



# **THE UNIVERSITY OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

Administration Block, Chellah Campus, Muzaffarabad-13100, AJK, Pakistan

Website: [www.ajku.edu.pk](http://www.ajku.edu.pk)

No 1105/R9A/2024

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## **POLICY: SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS**

### **Purpose**

This policy outlines the University's commitment to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems in and around the university campus, including forests, mountains, and drylands. It aims to protect biodiversity, support sustainable development, and promote environmental stewardship.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all university land, affiliated ecosystems, and related research and community engagement activities. It encompasses university operations, educational programs, and collaborative efforts with local communities.

### **Policy Statement**

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir recognizes the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems, especially in our regions forested, mountainous, and dryland areas. We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability by conserving natural habitats, restoring degraded areas, and using ecosystem resources responsibly. This policy aligns with global sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land).

### **Objectives:**

1. **Conservation of Biodiversity:** The University will implement initiatives to protect native species and habitats on campus and in nearby areas, emphasizing the preservation of local flora and fauna.
2. **Forest and Ecosystem Restoration:** Efforts will be made to restore degraded ecosystems associated with the university, including reforestation projects and soil conservation measures.
3. **Sustainable Land Use and Management:** The University will adopt sustainable practices in land use, such as limiting construction on sensitive areas, preserving water resources, and preventing soil erosion.
4. **Climate Resilience:** The University will integrate climate adaptation strategies to enhance the resilience of natural ecosystems against climate change impacts, particularly in mountain and dryland areas.
5. **Educational and Community Outreach:** The University will promote awareness and education on terrestrial ecosystem conservation among students, faculty, and local communities, including organizing workshops and volunteer opportunities focused on environmental stewardship.

### **Implementation and Monitoring**

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), in collaboration with relevant university departments and local environmental organizations, will oversee the policy's implementation and monitoring. Specific actions include:  
Conducting regular environmental assessments to evaluate ecosystem health.



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- Partnering with local authorities and NGOs on conservation and restoration projects.
- Establishing guidelines for sustainable resource use on university lands.
- Monitoring and reporting annually on ecosystem health and conservation initiatives.

**Registrar**

University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir