

# URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY EXPANDS ITS ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Urdaneta City University (UCU) is expanding its efforts in ecosystem and biodiversity conservation through research, education, and community engagement underscoring its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14.3.3. The University leverages its expertise and facilities to support sustainable aquatic systems, habitats under threat, and local biodiversity while strengthening its partnerships with regional stakeholders.

Through its Center for Research & Development and the Center for Community Development & Extension Services (CCDES), UCU carries out studies focused on water quality, habitat health, and sustainable aquaculture systems. One notable project monitored campus drinking water and highlighted UCU's interest in ecological health and resource management. This operational research capability forms the foundation for broader ecosystem work.

In outreach, UCU works with local communities, fisherfolk, and academic partners to transfer skills and knowledge relating to low-impact aquaculture, water reuse systems and habitat-sensitive farming practices. UCU's extension programs teach pond-management, water conservation and responsible aquaculture, helping to reduce pressure on natural systems, support biodiversity, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

While full-scale, long-term university–industry partnerships focused expressly on habitat restoration (e.g., mangrove planting, riparian forest renewal, species recovery) are still emerging, UCU's existing blend of research and engagement positions it to scale up such efforts. By aligning its technical capacity with community outreach, UCU is paving the way to maintain and extend ecosystems and biodiversity in its region.

In sum, Urdaneta City University acknowledges the urgency of protecting ecosystems and is building a clear institutional pathway through applied research, extension programs, and partnerships to fulfil its role as steward of biodiversity and sustainable aquatic environments.

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