BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION POLICY

Identification, Monitoring and Protection of Threatened Species

Approved: March 2021 | Reviewed: March 2023 | Last revised: January 2025 | Next full revision: January 2028

1. Purpose

Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) is committed to conserving biodiversity and protecting threatened species within and around the areas affected by its operations. This policy sets out how the University identifies, monitors and protects species listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and in the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with their habitats.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all land owned, leased or managed by the University, including the Main Campus and the Zakovat Street Campus in Tashkent, the buildings and grounds of the Faculty of Russian Philology and the Faculty of International Journalism, the Angren Campus and the Orta Chirchiq Recreation and Ecological Complex in the Tashkent region, and student residences. It also applies to field lessons, expeditions, volunteer actions and research carried out by the University, its staff and students in natural areas, and to contractors working on university sites.

3. Legal and regulatory framework

The University complies with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the protection and use of flora and fauna and on protected natural areas, and with the requirements of the authorities responsible for ecology and environmental protection. The species lists used under this policy are the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the current edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4. Commitments

4.1 Identification

- The Department of Ecology and Green Resources carries out a baseline survey of plant and animal species on each university site, with particular attention to the Angren Campus and the Orta Chirchiq complex, where natural habitats are most extensive.
- Species found are checked against the IUCN Red List and the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the results are recorded in a university register of protected species and habitats.
- Before field lessons or expeditions to natural areas, group leaders check whether protected species are known to occur there and brief participants accordingly.

4.2 Monitoring

- Sites where protected species or their habitats are recorded are surveyed at least once a year, and the register is updated with each survey.
- Students and staff are encouraged to report sightings of protected species on university land to the Department of Ecology and Green Resources.
- The University shares monitoring data with environmental authorities and conservation organizations on request.

4.3 Protection

- Where a protected species or its habitat is recorded, the University defines a protection zone in which no construction, tree removal, chemical treatment or other disturbance takes place without a prior assessment.
- Every construction, renovation and landscaping project is screened for protected species under the UzSWLU Environmental Impact Assessment Policy before works begin.
- Habitats are protected through the measures set out in the UzSWLU Environmental Sustainability Policy, including tree protection, erosion control, restoration of disturbed land and control of invasive species.

- Collecting, disturbing or harming protected plants and animals is prohibited for all staff, students and contractors, on university land and during university activities in natural areas.
- Any harm to a protected species or habitat is reported, investigated and, where required, notified to the competent authorities.

4.4 Education and research

- Biodiversity conservation and threatened species are included in the Ecology course and in awareness events for students, staff and the community.
- The University supports student and staff research on local biodiversity and its conservation.

5. Responsibilities

- Department of Ecology and Green Resources: carries out species surveys, maintains the register of protected species and habitats, and advises on protection measures.
- Department of Administrative Affairs: applies protection zones and measures on university land through its Environment and Energy unit, and ensures that contractors comply with this policy.
- Deans, heads of departments and group leaders: apply this policy to field lessons, expeditions and student trips.
- All staff, students and contractors: follow the rules of this policy and report sightings and incidents.

6. Monitoring and reporting

Progress against this policy is reported annually as part of the University's environmental report, published on the University's website. The following indicators are tracked:

Area	Indicator	Frequency
Identification	Protected species register updated; number of IUCN Red List and Red Book species recorded on or near university sites	Annual
Monitoring	Number of monitoring surveys carried out on each university site	Annual
Protection	Number of protection measures applied; incidents of harm to protected species or habitats	Annual
Planning	Share of construction and landscaping projects screened for protected species before works	Annual
Awareness	Number of biodiversity education events and participants	Annual

7. Review

This policy was first approved in March 2021 and reviewed in March 2023. It was revised in January 2025 to name the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to set out the university sites covered, to assign responsibilities to the Department of Ecology and Green Resources and the Department of Administrative Affairs, and to align it with the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy. The policy is reviewed every year, and a full revision will be undertaken by January 2028.

8. Related policies

UzSWLU Environmental Sustainability Policy, Environmental Impact Assessment Policy and Water Quality and Discharge Management Policy, available at uzswlu.uz/en/sdg-policies.