

KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - POLICY TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ALIEN SPECIES ON CAMPUSES -

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy has been prepared to determine the basic framework for preventing the introduction, spread, and effects of invasive alien species (IAS) on Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) campuses. By supporting the sustainable use of on-campus biodiversity, the policy contributes to preserving the university's natural heritage for future generations.

RELEVANCE OF THE POLICY

Relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Criteria: This policy is primarily related to the following objectives from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 13 (Climate Action)
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water)
- SDG 15 (Life on Land)

Relevant Metrics:

- THE Impact Rankings
- UI GreenMetric

SCOPE OF POLICY

All campuses and campuses of KTU, green areas, research areas, landscaping and maintenance activities; The transportation and procurement processes of plant and animal material are covered by this policy.

Target Audience: Students, academic and administrative staff, on-campus businesses, visiting researchers, and visitors are among the target audience of this policy.

Application Areas: The principles of this policy are applied in campus areas, application and research centers, laboratories, greenhouses, forest areas and water surfaces.

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL BASES

KTU will adhere to the following basic principles in reducing the impact of alien species:

- **Preventing the Introduction of New Alien Species:** It ensures that new alien species are not introduced into the campus environment intentionally or accidentally.
- **Methods to Reduce Existing Alien Species and Sustainability:** Biodiversity is protected, and natural habitats are maintained in campus ecosystems.
- **Monitoring and Reducing the Impact of Alien Species:** Alien species on campus will be regularly identified and necessary measures will be taken.
- **Sustainable Management and Collaboration:** Cooperation will be made with university units, relevant internal and external stakeholders for the sustainable management of all natural areas.
- **Scientific Research and Education:** Scientific research will be encouraged to identify and reduce the impact of alien species in the land and aquatic ecosystem. Awareness activities will be increased for all internal and external stakeholders, especially students and staff.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Population data and habitat status of alien species will be regularly recorded and evaluated. The effectiveness of mitigation actions will be measured, and strategies will be updated as needed.
- **Legal Bases:** Policy, Environmental Law No. 2872, National Parks Law No. 2873, Forest Law No. 6831.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

Implementing Units

- **Academic Units and Research Centers:** Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Science, Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences and Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology regularly check alien species and natural areas on campus and carry out the necessary processes.
- **Environmental Problems Application and Research Center (UYGAR):** It carries out biodiversity monitoring and training activities on campus.
- **Zero Waste Coordination Unit:** Carries out waste management processes; coordinates compost and recycling practices.
- **Construction and Technical Department:** University units cooperate with relevant internal and external stakeholders for the sustainable management of natural areas.
- **Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs:** Manages the procurement processes related to the supply of materials and materials necessary for the reduction of alien species.

Monitoring Units and Responsible Persons

- **Rectorate and Senate:** Ensures the acceptance and realization of the policy.
- **Research Coordination Office (RCO):** The Sustainability Unit within the RCO produces, monitors, reports policies and develops research projects. It collects and reports data on GreenMetric and other sustainability indices.
- **Institutional Development and Planning Coordination Unit (KGPK):** Keeps the data under record. It aligns policy with corporate strategy.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Initial Inventory and Target Setting:** An inventory of alien species in campuses and impact areas is made; existing flora and fauna are recorded using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
2. **Planning and Design Process:** Relevant monitoring and protection programs are prepared, and monitoring periods and responsible units are determined.
3. **Conservation and Monitoring Practices:** Alien species are identified, and necessary measures are taken to protect native species.
4. **Monitoring, Reporting and Improvement:** The studies and the projects carried out are evaluated annually within the framework of the determined performance indicators and reported by the relevant units. When necessary, environmental impact assessments are carried out by the relevant UYGARs. The results are compared with the determined targets and the necessary revision processes are completed. Effective strategies are developed to control alien species. In addition, all work done is shared with internal and external stakeholders.
5. **Promotion of Native Species:** Efforts are made to improve habitats and plant native plant species to protect and promote native species.
6. **Education and Awareness:** Awareness is raised by organizing activities such as training and workshops for the university community about the effects of alien species and conservation methods.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Goal	Source of Verification
Inventory of alien species in campus areas	Until 2030, a flora-fauna inventory of 50% of campus areas will be prepared during the year	Inventory list and image records
Number of invasive species detection and control	It will be detected within 2 years, and control or eradication application will be initiated	Monitoring reports



Number of awareness and training events	At least 2 awareness events and 1 training seminar will be organized annually to provide information about existing invasive species and the ecological and economic damages of invasive species	Poster, news link and participant list about the event
Number of invasive species cleanup activities carried out with the participation of students and staff	At least 1 invasive species cleanup event will be held annually	Poster, news link and participant list about the event

AUDIT AND REPORTING

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Performance indicators are evaluated annually; data on the relevant indicators are regularly monitored by the relevant units every year. The changes in the values in the indicators during the year are determined and necessary measures are taken in a timely manner.
- **Reporting Frequency:** Annual data are recorded in KTU Sustainability Reports within six months following the end of the relevant year and shared with the public on the university's website. Four-year data is compiled to form an input for the next strategic planning period. In addition, the relevant data obtained each year is reported to UI GreenMetric and other international sustainability indices.
- **External Verification:** Participation in national and international certification programs is provided to certify the performance of the university within the framework of the relevant indicators. The participation program and decision are taken by the senate. The implementation and effects of the policy are verified through audits carried out by independent organizations.
- **Revision Conditions:** In case 60% of the targeted values of the determined performance indicators cannot be reached for two consecutive years or in case of changes in national/international legislation; the policy is reviewed by the implementing units, revision proposals are prepared, and the policy is submitted to the senate for approval again.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy comes into effect from the date it is approved by the KTU Senate. University units are obliged to comply with and implement the provisions of the policy.