

Policy subject: Terrestrial Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration Policy	Policy number: 63/P.D/2024	Date of last revision: 2024/11/15
Implementing body: Administrative Affairs Department	Implementing start date: 2024/11/20	Policy reference: Planning and Development Department

Overview: Palestine Ahliya University (PAU) is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems within and around the campus. The university aims to protect natural environments and enhance biodiversity through sustainable land management practices, forest conservation, and ecosystem restoration projects. PAU is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

Objectives:

- **Enhance and Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems:**
Safeguard and enhance the terrestrial ecosystems around the university through sustainable management practices and conservation initiatives.
- **Develop Educational Programs:**
Offer educational programs focused on sustainable land management, conservation techniques, and the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Encourage Ecosystem Restoration:**
Initiate and support projects aimed at restoring damaged terrestrial ecosystems in the surrounding areas, contributing to the rehabilitation of local habitats.
- **Monitor and Assess Impact:**
Regularly monitor and assess the impact of university activities on local biodiversity and ecosystems to ensure sustainable practices are being followed.

Scope:

This policy applies to all land and ecosystems within the university's campus and extends to nearby areas impacted by university activities. It includes:

1. Implementation of restoration programs for damaged terrestrial ecosystems.
2. Educational initiatives related to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.
3. Assessment and monitoring of the environmental impact of university operations on surrounding ecosystems.

Statements:

PAU is committed to the long-term conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems through targeted efforts aimed at protecting natural habitats and improving the sustainability of local ecosystems. By adopting advanced environmental management practices, educating the community, and supporting restoration initiatives, PAU strives to promote ecological health and sustainability for future generations.

Procedures:

1. Identify and Assess Affected Areas:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey to identify damaged terrestrial areas within the university's scope.
- Analyze factors affecting the local environment, such as pollution, deforestation, or invasive species.

2. Develop Restoration and Education Plans:

- Create a restoration plan to improve soil quality, replant trees, and rehabilitate ecosystems.
- Develop educational programs based on identified needs, focusing on sustainable land ecosystem management and ecosystem restoration.
- Collaborate with environmental experts for guidance on best practices.

3. Implement Reforestation and Sustainable Practices:

- Plant native species to enhance biodiversity and create natural habitats.
- Use sustainable irrigation techniques like drip irrigation to reduce water consumption and ensure proper water distribution.

4. Remove Invasive Species:

- Identify and remove invasive species that threaten local ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Implement strategies to prevent their re-emergence and promote native species recovery.

5. Organize Workshops and Field Programs:

- Conduct workshops and lectures for students, staff, and the local community on sustainable land management practices and ecosystem restoration.
- Arrange field trips and engage students in practical, hands-on environmental activities and projects.

6. Monitor Ecosystem Health and Educational Impact:

- Install sensors and conduct periodic surveys to monitor air, soil, and water quality in restoration areas.
- Assess the effectiveness of educational programs through participant feedback and surveys.

7. Engage the University and Local Community:

- Involve students, staff, and local community members in ecosystem restoration efforts and educational programs.
- Offer awareness workshops for local community leaders and farmers on sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation.

8. Evaluate and Improve Performance:

- Prepare periodic reports outlining the progress in ecosystem restoration and the success of educational initiatives.
- Regularly review and update the restoration and education plans based on progress, feedback, and environmental data.

KPIs:

- Percentage of terrestrial ecosystem areas that have been successfully restored.
- Number of educational programs focused on ecosystems and sustainable land management offered by the university.
- Number of programs dedicated to the sustainable management of land for agriculture.

- Number of programs dedicated to the sustainable management of land for agriculture tourism.