5.3   Luarasi University:Plan for Climate Action

No.	Areas	Goals	Activities	Target	Outcomes	Responsible Parties	Priority	Financial resources
1	Environmental Sustainability in Academics: Teaching, Learning and Research	1. Foster scientific research in Climate and Sustainable Development areas and provide opportunities for staff and students to develop their knowledge, skills, and understanding of environmental issues and solutions	**Knowledge Hub for Climate Change and Sustainability**: Establish the dedicated Knowledge Hub for Climate Change and Sustainability to oversee sustainability initiatives, track progress, and report to stakeholders. It will be a research center within the university accessible to students, university staff, and third parties. • **Regular Reporting**: Publish an annual sustainability report to communicate achievements and areas for improvement. • Introduce students to environmental principles and foster awareness and understanding of environmental issues through engaging activities. • Organize interactive workshops covering various environmental topics such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and waste reduction. • Invite guest speakers, experts, or alumni working in environmental fields to share their knowledge and experiences with students. **Sustainability Governance**:	• Number of activities targeting students such as info days, workshops, focus groups: **At least 2 activity per year** • Number of students receiving environmental education: **At least 150 per year** • Number of workshops covering sustainability topics: **At least 2 per year**. • Number of guest speaker hosting sustainability events: **At least 1 per year** • Number of impact assessment Surveys Collecting feedback from students regarding the quality and relevance of activities supporting sustainable development and climate action: **At least one survey per year**	• Raised awareness of student communities: Increased understanding and awareness of environmental principles among student communities. • Knowledge Exchange: Opportunities for students to engage with experts, exchange ideas, and learn from real-world experiences. • Inspiration for Action: Empowering students to take action towards sustainability within their academic pursuits and beyond. • Networking: Facilitating connections and collaborations among students, faculty, and external stakeholders in the environmental field.	• Faculty Members: Collaborate in organizing events, providing expertise, and integrating related topics into curriculum. • Student Organizations: Support in promotion, participation, and feedback collection. • External Partners: Collaborate in organizing lectures, fairs, and field trips, providing expertise and resources	High	• National/International Projects: Seek funding opportunities from government agencies, NGOs, or international organizations supporting environmental education initiatives. • Own Funds: Allocate budget from university funds for event organization, guest speakers, and materials. • Sponsorship: Seek sponsorship from local businesses, industries, or environmental organizations interested in supporting educational initiatives. • Volunteer Support: Utilize volunteer assistance from faculty, staff, or students to minimize costs and maximize impact. • In kind contributions from institutional resources

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1	Environmental Sustainability in Academics: Teaching, Learning and Research	2. Curriculum Integration	• **Sustainability Courses:** Develop and offer courses related to sustainability, climate change, renewable energy, and environmental conservation across various disciplines. Creating sustainability courses spanning disciplines in higher education serves several critical purposes. It fosters a holistic understanding of sustainability issues, promotes interdisciplinary thinking, prepares informed citizens, addresses global challenges, enhances career opportunities, aligns with sustainable development goals, meets stakeholder expectations, and stimulates research and innovation. These courses empower students with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing sustainability and climate change issues, positioning them to contribute meaningfully to a more sustainable future and meet the evolving demands of society and the job market	• **Number of Sustainability Courses: At least once per year** We have identified some possible courses to be integrated into the actual bachelor programs offered in the Faculty of Economics and the Information Technology and Innovation Faculty. **Bachelor's in information technology and Innovation:** Digital Innovation for Sustainability: Explores how emerging technologies like IoT, AI, and blockchain can be used to address sustainability challenges, such as smart energy grids and supply chain transparency. Innovation and Sustainable Business Models: Explores how companies can innovate their business models to align with sustainability goals, including circular economy principles and sustainable value creation. **Bachelor's in Business Administration:** Sustainable Leadership and Ethics: Discuss business leaders' ethical responsibilities in addressing climate change and sustainability issues, emphasizing ethical decision-making in a corporate context. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Examines the concept of CSR and its practical implementation in businesses. Topics include stakeholder engagement, sustainability reporting, and the role of businesses in addressing social and environmental issues. **Bachelor's in Finance-Banking** Financial Technology (FinTech) for Sustainability: Explores how FinTech innovations, such as blockchain and AI, can be applied to sustainability challenges, including supply chain transparency, carbon credit trading, and green finance. Climate Change Risk Assessment in Banking: Focuses on assessing the financial risks associated with climate change, including physical risks (e.g., extreme weather events) and transition risks (e.g., policy and technology shifts). **Master of Science in Information Technology and Innovation:** Digital Sustainability Reporting: Teaches students how to leverage IT solutions to streamline and enhance sustainability reporting processes, incorporating data analytics and visualization. **Master of Science in Banks and Financial Markets:** Climate Finance and Investment: Analyzes the role of banks and financial institutions in financing climate-resilient projects and green investments, including sustainable lending practices and green bonds. **Master of Science in Executive Management:** Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Integration: Examines the integration of ESG factors into corporate decision-making, investment strategies, and risk management. In the project proposal, Luarasi University has selected some courses subject to a 20% change in the syllabuses integrating sustainability and climate change topics. They include: **Administrative Law:** Environmental Regulatory Frameworks: Study of environmental laws, regulations, and administrative procedures governing sustainability, resource management, and climate action. Environmental Impact Assessments: Analyzing the role of administrative law in conducting environmental impact assessments for projects with environmental and climate implications. Climate Change Policy and Administrative Responses: Examining how administrative agencies respond to climate change challenges through policy formulation, enforcement, and compliance.	• **Identification of Gaps:** Clear understanding of areas within study programs lacking environmental education. • **Actionable Recommendations:** Comprehensive report outlining strategies to enhance environmental education integration. • **Improved Curriculum:** Implementation of revised curricula with enhanced environmental education components. • **Increased Awareness:** Raised awareness among faculty and students about the importance of environmental education and sustainability	• **Department Heads and Faculty:** Collaborate in curriculum review and modification, integrating environmental education where applicable. • **Students:** Participate in surveys and provide feedback on their experiences and expectations regarding environmental education. • Administrative Staff: Provide logistical support and resources necessary for the implementation of recommended changes.	High	• **National/International Projects such as Government Agencies:** Seek grants from environmental ministries or agencies. • **Own Funds: University Budget:** Allocate funds for environmental education activities. Departmental Funds: Utilize departmental resources effectively. • **Volunteer Support:** Encourage faculty, staff, and students to volunteer their time and expertise. Recruit volunteers with relevant expertise from professional networks.

				Innovation Management:				
				Sustainable Innovation Strategies: Exploring methods for integrating sustainability principles into innovation processes, product design, and research and development.				
				Eco-design and Green Innovation: Focusing on design principles that minimize environmental impact and promote sustainable product and service innovation.				
				Innovative Energy Solutions: Investigating cutting-edge energy innovations, including renewable technologies and sustainable energy management practices.				
				Sociology:				
				Environmental Sociology: Studying the societal dimensions of environmental issues, including the social impacts of climate change, environmental justice, and community responses to sustainability challenges.				
				Climate Change and Social Movements: Analyzing the role of social movements, activism, and advocacy in addressing climate change and promoting sustainability.				
				Sustainable Communities: Exploring the concept of sustainable communities, sustainable urbanization, and the social dynamics of sustainable development.				
				International Business:				
				Global Climate Agreements and Business: Examining international climate agreements (e.g., Paris Agreement) and their impact on global business strategies and operations.				
				Carbon Pricing and Trade: Investigating the relationship between carbon pricing mechanisms, carbon markets, and international trade, including the implications for businesses.				
				Sustainable Supply Chain Management in a Global Context: Analyzing how international businesses can promote sustainability throughout their global supply chains.				
				Public Finance:				
				Green Fiscal Policies: Discuss how governments can use fiscal policies, incentives, and taxation to promote sustainability, green technologies, and climate resilience.				
				Climate Finance and Public Investment: Examining government budgets, public spending, and investment in climate adaptation and mitigation projects.				
				Economic Impacts of Climate Change: Analyzing the economic consequences of climate change, including the costs of inaction and the benefits of climate-resilient policies.				
				Creativity and Designing for Innovation:				
				Design Thinking for Sustainability: Integrating design thinking principles into sustainability and climate change problem-solving, emphasizing user-centered solutions.				
				Sustainable Product Design: Focusing on the design of eco-friendly products and services, considering factors like material choice, recyclability, and energy efficiency.				
				Circular Design Principles: Exploring circular economy design principles, including cradle-to-cradle design and product life extension.				

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1	Environmental Sustainability in Academics: Teaching, Learning and Research	3. Research Initiatives: Encourage faculty and students to engage in sustainability-focused research projects and offer funding and resources for such endeavors	• Encouraging research initiatives within faculty and students to engage in sustainability-focused research projects and offering funding and resources for such endeavors requires a multifaceted approach that involves creating a supportive environment, promoting awareness, and establishing clear processes for obtaining funding and resources. • Luarasi University will survey faculty and students to identify their interests and expertise in sustainability-related topics. It will identify topics of interest among students and faculty members regarding sustainability and climate change. • The second step will focus on raising awareness and building interest. • Student Involvement: Student Organizations:Establishment of a Sustainability Club: The university forms a Sustainability Club, an official student organization focused on sustainability and environmental issues. The Sustainability Club can use the KHCS space as a meeting space and have access to university resources like event promotion and equipment. The sustainability club will be encouraged to collaborate with other student organizations, academic departments, and the local community to organize sustainability-related events, workshops, and awareness campaigns. The club will undertake sustainability projects on campus, such as promoting recycling, organizing tree-planting events, or advocating for energy-efficient practices. **Internship and Volunteer Opportunities**: Internship Program: The university establishes a Sustainability Internship Program in partnership with local environmental organizations, government agencies, or businesses. Students can apply for internships that align with their academic interests and career goals. These internships may involve working on sustainability projects, conducting research, or assisting with sustainability-related tasks. The students undertaking this internship can gain academic credit, especially those in 3-rd year in their bachelor programs with a course titled Career Practice. This can motivate more students to participate. The students get recognition for their work through awards, certificates, or mentions in university publications, encouraging more students to get involved.	• Within the next academic year 2024-2025, Luarasi University will launch **the Green Research Initiative**. The first step is Assessment. • **Surveys** to faculty staff and students. • **A Sustainable Research Symposium** will be organized, inviting renowned sustainability researchers as keynote speakers. • Within the institution's website, **a dedicated webpage will be created** to showcase faculty and student research projects and share sustainability news.	• Development of cutting-edge research that contributes to sustainable solutions and informs policy and practice. • Advancement of knowledge in areas such as renewable energy, climate change adaptation, and sustainability. • Skill Development: Research projects provide valuable opportunities for students to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills, enhancing their academic and professional development.	• Faculty and Researchers: Lead interdisciplinary research collaborations, initiate research projects, and mentor students. • Research Centers: Provide support, funding opportunities, and resources for faculty and student research projects. • Institutional Leadership: Set strategic priorities and allocate resources to support research activities in environmental sustainability. • Students: Participate in research projects under the supervision of faculty mentors. • Students: Participate in surveys and provide feedback on their experiences and expectations regarding environmental education.	High	• Institutional Budget: Allocate funds to support research. • Seek funding from government agencies, foundations, and industry partners to support research projects, conferences, and dissemination activities. • Industry Partnerships: Collaborate with industry partners on research projects and initiatives, leveraging financial resources and expertise to address mutual environmental challenges.

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2	Sustainability Citizenship	1. Promoting environmental values at Institutional Level	**Green Events and Conferences**: Host Sustainable Events: Implement eco-friendly practices for conferences, workshops, and other campus events. Promote waste reduction. Aim for zero-waste events by providing labeled recycling and compost bins alongside traditional trash bins. Try to reduce Single-Use Items. Avoid disposable utensils, plates, and cups. Instead, use reusable or biodegradable alternatives. Go for digital communication by promoting digital communication and event materials to reduce paper waste. Use electronic invitations, agendas, and presentation materials. Search for Sustainable Catering offers. Collaborate with caterers who source locally and offer organic and sustainably grown food options. Request that catering services use minimal packaging and avoid single-use plastics. Establish a dedicated research group responsible for overseeing environmental sustainability initiatives and promoting sustainability citizenship within the university community. Include participation from various departments and administrative units in implementing sustainability practices and integrating them into their operations. Develop and implement environmental education and awareness programs to educate the university community about sustainability issues, promote environmentally responsible behaviors, and foster a culture of sustainability citizenship. Establish mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the university's environmental performance. .	• Establish at least one research groups comprising at least 8 of faculty members, researchers, and graduate students with expertise in environmental sustainability. • Number of sustainability-related research projects initiated, publications produced, and collaborations established by the research group within a 5-year timeframe: At least 5 • Long-Term Planning: - Incorporate sustainability in the Luarasi Sustainability and Climate Change Strategic Plan. • Continuous improvement: - Continuously assess the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives and adapt strategies as needed.	• Increased collaboration and interdisciplinary research focused on environmental sustainability. • Cultivation of a culture of sustainability consciousness and collective responsibility among faculty, staff, and students. • Adoption of environmentally responsible behaviors and practices by students, faculty, staff, and administrators. • Integration of sustainability concepts into academic curricula and extracurricular activities.	• Faculty Researchers: Actively participate in the research group, contribute expertise, and lead research projects related to environmental sustainability. • Department Heads or Chairs: Encourage and facilitate the integration of sustainability practices within their respective departments. • Faculty Members: Develop and deliver environmental education programs as part of their teaching responsibilities. • Student Organizations: Collaborate with faculty and administrators to organize sustainability-related events, workshops, and campaigns. • Administrator Responsible for establishing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, collecting data, and analysing environmental performance.	High	• Research Grants and Funding: Faculty members can apply for research grants from internal and external sources specifically designated for sustainability research and initiatives. • Donations from alumni, philanthropic organizations, and corporate partners interested in supporting sustainability efforts can supplement existing financial resources. • Implementing sustainability practices such as energy efficiency upgrades, waste reduction initiatives, and water conservation measures can result in cost savings over time. These cost savings can be reinvested into sustainability initiatives within the faculty, providing a sustainable source of financial resources. • Partnerships with sustainability-focused foundations, NGOs, and research institutes can provide access to additional financial resources and expertise.

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3	Climate action	1. Reduce energy consumption levels at Luarasi University by increasing energy efficiency measures and transitioning towards renewable energy sources, thereby contributing to climate action and sustainability efforts.	Installing a programme that switches off the equipment done automatically by the server and to be configured manually in all computers. Install wallpapers on all classroom computers to raise awareness and to remind users to turn off projectors, in order to save energy. Develop an energy efficiency campaign on social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram), sharing informative posts, graphics, and videos. Maintain ongoing engagement with regular updates, reminders, and educational content through social media and campus communication channels.	• Number of wallpapers installed on all hallways/classroom's computers across the institution: **At least 15** • Number of informative sessions developed: **at least 2 annually.** • Number of students and staff members that regularly receive the information on the importance of turning off computers, projectors to save energy: **At least 600 annually.** • Number of posts shared (graphics and videos and other forms of information) emphasizing the importance of saving energy on social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, website): **At least 3 times annually**	• Increased Awareness: Remind users to turn off computers, projectors after use, reducing energy waste. • Behavioral Change: Encourage users to adopt energy-saving habits and contribute to overall energy conservation efforts. • Cost Savings: Decrease energy expenses associated with projector usage, leading to potential cost savings for the institution. • Environmental Impact Reduction: Contribute to the institution's sustainability goals by reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. • Cost Savings: Financial savings for the institution and individuals through reduced heating costs during the winter months. • Community Engagement: Enhanced sense of community involvement and responsibility for environmental sustainability among students, staff, and faculty.	• Administrator Office: Coordinate the development, installation, and monitoring of the wallpaper initiative. • IT Department: Assist with the installation process and ensure wallpapers are installed effectively across all classroom computers. • Faculty Members: Support the initiative by reinforcing the importance of turning off projectors during class sessions. • Student Representatives: Promote awareness and encourage participation among student users. • Marketing and Communications Department: Provide expertise in graphic design, social media management, and campaign promotion.	High	• Institutional Budget Allocation: • Seek grants from government agencies, foundations, or corporate sustainability programs that support energy conservation projects. • Reach out to local businesses, energy companies, or environmentally-focused organizations for sponsorship or donations towards the wallpaper installation initiative. Seek sponsorship from local businesses, utility companies, or environmental organizations interested in supporting energy conservation initiatives. • In-kind Donations: Secure donations of printing services, promotional items, or venue space from community partners to offset campaign costs.

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3	Climate action	2. Increase awareness of academic and administrative staff in charge of monitoring energy consumption at institutional level	• Conduct annual purchasing sustainability presentations at Academic and Administrative Assistants' meetings within the faculty. • Provide training sessions for academic and administrative assistants on sustainable purchasing practices.	• Number of training sessions for academic and administrative assistants within the faculty: **At least one annually.**	• Increased awareness and understanding among academic and administrative staff about the significance of sustainable purchasing within the faculty setting. • Integration of sustainable procurement practices into administrative operations, contributing to the university's overall sustainability goals. • Enhanced collaboration between administrative staff, procurement officers, and sustainability stakeholders.	• Faculty Administrator Office Overall coordination. • Procurement Department: Collaboration in providing relevant data and insights into current purchasing practices. • Academic staff. • Administrative Staff: Active participation in the presentations and implementation of sustainable practices in their respective roles	Medium	• Grants or Funding Opportunities: Seek external grants or funding opportunities specifically designated for sustainability initiatives within educational institutions

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4	Waste Reduction and Circular Economy	1. Reducing the negative impact of construction practices, restoration and utilization of Luarasi University buildings to ensure not only environmental protection, but also the well-being of users such as the student community, academic staff and administrative staff.	• Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the building's environmental performance, including energy consumption, water usage, waste generation, indoor air quality, and overall sustainability practices. • Review existing legal documentation, such as building plans, utility bills, maintenance records, and environmental permits. • Utilize environmental assessment tools, software, and calculators to calculate energy consumption, carbon footprint, water usage, and other environmental metrics	• Evaluation developed **annually**. • Energy consumption, water usage and others measured **annually**.	• Improved Environmental Performance: Implementation of recommended measures leads to reduced energy consumption, water usage, waste generation, and environmental impact. • Cost Savings: Energy efficiency upgrades and other environmental improvements result in reduced operating costs and long-term financial savings for building owners and occupants. • Health and Well-being: Indoor air quality improvements and other environmental enhancements contribute to a healthier, more comfortable indoor environment for building occupants.	• Internal Auditors: Conduct the environmental audit and prepare the audit report, providing expertise and guidance throughout the process. • Administrator: Provide access to the building, historical data, and resources necessary for conducting the audit and implementing recommended improvements. • Collaborate with auditors to facilitate on-site inspections, data collection, and implementation of recommended measures. • Staff: Participate in the audit process, provide feedback on environmental conditions, and support implementation of recommended improvements.	Medium	• Government and international Incentives: Seek financial incentives, grants, or rebates from government agencies or utilities to support energy efficiency upgrades and other environmental improvements. • Enter into energy performance contracts with third-party vendors to finance environmental improvements through guaranteed energy savings.

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5	Commuting and Active Travel	1. Minimizing the environmental impact of the transport of staff and students for the purpose of teaching, learning, scientific research, by promoting healthy and environmentally friendly forms of mobility.	• **Promote Sustainable Transportation**: Encourage biking, walking, carpooling, and public transportation for commuting to reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation. • Promoting sustainable transportation, such as biking, walking, carpooling, and public transportation, can significantly reduce carbon footprints. To effectively encourage these practices, some educational campaigns will be launched • **Launch an informational campaign** to raise awareness about the environmental benefits of sustainable transportation. Highlight the health and cost-saving advantages of biking, walking, carpooling, and public transportation. The student council at the university will organize the activity with the supervision of some of the faculty members. The activity will be covered by the media where the connection with the 1Future project and its impact on realizing such initiatives will be referred to. The activity will be organized during the academic year 2024-2025	• Increased percentage of staff and students using bicycles – **at least 10% increase** • Increased number of virtual meetings conducted and the reduction in travel-related carbon emissions as a result of increased videoconferencing usage **by 10%** • Number of bike racks, scooter stands, and other infrastructure components at designated parking stations according to design specifications – At least 1 designated parking station. • Number of awareness campaigns about commuting and active travel - At least 3. • Day "Without cars" campaign" **At least two per year.**	• Increase in the percentage of staff and students opting for bicycles as a sustainable mode of transport, leading to a reduction in carbon emissions from transportation. • Increase in the proficiency of staff and students in effectively using videoconferencing tools for virtual meetings, lectures, and collaborative projects, resulting in a higher frequency of virtual interactions and reduced travel-related emissions.	• Information Technology (IT) Department: Provide training sessions and technical support for staff and students on using videoconferencing tools effectively, ensuring smooth implementation and troubleshooting issues. • Communication Department: Lead the awareness campaigns promoting bicycle use, collaborate with campus transportation services, and engage student organizations to support initiatives promoting sustainable transportation options	Low	• Partner with corporations or businesses interested in promoting sustainability and environmentally friendly transportation options. • Secure sponsorships or financial support for awareness campaigns and infrastructure development.

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6	Food, Health and Well-Being	1. Increase access to healthy extracurricular activities	• Expand the range of extracurricular activities available to students to include a variety of options promoting physical activity, mental wellness, and social engagement, such as sports teams, fitness classes, outdoor excursions, mindfulness workshops, art clubs, and more. • Develop marketing campaigns and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the available extracurricular activities and their benefits. • Forge partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and community groups to expand the range of available activities and leverage resources. • Introducing a faculty day "No Meat"	• Number of students participating in extracurricular activities - **At least 30** • Number of extracurricular activities available to students promoting physical activity, mental wellness, and social engagement - **At least 2 per year.** • Number of new partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and community groups to expand the range of available extracurricular activities: **At least 1 per year** • Number of "No meat" campaigns at the faculty: **At least four per year.**	• Promotes environmental awareness through outdoor activities. • Encourages active transportation and social responsibility. • Integrates sustainability education into curricula and policies. • Motivates community engagement and long-term impact beyond campus.	• Vice Deans Office responsible for students affairs: Overall coordination and oversight of extracurricular programming, including activity scheduling, promotion, and accessibility initiatives. • Student Organizations: Host and organize various extracurricular activities, contributing to a diverse array of options available to students. • Departments: Collaborate on the development of extracurricular activities related to specific fields of study or academic interests.	High	• Sponsorships and Donations: Seek financial support from local businesses, alumni, and philanthropic organizations interested in promoting student engagement and well-being. • Grant Funding: Apply for grants from government agencies or private foundations aimed at supporting student enrichment and campus life initiatives.