SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

AY 2025-2026

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

Metric 14.3 Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

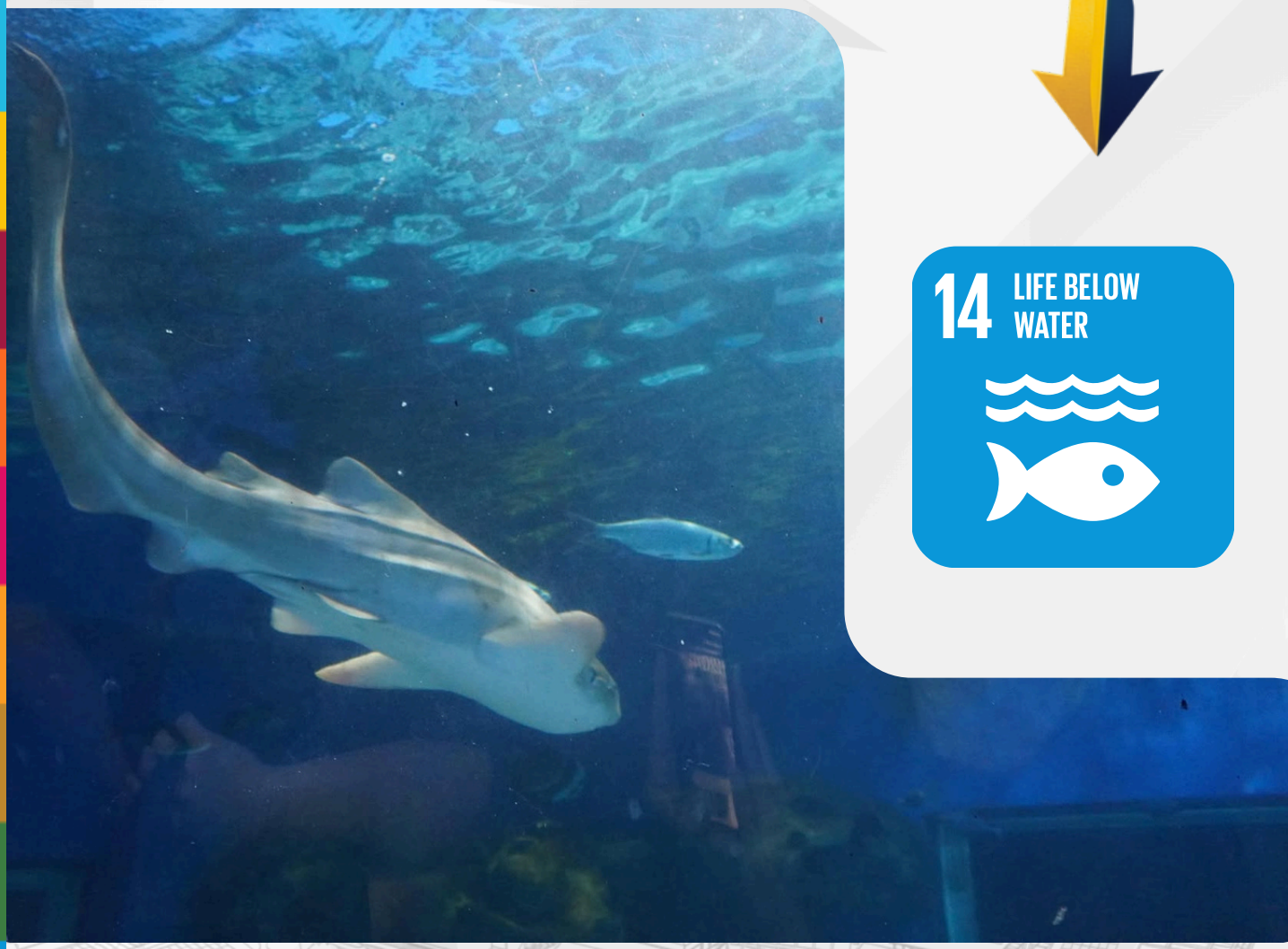
Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

AY 2025-2026

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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Indicator 14.3.3 Maintain ecosystems and their biodiversity (direct work)



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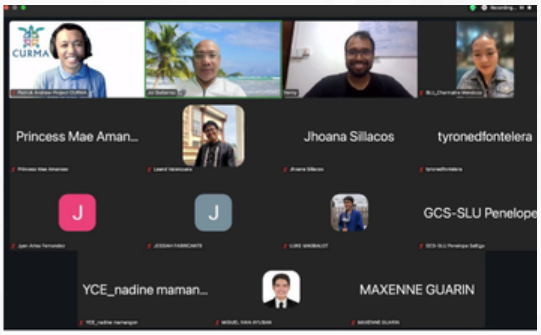
Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

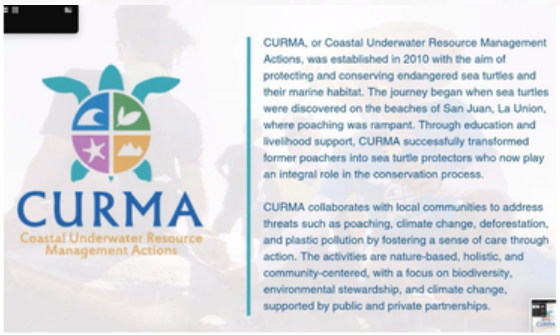
AY 2025-2026

Saint Louis University works on the coast and at the riverbank to protect aquatic life

ON THE COAST: HELPING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVIVE

On 24 January 2026, dozens of olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings were released into the sea in San Juan, La Union. The release was led by Project Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA), a non-profit that runs a sea turtle hatchery in San Juan. SLU took part through "Marine Stewardship and Climate Resilience: A SLU–CURMA Coastal Mission," a partnership program started by SLU President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, PhD, and Vice President for Mission and Identity Fr. Emery Ebumea Mwako, CICM.





The olive ridley is listed as endangered in the Philippines under DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 and as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Its hatchlings face poaching and habitat loss from the moment they leave the nest. Each protected release helps more of them reach open water and adds to a population under threat.



The partnership has grown step by step. SLU held an online orientation on the CURMA project on 24 January 2025, in partnership with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, to prepare Louisian volunteers for turtle conservation. On 26 February 2025, the Youth Council of Ecolodians visited CURMA's headquarters to plan joint projects.

Protecting turtles also means protecting the beaches where they nest. On 16 November 2025, SLU youth leaders and students cleared plastic and debris from the La Union shoreline. Turtles often mistake plastic for food or get caught in it, so clearing the shoreline makes nesting grounds safer and keeps the habitat healthy. Diwa Learning Systems Inc., Phoenix Publishing House Inc. and Mercado Canteen supported the activity as part of their corporate social responsibility, together with American Corner Baguio and the SLU University Libraries.

AT THE RIVERBANK: RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND PRESSURES ON A RIVER

SLU's work also includes research. At iCREaTe 2025, held from 2 to 4 April 2025 and organized by the University Research and Innovation Center, a team from the School of Engineering and Architecture won 2nd place for the school with “Spatiotemporal Analysis of Land Use Land Cover (LULC) Change and its Correlation to the Water Quality of Asin-Galiano River.”

A river reflects the land around it. As forests and open land give way to farms, roads and houses, more runoff and waste can reach the water. The study traced how land use around the Asin-Galiano River has changed over time and how those changes relate to the river's water quality. Research like this shows where a river is under the most pressure and where protection or rehabilitation would do the most good, which is a first step toward keeping the river able to support aquatic life.



ONE COMMITMENT, TWO APPROACHES





Together, the two efforts show how SLU works toward healthy aquatic ecosystems. On the coast, the University joins direct action to protect an endangered species and its habitat. Inland, it produces research on the pressures facing a local river. Both are rooted in the CICM advocacy for the Integrity of Creation and in SLU's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.



SDG 14: Life Below Water



The SLU SDG Report 2026