

KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

- IUCN RED LIST AND NATIONAL CONSERVATION LIST SPECIES IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING AND CONSERVATION POLICY -

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy has been prepared to support the protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the campuses of Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) and in areas affected by the university's activities. The policy aims to pass on the university's natural heritage to future generations by supporting the sustainable use of biodiversity on all campuses of KTU.

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 15 (Life on Land)

Relevant Metrics:

- UI GreenMetric
- THE Impact Rankings are the university's IUCN Red List and national conservation
- IUCN Red List

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy covers the activities of identifying and monitoring the types of IUCN Red List and national protection lists on campuses and carrying out the necessary protection measures.

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

Application Areas: The principles of this policy are applied in forested areas, green areas, river and coastal ecosystems located in KTU's campus areas or in all natural areas affected by their activities.

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL BASES

KTU adheres to the following basic principles regarding the identification of relevant species and the protection of diversity;

- **Conservation Priority and Sustainability:** Biodiversity conservation and sustainability of natural habitats are ensured in campus ecosystems.
- **Restoration and Rehabilitation:** Necessary work is carried out to restore ecosystems damaged by human activities or natural disasters.
- **Sustainable Management and Collaboration:** Cooperation is made with university units, relevant internal and external stakeholders for the sustainable management of all natural areas, especially forested areas.
- **Identifying, Protecting, and Monitoring Threatened Species:** Species on campus that are on the IUCN Red List and national conservation lists are identified and regularly monitored.
- **Monitoring of Protected Habitat Areas:** Important habitats on or near campuses that host IUCN Red List and national conservation types are monitored and changes over time are tracked.
- **Scientific Research and Education:** Scientific research on the protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and endangered species is encouraged. Awareness activities are organized for all internal and external stakeholders, especially students and staff, to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Population data and habitat status of protected species are regularly monitored and reported and evaluated. The effectiveness of conservation actions is measured and strategies are updated when necessary.
- **Legal Bases:** Policy, Environmental Law No. 2872, National Parks Law No. 2873, Forest Law No. 6831 and other relevant legislation.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

Implementing Units

- **Academic Units and Research Centers:** The Faculty of Forestry (primarily the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Management), the Faculty of Science, the Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences, and the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology regularly monitor the species and natural areas on the IUCN Red List and national conservation lists on campus and carry out the necessary processes.
- **Environmental Problems Application and Research Center (UYGAR):** It organizes the inventory of species found on campuses, carries out biodiversity monitoring and training activities.
- **Construction and Technical Department:** University units cooperate with relevant internal and external stakeholders for the sustainable management of natural areas, especially forested areas.

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):** Keeps policy-related data under record. It aligns policy with corporate strategy. Reports by associating them with the strategic plans and activities of the university.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Initial Inventory and Target Setting:** An inventory of IUCN and nationally listed species and habitats in the campus and impact area is made; existing flora and fauna are recorded; and a biodiversity study and checklist are prepared. Then, habitat mapping is carried out using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools.
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, precautions are taken, and habitats of existing species are protected.
4. **Monitoring, Reporting and Improvement:** The studies carried out, 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. In addition, all work done is shared with internal and external stakeholders.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Goal	Source of Verification
Number of IUCN/Red List species monitored	Preparing species inventories by 2030 and determining the IUCN Red List status of species living on campus	KTU Undergraduate and graduate theses and BAP supported project outputs
Protected habitat area (hectares)	Making a flora inventory and increasing diversity and coverage by 15% by 2030	Maps, land use data, flora diversity data
Number of awareness events	Encouraging museum visits from at least 5 primary, secondary and high schools every year	Event schedules and event visuals
Bird watching activities	Wildlife/bird watching activities with binoculars for students and staff at least 2 times a year	Event schedules and event visuals

AUDIT AND REPORTING

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Performance indicators are evaluated at annual intervals; data related to 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 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.

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.