

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY POLICY ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ALIEN SPECIES ON CAMPUS (UCU-PMAS NO. 2025-02)

I. Policy Title

Policy on the Prevention and Management of Alien (Invasive) Species on Campus

II. Policy Statement

Urdaneta City University (UCU), in alignment with its commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** especially **SDG 15: Life on Land** is dedicated to the protection and preservation of biodiversity within and around its campus. This policy establishes guidelines to **prevent, manage, and mitigate the ecological impact of alien or invasive species** that may disrupt native ecosystems, threaten biodiversity, and alter the natural balance of the University's environment.

III. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Protect and conserve native flora and fauna within the University campus.
2. Prevent the introduction, spread, and establishment of alien or invasive species.
3. Establish management protocols to monitor and control invasive species when detected.
4. Strengthen environmental awareness, research, and education related to biodiversity conservation and ecological balance.

IV. Scope

This policy applies to all:

- University-managed green spaces, gardens, agricultural plots, and natural habitats.
- Academic units, faculty, students, and staff involved in campus landscaping, research, or community extension projects related to plants or animals.
- External partners, contractors, or suppliers engaged in environmental maintenance, landscaping, or campus development.

V. Policy Guidelines

1. Identification and Monitoring

- The Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Committee (SESC) shall maintain an inventory of native and alien species within the campus.
- Regular biodiversity audits shall be conducted to monitor the presence of invasive species and their ecological impacts.
- Identified alien or invasive species shall be evaluated based on their threat level and ecological risk.

2. Prevention Measures

- All landscaping and reforestation projects within the University shall prioritize the use of native and endemic plant species.
- Introduction of new plant or animal species to the campus must be approved by the SESC, ensuring they do not pose ecological risks.
- The importation or propagation of non-native species for academic or decorative purposes shall require risk assessment and documentation.

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3. Control and Management

- When invasive species are detected, the University shall implement **safe, science-based removal or containment measures**, minimizing harm to native ecosystems.
- Collaboration with **local government units, DENR, and environmental organizations** shall be encouraged for technical guidance and proper disposal.
- Biological, mechanical, or chemical control methods shall only be employed following environmental safety evaluations.

4. Awareness and Capacity Building

- UCU shall conduct **educational campaigns, seminars, and workshops** to increase awareness of the risks posed by alien species.
- Faculty and students in environmental and biological sciences are encouraged to undertake **research and extension activities** focusing on invasive species management and biodiversity conservation.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration

- The University shall collaborate with local communities, government agencies, and environmental NGOs to promote the **protection of native ecosystems** within and around Urdaneta City.

VI. Responsibilities

- **Office of the University President:** Provides strategic direction and ensures institutional support for the policy.
- **Chief Operating Officer (COO):** Oversees operational compliance and implementation across University units.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Committee (SESC):** Leads monitoring, research coordination, and biodiversity audits.
- **Campus Development and Maintenance Office:** Ensures landscaping and construction projects adhere to this policy.
- **Faculty and Students:** Participate in monitoring and conservation initiatives through research and environmental programs.

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The **SESC** shall submit an **annual report** on the status of biodiversity, including actions taken to prevent or control alien species.
- Policy implementation shall be reviewed **every two (2) years** to ensure continuous improvement and adaptation to new ecological challenges.

VIII. Effectivity

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval by the **University President** and dissemination to all relevant offices and stakeholders.

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