

AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND INDUSTRY UNIVERSITY (ASOIU)

POLICY ON IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING, AND PROTECTION OF IUCN RED LIST AND NATIONALLY PROTECTED SPECIES

Approved: 2024

Developed by: Sustainable Development Center

Next Review Date: 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that ASOIU:

- Identifies and monitors IUCN Red Listed species and nationally protected species within or around areas influenced by the university's operations, campuses, and field laboratories.
- Promotes the long-term conservation and restoration of habitats affected by academic or research activity.
- Aligns institutional research, field training, and community outreach with the principles of ecosystem protection and biodiversity sustainability.

2. Key Definitions

- IUCN Red List Species: Species categorized as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR) under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.
- Nationally Protected Species: Flora and fauna included in the Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which identifies species under risk of extinction within the country.
- Habitat Monitoring: Regular observation and assessment of natural areas to track population trends, habitat quality, and anthropogenic impacts.
- Biodiversity Restoration: Scientific and practical actions aimed at rehabilitating degraded ecosystems and supporting the natural regeneration of native species.

3. Objectives

1. To identify and maintain an inventory of species and habitats associated with university campuses and field research sites.
2. To conduct annual biodiversity assessments focusing on IUCN-listed and nationally protected species in cooperation with national environmental authorities.
3. To integrate biodiversity monitoring and conservation modules into ASOIU's environmental engineering, geology, and sustainability curricula.

4. To strengthen collaborative research on flora and fauna diversity in partnership with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, and local NGOs.
5. To raise public awareness on the importance of protecting endangered species through outreach, exhibitions, and student-led environmental initiatives.

4. Implementation and Activities

- **Biodiversity Database:** The Sustainable Development Center maintains a digital registry of local species observed in and around ASOIU campuses and research zones.
- **Annual Monitoring Programme:** A standardized observation process is implemented to evaluate population trends, habitat conditions, and species vulnerability using GIS mapping and drone-based surveys.
- **Training and Research:** Students and faculty participate in field courses in regions such as Gobustan, Absheron Peninsula, and Shirvan National Park, conducting ecological surveys and habitat evaluations.
- **Collaboration:** ASOIU works with national and international partners to share expertise and develop joint monitoring frameworks for threatened species.
- **Preventive Measures:** Any campus development or research project undergoes an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to prevent habitat destruction or species disturbance.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

- Monitoring of species and habitats is coordinated by the Department of Ecology and Environmental Management under the supervision of the Sustainable Development Center.
- Collected data and progress are reported annually to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.
- Indicators such as species abundance, habitat quality, and conservation status are regularly updated to reflect the latest IUCN and national databases.
- Reports are made available to the public through ASOIU's Sustainability and SDG Performance Portal.

ASOIU's policy represents a firm commitment to protecting and restoring biodiversity through scientific monitoring, institutional responsibility, and community involvement. By aligning with IUCN Red List standards and national conservation laws, ASOIU aims to safeguard the unique flora and fauna of Azerbaijan, contributing to the global effort for sustainable ecosystems and resilient biodiversity.