

University Biodiversity Sustainability Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the University’s commitment to conserving biodiversity, protecting natural habitats, and integrating ecosystem health into campus planning, education, research, and community engagement. The policy aligns with **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** and supports the university’s broader sustainability and climate resilience goals.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all university campuses, facilities, research stations, and affiliated properties. It includes biodiversity-related practices in land use planning, construction, landscaping, academic programming, research, partnerships, and student-led activities.

3. Policy Statement

The University is committed to:

- Conserving and restoring natural ecosystems on and around its campuses
- Minimizing ecological disruption from development and human activity
- Promoting biodiversity awareness through education and research
- Supporting regional and global conservation efforts
- Integrating biodiversity considerations into sustainability planning, ESG reporting, and environmental impact assessments

4. Guiding Principles

- **Ecological Stewardship:** Safeguard native species and habitats across all university properties.
- **Sustainable Landscaping:** Prioritize native, drought-resistant, and pollinator-friendly plants in all green spaces.
- **No Net Loss:** Avoid or mitigate biodiversity loss in campus infrastructure projects.
- **Interdisciplinary Engagement:** Integrate biodiversity across curricula, research, and community partnerships.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Monitor, report, and publicly share progress on biodiversity goals.

5. Key Objectives

Objective 1: Protect and Enhance Campus Biodiversity

- Conduct baseline biodiversity assessments across all campuses.
- Designate and manage biodiversity conservation zones.
- Restore degraded areas using native plant species and natural regeneration techniques.

Objective 2: Educate and Raise Awareness

- Integrate biodiversity-related content into relevant academic programs and public learning events.
- Host annual biodiversity awareness campaigns, events, and field workshops.
- Support student projects and clubs focused on ecological protection and restoration.

Objective 3: Minimize Impact of Campus Operations

- Require environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for new construction or expansion projects.
- Eliminate the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides on university grounds.
- Develop green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, urban forests, rain gardens) that enhances habitat value.

Objective 4: Collaborate with External Stakeholders

- Partner with environmental NGOs, local communities, and government bodies on biodiversity monitoring and conservation initiatives.
- Participate in global biodiversity networks and data-sharing platforms.

6. Implementation Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Role
Facilities and Campus Planning	Incorporate biodiversity standards into landscaping and development plans
Sustainability Office	Coordinate biodiversity efforts and ensure policy compliance
Academic Departments	Integrate biodiversity into curricula and research
Student Affairs & Clubs	Promote biodiversity through student engagement
Research Centers	Conduct biodiversity-related research and community outreach

7. Monitoring and Reporting

- A **Biodiversity Monitoring Plan** will be developed and implemented by the Sustainability Office and relevant academic departments.
- Annual reporting will include indicators such as:
 - Number of native species recorded on campus
 - Green space coverage and conservation area size
 - Number of biodiversity education programs and student participants
 - Ecological impact assessments conducted

The findings will be incorporated into the University's **Sustainability Report**, **ESG disclosure**, and **THE Impact Rankings** reporting under SDG 15.

8. Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy shall be reviewed every **three years** or as required to respond to updated environmental legislation, scientific research, or institutional strategic priorities.