

## **POLICY FOR REDUCING THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE SPECIES ON CAMPUSES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Invasive species (also known as non-native or alien species) are defined as plants, animals, or other organisms that are introduced to environments outside their natural habitats and generally cause harm to local biodiversity, ecosystems, and infrastructure. On university campuses, invasive species can disrupt natural ecosystems, compete with native species, and lead to increased maintenance costs. This policy has been developed by Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (MAKÜ) to manage and reduce the impact of invasive species on its campuses and promote sustainable biodiversity management. This policy applies to all areas of the university campuses, including academic and administrative buildings, residential areas, green spaces, botanical gardens, and recreational areas. It covers the identification, monitoring, and management of invasive species.

### **2. Purpose**

The primary aim of this policy is to protect the ecological integrity and biodiversity of MAKÜ campuses by controlling and managing invasive species. The specific objectives of the policy are as follows:

- Preventing the Introduction of New Invasive Species:** To ensure that new invasive species are not intentionally or accidentally introduced to the campus environment.
- Managing and Controlling Existing Invasive Species:** To identify and assess the presence of existing invasive species on campus, implement targeted strategies to reduce their populations, and prevent their spread.
- Restoring and Promoting Native Biodiversity:** To enhance the presence of native species through habitat restoration. To promote activities that support biodiversity within the university.
- Educating and Engaging the Campus Community:** To raise awareness among students, staff, and visitors about the effects of invasive species. To encourage participation in conservation efforts to maintain a healthy campus ecosystem.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

The implementation of this policy will involve the following steps:

- a. Identification of Invasive Species: Biodiversity surveys conducted across campus will be used to identify the presence of invasive species. These surveys will be mapped using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and updated regularly.
- b. Monitoring Programs: A long-term monitoring program will be established to track the spread of invasive species. Monitoring results will be used to identify necessary actions for the conservation of native species.
- c. Control and Management Strategies: Effective strategies for controlling invasive species will be developed. These strategies may include physical intervention, biological control methods, and chemical management.
- d. Promotion of Native Species: Habitat improvement efforts will be made to protect and encourage native species. These efforts may include planting native plant species and habitat restoration activities.
- e. Training and Awareness: Educational programs on the effects of invasive species and methods for their control will be organized for the university community. These programs will be supported by seminars, workshops, and campus events.

#### **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. University Administration: Responsible for ensuring the implementation of the policy and allocating necessary resources.
  - b. Biodiversity Resources Application and Research Center: Responsible for identifying invasive species and developing monitoring programs. The center will conduct research on invasive species and develop policy recommendations.
  - c. Faculties and Student Organizations: Participate in educational and awareness programs and take an active role in projects related to invasive species control.
- University Administrative Management: Responsible for implementing necessary measures to control invasive species during campus maintenance activities.

#### **5. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Annual monitoring and reporting will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the policy. These reports will provide information on the spread of invasive species, the effectiveness of control strategies, and the status of native species.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Through the Policy for Reducing the Impact of Invasive Species, MAKÜ aims to protect local biodiversity, improve ecosystem health, and contribute to society by creating a sustainable environment. This policy seeks to enhance the university's environmental responsibility and leave a healthier ecosystem for future generations.

## 7. ENFORCEMENT

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