

POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF ASSOCIATED TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

1. Introduction

Terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, mountains, and arid lands play a vital role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, provision of clean water, and support for livelihoods. Human activities, including university operations, affect ecosystems through deforestation, land degradation, and unsustainable resource use. This policy has been developed to ensure that the university protects, restores, and manages terrestrial ecosystems connected to or affected by its direct activities in a sustainable manner. By doing so, the university will contribute to global environmental sustainability and act in alignment with national and international conservation targets, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This policy covers all terrestrial ecosystems associated with Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (MAKÜ), including forests, mountain areas, arid lands, and other related natural landscapes. The policy addresses conservation, restoration, and sustainable use practices for ecosystems that support biodiversity and ecosystem services, which are critical for the university's sustainability agenda.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect, restore, and sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems affected by university activities. Specific objectives include:

- Conservation of Existing Terrestrial Ecosystems:** To protect forests, mountains, arid lands, and other ecosystems from potential degradation caused by land use practices.
- Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems:** To rehabilitate degraded ecosystems under the university's management, ensuring the restoration of local biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
- Promotion of Sustainable Resource Use:** To ensure that the use of natural resources within university ecosystems is sustainable and does not jeopardize long-term use or the well-being of future generations.
- Education and Engagement of the University Community:** To raise awareness about the importance of terrestrial ecosystems and engage students, staff, and faculty in conservation and restoration efforts.

3. Implementation

The implementation of this policy includes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, mountains, and arid lands. Initially, a baseline assessment will be conducted to document ecosystem health and identify critical areas for conservation. Land use plans and legal protections will then be developed to conserve these ecosystems. Restoration efforts will focus on replanting, erosion control, and habitat rehabilitation to restore local biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Sustainable resource

use practices will be promoted, including sustainable forestry, water management, and eco-friendly agriculture, ensuring that resource extraction does not exceed the natural renewal rates. Community participation will be key, with educational programs aimed at increasing awareness and involving students and staff in conservation activities. Progress will be monitored through annual reports to ensure alignment with national and global conservation targets.

4. Conclusion

This policy provides a comprehensive framework for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems associated with Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University. By taking proactive steps to conserve critical ecosystems such as forests, mountains, and arid lands, the university will contribute to national and global conservation efforts, support sustainable development, and promote environmental management within the university community.

5. Enforcement

This policy will come into effect on the date it is approved by the Senate of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University.