

Policy subject: Alien Species Impact Reduction Policy	Policy number: 65/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 committed to preserving local biodiversity and ecosystems by reducing the negative impacts of alien species on the campus environment. Through targeted actions, this policy aims to prevent the spread of invasive species and minimize their harmful effects on the natural surroundings, thereby promoting environmental sustainability and ecological health.

Objectives:

➤ **Reduce Alien Species Presence:**

Minimize the occurrence and spread of alien species on the university campus, implementing measures to address their negative impact on local ecosystems.

➤ **Protect Local Ecosystems:**

Safeguard the integrity of local ecosystems and biodiversity by preventing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species.

➤ **Increase Awareness:**

Educate the university community about the importance of biodiversity conservation and the role of reducing invasive species impacts.

Scope:

This policy applies to all university areas, including outdoor spaces, gardens, campus grounds, and green areas, and covers:

1. Identification and control of alien species on campus.
2. Education and awareness programs for students, faculty, and staff.
3. Cooperation with environmental organizations for research and action on alien species control.

Statements:

PAU is dedicated to ensuring that the campus environment remains ecologically balanced and sustainable. The university will take proactive measures to reduce the impact of alien species, protect local biodiversity, and enhance environmental stewardship by fostering an awareness culture within the PAU community.

Procedures:

1. Identify Invasive Species

- Conduct a survey of PAU's campus and nearby natural areas to identify invasive plant and animal species.
- Collaborate with local environmental agencies and researchers to obtain data on the species' distribution and impact on local ecosystems.
- Use GIS mapping to document and monitor the spread of invasive species on the university grounds and surrounding areas.

2. Develop a Control Plan

- Create a tailored control plan based on identified invasive species, considering local ecological, cultural, and economic contexts.
- Explore sustainable control methods like manual removal, use of natural predators, or limited use of eco-friendly pesticides.
- Collaborate with local agricultural experts to ensure that chosen methods align with Palestinian environmental practices.

3. Collaborate with Local Partners

- Sign memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with local environmental organizations, government bodies, and NGOs working on biodiversity conservation in Palestine.

- Work with local agricultural extension services to ensure that control measures are effective and safe for the local environment.
- Participate in regional initiatives focused on combating invasive species and supporting native biodiversity.

4. Implement Eradication Measures

- Begin the removal process in critical areas such as the university's agricultural plots, green spaces, and any nearby natural reserves.
- Use appropriate tools and methods to prevent further spread, ensuring minimal disruption to native species and habitats.
- Involve students and staff in hands-on efforts, integrating this into educational and volunteer programs.

5. Awareness and Education

- Organize workshops and lectures for PAU students, faculty, and local community members to raise awareness about the risks of invasive species.
- Develop printed and digital educational materials in Arabic and English, detailing invasive species and their negative impacts on local ecosystems.
- Promote community involvement through volunteer programs that focus on environmental restoration and biodiversity conservation.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish a monitoring system to track the success of eradication efforts, including follow-up surveys and regular site inspections.
- Evaluate the long-term impact of eradication measures and revise the plan as necessary based on observed results.
- Prepare and share annual reports on invasive species management with PAU management, local authorities, and environmental partners.

KPIs:

- Percentage reduction in the presence and impact of alien species on campus.
- Number of awareness programs conducted for students and staff about invasive species and biodiversity conservation.
- Frequency of monitoring and eradication actions carried out on campus.