15.3.2. Policy to identify, monitor and protect any IUCN Red Listed species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by the operation of Alexandria university

Title: *Biodiversity Protection Policy of Alexandria University*

Effective Date: 2019 to be reviewed every 5 years

Policy Statement:

Alexandria University is committed to environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation. This policy establishes a framework to identify, monitor, and protect species listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and Egypt's national conservation lists within areas affected by the university's operations. The policy aligns with national and international biodiversity conservation goals and aims to integrate sustainability into academic and operational activities.

This policy reflects Alexandria University's dedication to protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainability, and supporting global conservation efforts.

Policy Objectives:

1. **Species Identification and Assessment**

   o Identify all IUCN Red Listed species and species from Egypt's national conservation lists with potential habitats in areas impacted by university operations.

   o Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) before initiating projects to assess impacts on such species.

2. **Monitoring and Research**

   o Implement continuous monitoring programs for habitats and species populations.

   o Facilitate research partnerships between university departments, NGOs, and government bodies to study threatened species.

3. **Protection and Mitigation Measures**

   o Design and implement mitigation strategies to minimize adverse effects on listed species and their habitats.

   o Establish biodiversity offsets, including habitat restoration or alternative conservation measures, in compliance with Egyptian environmental regulations and global best practices.

4. **Education and Awareness**

   o Provide education and training for students, staff, and local communities about biodiversity and species conservation.

   o Integrate biodiversity studies into academic programs and promote student-led projects to support conservation efforts.

5. **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships**

   o Collaborate with local conservation organizations, governmental agencies, and international conservation bodies to ensure alignment with broader conservation efforts.

   o Engage with local communities to promote co-stewardship of biodiversity resources.

Policy Implementation Framework

1. Identification and Baseline Surveys:

- Conduct biodiversity surveys in collaboration with experts in environmental science, using GIS and remote sensing technologies to map critical habitats.

- Regularly update databases of species presence within university-affected zones based on the latest IUCN and national conservation data.

2. Monitoring Systems:

- Establish a Biodiversity Monitoring Committee (BMC) tasked with:

   o Tracking species populations and health.

   o Reviewing environmental compliance reports from university projects.

   o Reporting findings to national regulatory authorities.

3. Mitigation and Habitat Restoration:

- Avoid activities that would destroy or fragment critical habitats.

- For unavoidable impacts, implement restoration programs to rehabilitate affected ecosystems.

4. Reporting and Transparency:

- Publish annual biodiversity reports, including monitoring data and mitigation outcomes, to ensure transparency and accountability.

- Communicate updates to stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, academic partners, and the public.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Environmental Affairs Office:** Oversees policy implementation, coordinates EIAs, and ensures compliance.

- **Academic Departments:** Integrate conservation science into curricula and conduct research to support biodiversity objectives.

- **Facilities and Maintenance Units:** Ensure campus operations adhere to biodiversity protection protocols.

- **Biodiversity Monitoring Committee (BMC):** Develops strategies, monitors species, and engages stakeholders.

Policy created September 2019   Policy reviewed October 2022

A. Konsowa

Prof. Abdel Aziz Konsowa,

University President

References

1. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.* Available at: https://www.iucnredlist.org

2. Egyptian Ministry of Environment - *Biodiversity Strategy for Egypt.*

3. UNDP (2022) - *Biodiversity and Development in Egypt.*