UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
Department of Facilities Management

CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS GUIDELINE

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1. Purpose

The purpose of the Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems guideline of the University of Pretoria is to provide a systematic framework for conservation and restoration commitments and to provide environmental sustainability through the management and operations of the university staff, students, and contractors on the university campuses.

2. Scope

The Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems guideline applies to all staff members, students and contractors. The University of Pretoria, as a leading research-intensive tertiary education institution, has a complex structure, and the intention of this policy is to provide a framework for regulating and monitoring all interactions of the University in many components with the environment, including any action that affects the environment or has the potential to affect the environment in any way.

3. Consequences of non-compliance

The University of Pretoria can be found liable to be convicted and sentenced under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)

4. Principles

The University of Pretoria is committed to adopting environmentally responsible practices by:

- ensuring compliance with relevant legal and other requirements,
- improving its policies and practices continually to adapt to the dynamic environment in which the University operates,
- preventing the destruction of ecosystems as far as practically possible, and
- fostering environmental sustainability through conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems.

The University of Pretoria aims to address these commitments through taking the following actions where reasonable and practical in a financially viable manner:

Biodiversity is not merely about saving threatened species and creating protected areas. It is about life, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and the planet we share with our fellow inhabitants. Biodiversity is the very fabric of our existence. There is a growing world-wide commitment to taking urgent steps to address our environmental

problems, to create a better life for all, and to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

The University of Pretoria is committed to adopting environmentally responsible practices by:

- ensuring compliance with relevant legal and other requirements,
- improving its policies and practices continually to adapt to the dynamic environment in which the University operates,
- preventing pollution as far as practically possible, and
- fostering sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

The University of Pretoria aims to address these commitments through taking the following actions where reasonable and practical in a financially viable manner:

4.1 Academia

a. Research

- Conducting research into conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

b. Teaching and learning

- Teaching and learning students in such a manner that they are equipped to become environmentally responsible citizens and future leaders.

4.2 Facilities Management

a. Resource management

- Implementing environmentally sound practices ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems through sustainable resource use.

b. Energy

- Identifying, monitoring, regulating and reviewing all aspects related to the energy consumption of the University, and adopting practices to conserve energy and reduce energy consumption.

c. Water

- Establishing systems to monitor the quality and quantity of water consumed and discharged, and adopting practices to ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems through proper water management practices.

d. Travel and transport

- Managing travel and transport efficiently in order to promote travel and transport practices that have a lower impact.

e. Existing infrastructure

- Implementing best practices in environmental management in order to operate existing infrastructure in a more sustainable manner; to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems in the management of infrastructure.

f. New infrastructure

- Applying environmentally responsible principles in the design of new infrastructure projects.

g. Biodiversity

- Improving the biological effectiveness of the environment of the University.

h. Air quality and carbon emissions

- Ensuring that legal requirements are maintained for air quality, and acting in a responsible manner when addressing carbon-emission issues.

i. Effluents

- Identifying effluent-producing activities, and managing these in order to minimise the negative effect on terrestrial ecosystems. Effluent activities will be managed in an environmentally responsible manner in order to achieve a reduction in effluent output.

j. General waste

- Adhering to the principle of “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” and adopting the principle of “Prevent, Minimise or Control” in respect of waste management to ensure that terrestrial ecosystems will be protected, restored and conserved when general waste is managed.

k. Hazardous waste

- Ensuring that hazardous waste is managed in such a manner that negative impacts are prevented, minimised or controlled in accordance with the relevant legal requirements.

l. Emergency preparedness

- Safeguarding against environmental emergencies by ensuring that regulations are adhered to, and by being adequately prepared to manage environmental emergencies efficiently and effectively should they occur.

m. Environmental Management System (EMS)

- Establishing and operating an Environmental Management System that effectively manages any activity, product or service that has, or may potentially have an environmental impact. The EMS will ensure that these activities, products and services are identified, managed, monitored and reviewed to facilitate continuous improvement in the environmental performance of the University.

n. Compliance and best practice

- Ensuring compliance with legal and other requirements and monitoring and reviewing the environmental performance of the University on a regular basis.

o. Heritage

- Protecting and preserving the cultural, built and natural landscape of the University.

4.3 Other Professional Services

a. Procurement

- Incorporating the principles of green procurement in procurement policies.

b. Risk Management

- Conforming to international standards in the internal processing and management of emerging and current risks, in order to minimise potential and actual negative environmental impacts.

c. Communication

- Communicating applicable environmental matters to all stakeholders including staff members, students, contractors and suppliers. Advocating alternatives to physical travel, such as electronic communication and video-conferencing.

d. Stakeholder engagement

- Engaging in partnerships with stakeholders in environmental projects, and increasing environmental awareness among staff members, students, contractors and suppliers in order to encourage socially responsible behaviour.

5. Definitions

Environment	The surroundings in which the University operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation. The surroundings in this context extend from within an organisation to the global system.
EMS	Environmental Management System refers to that part of an organisation's management system which is used to develop and implement its environmental policy and manage its environmental aspects. A management system is a set of interrelated elements used to establish policy and objectives and the means to achieve those objectives. A management system includes an organisational structure, planning activities, allocation of responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources.
Environmental aspect	Element of an organisation's activities or products or services that can interact with the environment.
Environmental impact	Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's behaviour.

Sustainability	The integration of social, economic and environmental factors into planning, implementation and decision-making so as to ensure that development serves present and future generations; i.e. meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Policy	A **policy** is a set of principles that guide our actions.

6. Roles and responsibilities

The Registrar	The **Registrar** has overall accountability and responsibility for ensuring that all institutional policies are managed responsibly within the University. The smoking policy is an institutional policy.
Line management	Where applicable (for example in the case of staff, contractors and tenants), **line management** has the responsibility to ensure that the policy is communicated and enforced.
Staff, students, visitors, contractors and tenants	Each individual as defined in paragraph 2 above, has the responsibility to comply with the Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems guideline. .

7. Associated documents

Code of conduct for employees

Disciplinary code and procedure

The UP Strategic Plan 2025

9.1 Related and reference documents

Legislation

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998.

- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004
- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, Act 57 of 2003
- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Amendment Act, Act 15 of 2009
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, Act 43 of 1983
- Animals Protection Act, Act 71 of 1962
- Animal Matters Amendment Act, No. 42 of 1993
- National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999
- National Nuclear Regulator Act 47 of 1999
- National Water Act 36 of 1998
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993
- Physical Planning Act 125 of 1999
- Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000
- Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000
- Water Services Act 108 of 1997

Codes, International Law, Treaties and Conventions

- The Revised King Code and Report on Governance for South Africa (King III) 2010
- Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer 1985
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987
- UN Convention on Climate Change 1992
- Kyoto Protocol 1997
- Basel Convention 1989
- Ramsar Convention 1971
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973 & 1979 (CITES 1973)
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention 1979)
- Convention on Biological Diversity 1993
- Convention on Uses of International Watercourses 1997
- Desertification Convention 1994
- UN World Charter for Nature 1975

- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources 1968
- Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement) 1994

8. Life cycle

This guideline should be revised every three to five years or should there be changes in the legislation.

9. Document metadata

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