Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Protection Policy

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1. Preamble

The University recognises biodiversity and healthy ecosystems as important components of a sustainable and environmentally responsible campus. Green spaces, trees, vegetation, landscaped areas, water bodies, soil, and associated flora and fauna together form an interconnected campus ecosystem that contributes to ecological balance and environmental quality.

The University is committed to conserving and enhancing biodiversity through responsible management of its land, vegetation, water bodies, and natural habitats. The University shall promote practices that maintain ecological functions, minimise habitat degradation, and encourage the sustainable use of natural resources.

Biodiversity conservation shall be considered in campus development, landscaping, construction, maintenance, water-body management, plantation activities, and other operations that may influence the surrounding ecosystem.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological features within the campus.
- To protect and maintain green areas, trees, vegetation, water bodies, and other important ecological spaces.
- To promote sustainable landscaping and environmentally responsible land management.
- To maintain suitable habitats that support native plants, birds, insects, pollinators, and other organisms.
- To minimise activities that may cause unnecessary degradation or fragmentation of habitats.
- To encourage the use and conservation of locally appropriate plant species.
- To promote biodiversity documentation, monitoring, and ecological assessment.

- To encourage students and staff to participate in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-related activities.
- To integrate ecosystem protection considerations into campus planning and development.
- To strengthen environmental awareness and responsible use of natural resources.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All campus land, green spaces, gardens, landscaped areas, and plantation zones.
- Campus lakes, ponds, drainage features, and other water bodies.
- Trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, and other vegetation within the campus.
- Natural and semi-natural habitats occurring within the campus.
- Areas affected by construction, infrastructure development, landscaping, or other university activities.
- Biodiversity-related academic, research, awareness, and conservation activities.
- Students, faculty, staff, contractors, service providers, and visitors involved in activities on university premises.

4. Policy Statement

The University shall take appropriate measures to conserve biodiversity and protect the ecological functions of campus ecosystems. Campus development and maintenance activities shall, wherever feasible, be planned in a manner that avoids unnecessary loss of vegetation, degradation of habitats, disturbance of ecological areas, and adverse impacts on water bodies.

The University shall promote the maintenance of adequate green cover, sustainable landscaping, responsible water-body management, and conservation-oriented land use. Biodiversity considerations shall be incorporated into campus planning and environmental management practices.

5. Biodiversity Conservation Measures

5.1 Conservation of Green Areas and Vegetation

The University shall maintain existing green areas and vegetation as important components of the campus ecosystem. Significant trees and established vegetation shall be retained wherever reasonably possible, particularly where they provide shade, habitat, nesting opportunities, or other ecological benefits.

Plantation and landscaping activities shall consider locally appropriate species, ecological suitability, water requirements, and long-term maintenance needs.

5.2 Sustainable Landscaping

Landscaping shall be planned not only for aesthetic purposes but also to support environmental sustainability.

The University shall encourage:

- Appropriate selection of trees, shrubs, herbs, and flowering plants.
- Maintenance of diverse vegetation across suitable campus areas.
- Plantation that provides shade and habitat.
- Efficient use of water for landscape maintenance.
- Reduction of unnecessary disturbance to established vegetation.
- Environmentally responsible maintenance practices.

5.3 Ecosystem and Habitat Protection

Areas supporting important ecological functions shall be identified and maintained wherever feasible. Habitat protection shall consider vegetation, soil, water availability, nesting and feeding areas, and other ecological features.

Major activities involving land development or clearing shall consider their potential effects on existing habitats and biodiversity before implementation.

5.4 Campus Lake and Water-Body Conservation

Campus lakes, ponds, and other water bodies shall be recognised as important ecological components of the campus. Their management shall consider the conservation of aquatic organisms, surrounding vegetation, visiting birds, and other associated biodiversity.

Where feasible, unnecessary chemical treatment, pollution, littering, and activities that may adversely affect aquatic ecosystems shall be avoided.

5.5 Soil and Land Conservation

The University shall promote responsible use and management of campus land to minimise soil degradation, erosion, unnecessary land disturbance, and loss of vegetation. Landscaping and development activities shall, wherever feasible, incorporate measures that maintain soil stability and ecological functions.

5.6 Biodiversity Documentation and Monitoring

The University may undertake periodic biodiversity documentation and ecological assessments to understand changes in campus biodiversity and ecosystem conditions.

Such activities may include:

- Documentation of plant and animal species.
- Tree and vegetation inventories.



- Bird, butterfly, and pollinator observations.
- Biodiversity walks and field surveys.
- Photographic documentation.
- Habitat and ecosystem observations.
- Periodic assessment of changes in vegetation and ecological areas.

Records generated through such activities shall be maintained by the designated university authority or relevant academic unit.

5.7 Conservation through Academic and Student Activities

The University shall encourage students and faculty to participate in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation through academic projects, field studies, awareness programmes, biodiversity surveys, plantation activities, nature walks, and other relevant initiatives.

5.8 Biodiversity Consideration in Campus Development

New construction, land development, and major infrastructure activities shall, wherever feasible, consider the existing ecological characteristics of the proposed area.

Planning shall aim to minimise unnecessary removal of trees and vegetation and avoid avoidable disturbance to important ecological areas. Green spaces and landscape features shall be considered as part of overall campus development planning.

5.9 Responsible Use of Chemicals

The use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers, and other chemicals for campus maintenance shall be appropriately controlled. Their use shall be limited to necessary applications, with preference given to practices that minimise potential impacts on soil organisms, pollinators, birds, aquatic organisms, and other non-target species.

5.10 Awareness and Participation

The University shall promote awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation among students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors.

Activities may include:

- Biodiversity awareness programmes.
- Nature and biodiversity walks.
- Plantation and conservation activities.
- World Environment Day and biodiversity-related programmes.
- Student projects and competitions.
- Awareness signage and educational displays.
- Campus biodiversity documentation activities.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

University Administration:

Ensure implementation of the policy and provide appropriate support and resources for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Estate/Infrastructure Management:

Consider biodiversity and ecological aspects during construction, land development, landscaping, and campus maintenance.

Environmental/Eco Club:

Support biodiversity documentation, awareness programmes, nature-based activities, and student participation.

Relevant Academic Departments:

Provide technical guidance and support biodiversity surveys, ecological assessments, student projects, and conservation-related research.

Students and Staff:

Participate in conservation activities, avoid unnecessary disturbance to ecological areas, and contribute to responsible environmental practices.

7. Implementation Measures

The University shall implement this policy through appropriate measures, including:

- Maintaining and enhancing campus green spaces.
- Periodic documentation of campus biodiversity.
- Maintaining records of trees and significant vegetation.
- Conducting biodiversity walks or ecological surveys.
- Protecting important green and habitat areas.
- Promoting sustainable landscaping practices.
- Considering biodiversity during major construction and land-development activities.
- Maintaining and protecting campus water bodies.
- Conducting awareness and conservation activities.
- Documenting major conservation initiatives and actions undertaken.

8. Monitoring and Documentation

The designated University authorities shall maintain appropriate records related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. These may include:

- Biodiversity survey and assessment reports.

- Tree and vegetation records.
- Species observation records.
- Photographic documentation.
- Campus lake and water-body conservation records.
- Plantation and landscaping records.
- Conservation activity reports.
- Student and faculty biodiversity projects.
- Awareness programme records.
- Action Taken Reports, wherever applicable.

Periodic review of these records may be undertaken to identify improvements and future conservation requirements.

9. Expected Outcomes

Through implementation of this policy, the University aims to:

- Maintain and enhance campus biodiversity.
- Protect important ecological areas and habitats.
- Improve the quality and extent of campus green cover.
- Promote sustainable landscaping and responsible land management.
- Support healthy campus ecosystems and associated biodiversity.
- Encourage greater participation of students and staff in conservation activities.
- Integrate biodiversity conservation into campus development and environmental management.
- Strengthen the University's contribution towards SDG 15 - Life on Land.

10. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically or earlier, where necessary, considering changes in campus development, environmental conditions, biodiversity observations, applicable environmental requirements, and the outcomes of conservation and monitoring activities.

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