

## KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - POLICY FOR REDUCING MARINE POLLUTION -

### PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy is designed to develop solutions to reduce marine pollution and protect marine ecosystems through university research and community projects. It is aimed to reduce marine pollution by preventing waste from campus operations from reaching the marine environment and carrying out the necessary studies with all stakeholders.

### RELEVANCE OF THE POLICY

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

- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption)
- SDG 13 (Climate Action)
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water)

#### Relevant Metrics:

- THE Impact Rankings
- UI GreenMetric

### SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy aims to prevent/reduce pollutants from terrestrial and marine and maritime activities from reaching the sea and covers the prevention of marine pollution and awareness studies in the university's marine research studies.

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

**Application Areas:** The principles of this policy are applied in the sea areas where research is carried out by KTU, primarily in the Black Sea, research vessels, campuses on the seashore, academic and social areas, and streams/rivers within the campus.

### BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL BASES

KTU adheres to the following basic principles regarding the reduction of marine pollution:

- **Mitigation Methods and Sustainability:** The sustainability of natural habitats is supported by research to reduce pollution in marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **Sustainable Management and Collaboration:** University units collaborate with relevant internal and external stakeholders for studies and research on reducing marine pollution.
- **Monitoring Marine Pollution:** The pollution of the seas where research is carried out is regularly monitored and necessary measures are taken.
- **Scientific Research and Education:** Scientific research is encouraged to identify and reduce the impact of pollution in marine and coastal ecosystems. Awareness is raised through seminars and lectures for students and staff.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Marine pollution data and habitat status are regularly recorded and evaluated. The effectiveness of pollution reduction actions is measured, and strategies are updated when necessary.

- **Legal Bases:** The policy is based on Environmental Law No. 2872 and Law 5312 on the Principles of Emergency Response and Compensation of Damages in Pollution of the Marine Environment with Oil and Other Harmful Substances.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

### Implementing Units:

- **Academic Units and Research Centers:** Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences and the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology regularly control marine pollution and carry out the necessary processes.
- **Environmental Problems Application and Research Center (UYGAR):** It carries out pollution monitoring and training activities in the sea and coastal areas.
- **Zero Waste Coordination Office:** Carries out activities to identify, monitor and reduce wastes that may enter the sea on campus.
- **Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs:** Manages the procurement processes related to the supply of necessary materials for projects and research aimed at reducing marine pollution.

### Monitoring Units and Responsible Persons

- **Rectorate and Senate:** Gives official approval of the policy and conducts necessary audits. It ensures that the objectives of the policy are achieved in accordance with institutional priorities.
- **Research Coordination Office:** Monitors the progress of the implementation of the policy, collects and reports data on performance indicators. The Sustainability Unit compiles the necessary data for sustainability indices such as UI GreenMetric and THE Impact Rankings. It also analyzes the results of the activities carried out within the scope of the policy and develops improvement suggestions.
- **Institutional Development and Planning Coordination Unit (KGPK):** Integrates the results of the policy into the system of institutional performance indicators and ensures their alignment with the objectives of the KTU Strategic Plan.

## APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Initial Inventory and Target Setting:** Data on pollution in marine and coastal areas are collected, recorded, and targets to reduce/prevent pollution are set.
2. **Planning and Design Process:** Relevant monitoring and mitigation programs are prepared, and monitoring periods and responsible units are determined.
3. **Protection and Monitoring Practices:** Pollution is detected, and measures are taken. Marine and coastal habitats are protected.
4. **Monitoring, Reporting and Improvement:** The work done and the projects carried out are monitored at regular intervals within the framework of the determined performance indicators. At the end of each year, the performance of policy implementation is evaluated by the relevant units, and the results are reported. The process is improved by making the necessary corrections in policy implementations in the issues where the goals cannot be achieved. Progress and experiences are shared with all internal and external stakeholders.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Goal	Source of Verification
Number of pollution monitoring studies (Marine)	Supporting at least 1 project every year for monitoring/reducing pollution	Records of KTU Scientific Research Projects supported project applications/results related to the subject
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(Inland Water and Coast)		applications/results related to the subject
Number of awareness events	Organizing at least two beach clean-up events each year	Event schedules and official event registrations
Reducing single-use plastic materials (straws, plastic bottles, etc.) on campus	It is aimed to establish at least 4 water filling stations on campus within 2 years, where students can fill their bottles with water	Installation documents of water filling stations
Increasing awareness-raising news about marine pollution and pollution sources	Encouraging the academicians of our university who are experts in the subject to make press statements at least 2 times a year.	Publications on news agencies and social media platforms.

## AUDIT AND REPORTING

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Performance indicators are evaluated annually; relevant indicators are regularly monitored by the relevant responsible 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; It is recorded in 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.

## VALIDITY 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.