Local Biodiversity in Campus Planning and Development

SDG 15 Life on Land | Reporting year 2025

Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) includes local biodiversity in the planning and development of its campuses. Every construction, renovation and landscaping project on university land is assessed for its effect on plants, animals and habitats before works begin, and must avoid, reduce and offset harm to local biodiversity. These requirements are set out in three university policies that apply together to all university sites in Tashkent and the Tashkent region.

Environmental impact assessment for all new development

The UzSWLU Environmental Impact Assessment Policy makes an environmental impact assessment mandatory for all new construction projects and for significant modifications to existing buildings. Each assessment includes a biodiversity survey of the area affected, identifying any species on the IUCN Red List or national conservation lists and documenting sensitive habitats such as native plant communities and animal nesting sites. The assessment evaluates both immediate and long-term effects on species and ecosystems, including habitat loss, pollution and disruption to wildlife corridors. Its report must set out mitigation measures, which may include changing building plans to preserve natural habitats, controlling noise and pollution, and using native plant species in landscaping. Where biodiversity would be significantly affected, additional conservation plans such as habitat restoration are required.

Screening for threatened species

Under the UzSWLU Biodiversity Conservation Policy, every construction, renovation and landscaping project is screened for protected species before works begin. The Department of Ecology and Green Resources maintains a register of IUCN Red List and Red Book species recorded on university sites. Where such a species or its habitat is found, the University defines a protection zone in which no construction, tree removal, chemical treatment or other disturbance takes place without prior assessment.

Protecting trees, soil and green cover during works

The UzSWLU Environmental Sustainability Policy sets the rules that apply on site. Mature trees are kept unless they are dead, diseased or unsafe, and at least two trees are planted for each tree that has to be removed. Topsoil removed during construction is stored and reused on site wherever practicable. Land disturbed by construction, renovation or utility works must be restored with soil and vegetation cover within one planting season of the end of works, and this obligation is written into contracts. New planting gives priority to native and drought-tolerant species and excludes species recognized as invasive.

How the requirements apply across a project

Stage of a project	What the University requires	Policy
Planning	Environmental impact assessment for every new building or significant modification, including a biodiversity survey of the site	Environmental Impact Assessment Policy
Planning	Screening of the site against the register of IUCN Red List and Red Book species; protection zones where such species occur	Biodiversity Conservation Policy
Design	Altering building plans to preserve natural habitats; native species in landscaping	Environmental Impact Assessment Policy
Construction	Mature trees protected; at least two trees planted for each tree removed; topsoil stored and reused	Environmental Sustainability Policy
Completion	Disturbed land restored with soil and vegetation cover within one planting season	Environmental Sustainability Policy
Operation	Compliance monitoring and annual reporting	All three policies

Application across university sites

These requirements apply to all land owned, leased or managed by the University, including the Main Campus, the Zakovat Street Campus, the grounds of the Faculty of Russian Philology and the Faculty of International Journalism, the Angren Campus and the Orta Chirchiq Recreation and Ecological Complex. Together these sites hold 28,780 m² of forest vegetation, which the University keeps as permanent green cover. They also apply to the new academic building under construction at 4 Zakovat Street and to seasonal landscaping, such as the planting of 40 trees on campus in March 2025 under the national "Green Space" project.

Responsibilities

The Department of Administrative Affairs, through its Environment and Energy unit, applies these requirements on university land and ensures that contractors comply. The Department of Ecology and Green Resources provides scientific advice on species surveys, protection measures and the choice of species for landscaping.

Supporting evidence

- UzSWLU Environmental Impact Assessment Policy: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17310634578481.pdf
- UzSWLU Biodiversity Conservation Policy: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17310634308991.pdf
- UzSWLU Environmental Sustainability Policy: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17310584693285.pdf
- Forest vegetation areas on university campuses: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17839675153370.pdf