)
30. Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award Ceremony, online event, 11.05.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/cevresel-surdurulebilirlik-liderlik-odul-toreni>)

31. Cappadocia Sustainability Conversations, online event on “Community Supported Agriculture and No Pesticides on My Plate Project”, 17.05.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/gida-topluluklari-ve-zehirsiz-sofralar>)
32. Environmental Humanities Seminar Program, online undergraduate seminar, “Literature and the Environment: Three Poetic Entry Points”, 17.05.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/ehsp-undergraduate-seminar>)
33. Environmental Humanities Seminar Program, online graduate seminar, "We're Doomed: The Hopefulness of Ecocriticism and the Environmental Humanities", 20.05.2021  
(Image 4) (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/ehsp-graduate-seminars>)
34. Online meeting, “Bridges, UNESCO-MOST Sustainability Science Coalition, Inaugural General Assembly”, 24-25.05.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/unesco-most-bridges-inaugural-general-assembly->)
35. Faculty workshop, “What Should Be the Roles of Environmental Humanities Centers? Possible Visions and Activities”, 26.05.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/faculty-workshop>)
36. Online Conference, “1st National Environmental Humanities Conference”, 27-28.05.2021 (<https://ehc.kapadokya.edu.tr/tr/ulusal-cevreci-beseri-bilimler-konferansi>)
37. Online event, “UI Greenmetric and Sustainability at Cappadocia University”, 14.06.2021 (<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/ui-greenmetric-siralamasi-ve-kun-surdurulebilirlik>)
38. Online seminar on “Medical Waste Control in Clinical Labs”, 21.06.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/klinik-laboratuvarlarda-tibbi-atik-kontrolu->)
39. ICEEE 2021: International Conference on Economics, Energy and Environment, 1-3.07.2021 ([https://easychair.org/cfp/iceee21\\_cappadocia](https://easychair.org/cfp/iceee21_cappadocia))
40. Online seminar, “Nutrition Education: Reduce Waste and Increase Taste”, 14.07.2021  
(<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/etkinlikler/lezzeti-artirarak-israfi-azaltalim-beslenme-egitimi>)

## 17. 2020 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In the 2020-2021 academic year the traditional short story competition organized by the Department of Turkish Language and Literature of Cappadocia University and targeted high school students who were expected to submit utopian or dystopian short stories on the theme of “The Future of the Planet.” Out of the 243 stories submitted from across the country, 22 were shortlisted and published in the edited book with the title “*Gezegeenin Geleceği: Kaygılar ve Umutlar*” (*The Future of the Planet: Concerns and Hopes*) *Selected Short Stories*. The goal was

also to increase awareness among the youth about ecological and sustainability issues and prompting them to take action through creative fiction.

## **18. CAPPADOCIA PLANTS INVENTORY**

In the 2020-2021 academic year Cappadocia University continued the “[Cappadocia Plants Inventory](#)” project to contribute to the preservation of local floral heritage. The study was shared with the public through the webpage of the inventory on *Sustainable Cappadocia* Website.

The page features a total of 286 pictures of 45 herbaceous plant and flower species, taken in the province of Nevşehir as a first step, which is located in Cappadocia, a very wide region right at the center of Anatolia that covers at least five provinces of Turkey. With further selections from our catalogue of pictures, currently underway, the number of species is expected to multiply soon. With ongoing land surveys, the number of herbaceous and woody plants featured on our page will keep growing.

The main goal in showcasing our natural and wild vegetation is to let people see, feel, and appreciate the presence, beauty, and value of these life forms, with which we share the same air and land, and live together. A majority of these plants existed here even before humans did. They have changed over time. We can tell that by looking at fossil records. Often treated as “weeds,” these plants are in fact indispensable building blocks of our ecosystem. It would be a great loss if they were to disappear. We believe raising awareness of this issue is very important in Turkey.

For examples of the inventory please see links below:

Hum (Ephedra major): <https://bitkiortusu.kapadokya.edu.tr/bitki/hum-ephedra-major/>

Hanım şiltesi (Minuartia juniperina): <https://bitkiortusu.kapadokya.edu.tr/bitki/hanim-siltesi-minuartia-juniperina/>

## **19. ORANGE FLAG PROJECT**

In the current reporting period, Cappadocia University was awarded an Orange Flag for its food-friendly policies and practices, aiming to minimize food waste on all campus sites.



**Fig. 9:** Cappadocia University, the first (and only) “food-friendly” certified educational institution in Turkey

Turuncu Bayrak (Orange Flag) (<https://turuncubayrak.org/sayfa-what-is-orange-flag-2>) is an Ankara-based initiative that was “developed to directly contribute the works conducted for preventing food waste and protecting the food and create an awareness in this matter,” as explained on the organization’s official website. Targeting individuals and establishments, the project awards an Orange Flag to entities with impactful efforts towards the prevention and reduction of food waste. In the 2020-2021 period, Cappadocia University filed an application and became the first (and the only at the time of the preparation of this report) educational institution with an Orange Flag.

## 20. “SAFE CAMPUS” CERTIFICATION

As a result of the practices and measures it has implemented in the reporting period, Cappadocia University has been awarded the title of “Safe Campus” for minimizing the risk of pandemics.

Cappadocia University, by fulfilling the conditions of the Certification Program for the Development of Healthy and Clean Environments, was entitled to receive “Safe Campus Certificate in the Context of the Global Epidemic” given by the Higher Education Council (YÖK) and the Turkish Standards Institute (TSE).



**Fig. 10:** Cappadocia University’s “Safe Campus” program

The certification process included the procedures listed below:

- Within the scope of Safe Campus studies, Covid-19 risk analysis was conducted for Nevşehir (Ürgüp, Mustafapaşa, Uçhisar, Montessori Kindergarten) and İstanbul (Sabiha Gökçen) campuses. Covid-19 Emergency and Infection Control Measures Action Plan was created.
- The Case Management Team and the Safe Campus Audit Team were formed within Kov-Kom (Covid Commission).
- The Case Management Team, in accordance with the Covid-19 Case Management Algorithm was created under the chairmanship of the Case Management Officer and with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health Science Board, ensures the filiation of academic, administrative staff and students.
- The Safe Campus *Inspection* Team conducts inspections at intervals determined by the prepared checklists and sends the Safe Campus Inspection Report to the inspection team planning and coordination officer.
- In addition, posters (<https://blog.kapadokya.edu.tr/evde-hayat-var/>) to remind Covid-19 measures were hung in various places (classrooms, offices, laboratories, library, corridor, lobby, waiting areas, etc.) and hand sanitizers are placed in common areas. Capacities and seating arrangements have been rearranged in common areas such as classrooms, laboratories and libraries, and information posters regarding the capacities have been hung at the entrance doors.
- In addition, all academic and administrative personnel were informed via videos and visuals on our university website (<https://blog.kapadokya.edu.tr/evde-hayat-var/>).
- At the end of all these studies, inspections of Nevşehir campuses between 30 June 2021 - 9 July 2021 and İstanbul campus between 18-19 August 2021 were carried out by the TSE Nevşehir Certification Directorate, and the university received the “TSE Covid-19 Safe Campus Certificate in the Context of the Global Epidemic”.

## CONCLUSION

In 2020-2021, Cappadocia University made visible and measurable progress towards its strategic goals regarding environmental sustainability as defined in its governing documents.

During the next reporting period (1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022, Cappadocia University aims to further strengthen its efforts towards the dissemination of sustainability discourse in and outside of Turkey. To this end, the existing network with the local, national, and international partners will be strengthened and expanded. The sustainability-related structures, programs, and initiatives that were established in the since the 2019-2020 academic year will be monitored and revised as necessary for a more impactful result of Cappadocia University’s financial, socio-cultural and intellectual investment in sustainability.